

SONNETS.

BY CHARLES RITCHIE.

I know that I have spent myself in vain Seeking what cannot come in time of gloom...

Out of the deep, a servant of despair, A mourner, rose into the gloomish light...

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

THE PROROGATION—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE—REVIEW OF THE SESSION—MEASURES OF THE WEEK.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 8th, 1880.—Yesterday afternoon the Governor-General came down in state to prorogue Parliament.

This session, which has lasted about three months, has not been remarkable for any measures of exciting popular interest.

In all the party skirmishes (they can hardly be called serious conflicts) of the session, the lines have been pretty sharply defined without a single break in the immense, preponderating ministerial majority.

This session will be remembered for the loss of Mr. Holton, and I had almost said for that of Hon. George Brown.

This session, too, will be remembered for the fall of Mr. Mackenzie from the leadership of the Opposition.

In noticing the business of the week, it may be mentioned that, on Monday, Sir Leonard Tilley laid on the table of the House the April returns of Customs and Excise.

On the vote for the Esquimaux Graving Dock, Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie both opposed the grant, on the ground that the Government were converting what was intended for a loan into a free gift.

On Tuesday, the Committee on Debates presented a report in favour of establishing a permanent staff of reporters engaged by the House.

On Wednesday, the Boundary Committee presented a very elaborate report, based upon evidence it has been busied in obtaining during the greater part of the session.

The second reading of the Q. M. O. & O. Railway Bill, which had excited so much speculation, was moved by the Minister of Justice.

The Canadian Pacific Railway resolutions, which were finally passed on Wednesday, set apart a hundred millions of acres in Manitoba and the North-West for building the railway.

Mr. Colby called the attention of the House, as Mr. Wark, a few days ago, did that of the Senate, to the Panama Canal question.

At the close of the sitting, Mr. Blake, in his new position of leader, made some remarks on the conduct of the House.

from the Departments were brought down to the end of the calendar year. He also severely commented on some of the manifestations that had occurred in the House.

On Friday morning (Thursday being a holiday) the House met at 10 a.m., when it adopted the report of the Printing Committee.

The session being now over, this series of letters comes to a close, and I have only to thank those readers who have followed my appreciation of its phases.

AT ST. MARTIN'S JUNCTION.

We publish to-day a page of sketches connected with the opening of the Palace Drawing-Room and Sleeping cars on the Q. M. O. & O. Railway.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, May 3.—The first council under the new Administration was held at Windsor Castle yesterday.

TUESDAY, May 4.—War between Russia and China is said to be now inevitable.

WEDNESDAY, May 5.—"Fashion" won the Chester cup yesterday.

THURSDAY, May 6.—Lord Beaconsfield will accept a retiring pension of £2,000 per annum.

FRIDAY, May 7.—The British Government will, early in 1881, amend the Liquor License Act in such a manner as to satisfy the moderate temperance reformers.

despatch from Buenos Ayres states that the National Congress of Paraguay has sanctioned a concession to a bank about to be established by an English company.

SATURDAY, May 8.—Mr. Gladstone was re-elected for Midlothian without opposition.

SELF-APPRECIATION.—The conduct of the present King of Bavaria in excluding not only the public, but even a single spectator from the performances of operas and plays given before himself, has often excited comment.

PREMIERS SINCE 1754.

Following is a list of British Premiers, with the periods during which they held office, since 1754:—

Table with columns: Appointed, Time in Office (Yrs., Days). Lists names of British Premiers from 1754 to 1880.

HUMOROUS.

It was the man arrested for stealing a mirror that had taken a glass too much.

LITTLE four-year-old Gussie has a papa with fine beard and moustache.

A LANCASTER young lady playfully threw her arm around the waist of a lady friend, and a pair of scissors hanging therefrom severed an artery in her arm.

READY FOR HARD TIMES.

Stop spending so much on fine clothes, rich food and style. Buy good, healthy food, cheaper and better clothing; get more real and substantial things of life every way.