

native tribes. Persia has long been little else than a vassal of the Czar. The nomadic clans of Central Asia, from the steppes of Turkestan to the mountains of Sind, would join any regular army that would offer them loot in the rich valley of the Ganges, from Delhi to Calcutta. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that the British have succeeded in organizing a very considerable native army. With 150,000 of these and 50,000 regulars, England could put forth a much larger force than Russia at the opening of the campaign. Furthermore, the former could transport reinforcements by sea, from Portsmouth and Bombay, long before the Muscovite reserves would have time to gather on the shores of the Caspian. If there were no danger of insurrection and of intestine disturbance, the whole British army might be employed on the frontier with every chance of success, even in aggressive warfare, but unfortunately there is reason to apprehend that dissatisfaction among several of the principal rajahs would break out, thus necessitating a curtailment of forces in the front. It results from all these facts that the chances are pretty well balanced in the event of a war between Russia and England.

**THE PREMIER'S BANQUET.**

The political event of the day is the banquet to Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD in the Ancient City. His friends might well do him this honour. And he might well express great pride and gratification at receiving it. He called it, in his speech, a "culminating" honour. No living man in the Dominion of Canada has done more; in fact, probably none has done so much, to guide the destinies of the confederated country which now stretches from ocean to ocean. And he has been, despite the dark shadows of 1873, a fortunate man. He gave this fact a prominent place in his speech. He is, in fact, known to be as great a fatalist as the NAPOLEONS, and it is known among his friends he holds the belief that he and Time are forces to put against all opposition. It is a fact that the days of his dark shadows in 1873 marked the commencement of an unexampled period of depression, and it is a further fact, that he now comes into power again on the crest of a rising wave of prosperity which will probably be as unexampled as was the period of the depression. It was unfortunate too for the Ministry of his predecessor, that the circular of its Finance Minister to the banks gave the first note of alarm, which led to such immediately disastrous consequences; while, on the other hand, it is true, now that Sir JOHN comes into power again, the tariff of his administration affords reason to believe that it has restored the tea trade and West India trade of Canada, starting also many manufacturing industries, while it is not sufficiently high to act as a prohibition to commerce. It is true that we stand at this moment in the presence of a singular and most remarkable fact, and one, moreover, to which we do not remember a parallel, viz., a general failure or deficiency of the wheat crops in Great Britain, France, Germany, and in the wheat regions of Russia and Egypt; while on the other hand, throughout the North American continent, in the United States as well as in Canada, on the two sea-boards as well as on the interior plains, the wheat crop is most bountiful. The result of this singular coincidence is, that prices are high and gold is pouring into this continent in a thick stream, to pay for wheat to replace European deficiency. Everything must feel the stimulus, and prices must go up. If therefore, Sir JOHN and his Ministers did not create this condition of things, its existence is certainly most fortunate for them, and almost gives reason to say, as Sir CHARLES TUPPER did at the banquet, that Providence favours them. A point made by Sir JOHN in his speech, in quoting the saying of Prince METTERNICH, was a very fair one in the circumstances, viz., that it is always better to employ lucky than unlucky people.

Sir JOHN's speech was noticeable for much of his old wit and sprightliness, but it is evident (and this he also seems to see) that the hand of time is beginning to touch him, as he pointed out, that in the near future, some of the younger, able men around him must take his place. He did not speak too warily or say too much in praise of that simple and brave statesman, who is now no more, Sir GEO. E. CARTIER, who, in the face of many cries of corruption, died as he had lived, a poor man, giving thus evidence of personal purity, and who, in his simple truth to friend as well as foe, has not left his like behind him. Of course, in an after-dinner speech of this nature, we should not expect the First Minister to afford us a political programme. But it was fitting that he should defend Lord BEACONSFIELD from what he very well described to be the "disgraceful" attacks which had been made upon him in Canada, in order to further the interests of party to the very detriment of those of Canada. It is an ill day for any country when its credit and its best interests are made the pawns of faction. Sir JOHN stated that Lord BEACONSFIELD had made a verbal mistake in that he had spoken of the leading farmers of the Western "Provinces," moving to Manitoba. But Sir JOHN in this correction has himself made an error. It is perfectly true that large numbers of well-to-do farmers, in fact a considerable portion of the whole of those who have gone into Manitoba, have come from the United States, as well from the east as from the west. But this is a petty point, and the extent to which it has been harped upon is utterly unworthy. It is a fact, as Sir JOHN stated, that the speech at Aylesbury of that remarkable man who is First Minister of England, constitutes a recognition of Canada which is of vast importance for its interests at the present crisis, and this was a fact which the Opposition in Canada would have done well to recognize instead of to deery. As respects the great work of the Pacific Railway, Sir JOHN gave the most cheering assurances, while he did not, and in fact could not, on that occasion, give a recital of the negotiations in England.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER's was the next great speech of the evening, and it was marked by the vigour which he is known to possess. He also gave hopeful assurances as respects the Pacific Railway, and stated that with regard to his purchase of steel rails, which he contrasted with that of Mr. MACKENZIE, he had that day received a telegram from Sir JOHN ROSE indicating that he had saved by it, while in England, over sixty thousand pounds sterling. This is the difference between purchasing in the face of a rising instead of a falling market. In speaking of the political parties in Canada, Sir CHARLES stated that when he came from Nova Scotia, at the time Confederation was proposed, and mingled with the statesmen of the two old provinces, he had no difficulty in deciding that the interests of the Confederation would be the safest in the hands of the Conservative party. We should not forget to mention that Sir JOHN paid a marked compliment to his colleague Mr. POPE, the Minister of Agriculture. He said that he himself was at first a little afraid of his colleague's bold scheme of inviting the tenant farmers of England to send delegates from themselves to Canada at the expense of the Dominion, to report to their fellows on what they saw. He (Sir JOHN) thought it was venturing too much, but now he was satisfied that in no other way could the resources of this country be so well made known. Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WHITE and others, also spoke at the banquet, but we have touched the points of chief public interest.

The Admiralty have issued stringent orders that flogging is not to be awarded by court-martial sentence except in very aggravated circumstances. They have also abolished solitary confinement except as punishment for breach of discipline. The Admiralty last week rescinded a sentence of flogging by a naval court-martial.

**EPHEMERIDES.**

Educated people in this country may ignore or affect to ignore, the fashionable pronunciation of certain British family names, but there is no harm in reminding them of the ancient traditions in this respect—which are and always will be respectable. Thus: Majoribanks is called Marshbanks; Mainwaring, Mannering; St. John, Sinjin; Cockburn, Coturn; Cholmondeley, Chumley; Berkeley, Barkley; Brougham, Broum; Montgomery, Mungumery; Abergavenny, Abergenny; Beauchamp, Beacham; Colquhoun, Koochoun; Duchesne, Dukam; Beaconsfield, Beckons'eld; Bethune, Beeton; Milnes, Mills; Ruthven, Riven; St. Maur, Seymour, and so on.

One of the pleasantest events of the late highly successful Exhibition at Toronto was connected with a piece of historic art. A relative of the exhibitor, Mr. John S. Crawford, of Toronto, had many years ago engraved and published a portrait of the Princess Victoria, our present Queen, taken when she was only eight year old; appended to this steel engraving was the autograph of the royal child, strikingly similar to her present autograph, as seen in her published works. Mr. Crawford had had an enlarged crayon picture prepared by Bruce, a Toronto artist, and beautifully framed. This was presented by Mr. Crawford to the Princess Louise, who expressed herself highly pleased with the compliment.

While several of the American journals are indulging in the harmless recreation of attempting a spelling reform, others amuse themselves with the discovery of odd words and terminations. Thus one leads the van with the statement that there are only three words in the English language ending in e-i-o-n, namely, seion, coercion and suspicion. Another writer adds the parolous word ostracion. A third, after a long interval, trots out internecon. Who will furnish a fifth?

Another curious observation is that the words abstemious and factious are the only two in the language in which the five vowels follow each other in their proper order. Is there not a third somewhere?

An illustration of the Yankee mode of combining the agreeable with the useful is worth preserving. Here is what they sing at Public School examinations in a Vermont village to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," visitors and all joining in the chorus:—

If anything on earth can make  
A great and glorious nation,  
It is to give the little ones  
A thorough education.

*Chorus.*

Five times five are twenty-five,  
Five times six are thirty,  
Five times seven are thirty-five,  
And five times eight are forty.

Continuing the philosophical and educational current, I am glad to find that the American papers are turning their attention to the vicious pronunciation of the vowel u. For instance, ninety-five out of every 100 Northerners will say institoot, instead of institute, dooty instead of duty—a perfect rhyme to the word beauty. They will call uew and news noo and noos—a perfect rhyme to pew and pews, and so on through the dozen and hundreds of similar words. Not a dictionary in the English language authorizes this. In student and stupid the "u" has the same sound as in cupid, and they should not be pronounced stooudent and stoopid, as so many teachers are in the habit of sounding them. If it is a vulgarity to call a door a doah—as we all admit—isn't it as much of a vulgarity to call a newspaper a noospaper? When Punch wishes to burlesque the pronunciation of servants it makes them call the duke the dook, the tutor the tooter and a tube a toob. You never find the best Northern speakers, such as Wendell Phillips, Chas. Sumner, George William Curtis, Emerson, Holmes and men of that class saying noo for new or Toosday for Tuesday, avenoo for avenue or calling a dupe a doop. It is a fault that a Southerner also never falls into, nor a Canadian either.

Many of our readers will be pleased to learn that our former citizen Mr. Wm. Vogt, who has made many friends among the music-loving public by his ably conducted concerts a few years ago, has for a long time past put the musical and lyric education upon a higher standard than it was heretofore on this side of the Atlantic, and has opened, under his own directorship, a conservatory of music in New York city, on the plan of the renowned Stern Conservatory of Berlin, where Mr. Vogt graduated and taught. We are glad to know that his large experience is duly appreciated, and his enterprise cordially supported by pupils from cultured and refined families. The curriculum embraces a vocal and instrumental department, with their usual branches; Italian language and elocution with dramatic expression being also taught at this conservatory, one may look forward to the day when we will see Stars from this honest institution greet a Montreal audience.

It is often desirable to know on what day of the week a certain date falls. I find a method

suggested by a correspondent of the London Times, which I publish for the curious rather than for the practical:

The following old couplet, committed to memory affords an easy rule for ascertaining without reference to an almanac on what day of the week any day of the month will fall:

"At Dover Dwells George Brown, Esquire,  
Good Christian Friend, and David Friar."

Explanation.—The couplet contains twelve words, one for each month in order, beginning with January. The initial letter of each word corresponds with the letter in the calendar for the first of the month represented by the word. The key to the use of the rule is the knowledge for the Sunday letter of the year, which this year is E.

Example 1.—On what day of the week did March 16 fall this year?

Answer.—D, the first letter of "Dwells," stands for March 1. But D is the letter or day before E—that is, D, the 1st of March, was Saturday. The calculation is instantaneous that March 1st was the third Saturday in the month.

Example 2.—On what day of the week did December 3 fall? F is December 1. But F is the day after E—i. e., Monday; therefore December 3 will be on a Wednesday.

A. STEELE PENN.

**THE GLEANER.**

THERE is general expectation that when the time comes for Prince Leopold to wish to be created a Royal Duke, he will choose as his title that of Kent.

A RUMOUR is again current in the Clubs that Lord Beaconsfield is about to surprise the world with a very small and select batch of new peers before the end of the year.

QUEEN Emma of Holland is *eccente*. Under ordinary circumstances, this would not be looked upon as an event of grave significance. But the future of Holland is undoubtedly problematical.

A CORRESPONDENT says he has authority for stating that the Duke of Connaught has asked to go out to the seat of war in Afghanistan in any capacity that may be thought fit. But the Queen has in the most absolute manner refused the patriotic request of her son.

The newest scare is "death in our clothes," and we are warned against arsenic in the disguise of many tempting hues, especially red. The next idea will be "arsenic in our friends," and we shall be warned of the red-haired and the ruddy complexioned.

NOT a little sensation has been made by the news that Garibaldi is being induced to be a naturalized French subject, and it is Victor Hugo who is said to be the chief advocate of this proposition. Victor Hugo is well aware of the bitterness of spirit which Garibaldi suffers at the present moment, and more than any one he knows of all the delusions of the veteran General.

**BALLADS OF THREE MISTRESSES.**

Fill high to its quivering brim  
The crimson chalice, and see  
The warlike and whiteness of limb  
Light-draped luxuriously;  
Hark the voice love-shaken for thee,  
My heart!—and thou liest ere long  
In the close captivity  
Of wine, and woman, and song.

Though sweetly the dark wine swim,  
More sweet, more tyrannous she,  
Who, till the moon wax dim,  
Rules man from east sea to west sea.  
And strong tho' the red wine be,  
Nevertheless is woman more strong,  
Most fair of the Jove-given three—  
Of wine, and woman and song.

But the rhyme of thy Rhine-song hymn  
Is more sweet than thyself, Lorette,  
As over the night's blue rim  
Thou chanest voluptuously;  
So stronger is song for me,  
To bind with a subtler thong,—  
Her only may I not see  
Of wine, and woman, and song.

*ENVOI.*

Then her must I serve without plea,  
Who doeth her servants much wrong,—  
Queen song of the Jove-given three,  
Of wine, and woman, and song.

CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

Fredericton, N.B.

MR. WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT intends to spend \$400,000 in pictures by foreign artists. The great picture by the eminent French painter of battle pieces, Detaille, the largest that he has ever produced, passed through the New York Custom House only a few days ago.

SMALL wooded panels covered with bronzed leather ready for painting on in oils are a novelty lately introduced by Yandell, the upholsterer in Eighteenth street, N.Y., and very admirably adapted they are to the purpose. The bronzes vary in colour, there being green, brown, and red. Their effect as a background is highly decorative. Mr. Yandell has inserted some small panels in an ebony table, and the effect is very rich and beautiful. As the price asked for them is moderate, we shall not be surprised if they become quite popular with amateurs.

THE Ottawa Citizen says:—The Canadian Illustrated News very properly points out the fact that there was really no ground for the Grit declaration that the Government had chosen the Bute Inlet route, because they had declared the adoption of the Burrard Inlet route premature. It was, in fact, as the Canadian Illustrated News points out, "nothing but jumping to conclusions that were erroneous, and piling up mountains of invective on the basis of error."