#### SONNETS.

BY CHARLES RITCHIE.

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

And it seems bard to writhe with burning pain.

To hesitate as in continual doom. And it seems bard to writhe with burning pain. To hesitate as in continual doom. Yet ever will my spirit with disdain. Yield itself up to these ignoble foes.—
The strife continueth sullen and the fear Of change, combined with dread of ancient woes. Moves wondrons feelings, and the glory near. That shall be, brings a caluness in the wind; Health brightens, life grows warmer in the light. And vagrant terrors leaving far behind; I press with eagerness, and toil with might. Eusuring every day and clasping new delight.

Out of the deep, a servant of despair,
A mourner, rose into the gladsome light
A conqueror over duli and cheerless care,
And felt new glories in the freer air,
As when the fitful vapeurs of the night
Moved by the sun, are potently dispelled.
This hero of the faithful waiting years
Long suffering in his agony of tears.
Was blessed by Peace, and all his murmurs quelied
And evil in him soft subdued, rebelled
No longer; for like maiden whe endears
Hersell unto expectant lover sad,
The calm that roled his apirit made him glad,
And he did fair forget all sorrows once he had.
Montreal. Montreal.

#### THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

THE PROPOGATION-SPEECH FROM THE THRONE - REVIEW OF THE SESSION-MEASURES OF THE WEEK.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May Sth, 1880 .- Yesterday afternoon the Governor-General came down in state to prorogue Parliament. He was not accom-panied by the Princess. He drove in an open carriage and four, accompanied by Major De Winton, and three aides. He was recorted by the Princess Louise Dragoons, who had really an imposing look, and the Governor-General's Foot Guards were drawn up in front of the build. ing. The day was very fine, and the city was gay with flags. A large crowd had gathered, but not much enthusiasm was exhibited. I think this was because they were disappointed that the Princess did not come as was expected. The usual salute was fired, and the usual ceremonies observed in summoning the Commons to the Bar of the Senate. His Excellency delivered the Speech from the Throne in the two languages. The points were that there was reason for congratulation in the marked, decided improve-ment of industries and trade, the evidence of this being cumulative on every hand. The North-West Territory received favourable notice, and the principal measures of the session-the Tariff Amendments and Banking and Currency measures were particularly mentioned.

This session, which has lasted about three months, has not been remarkable for any measures of exciting popular interest, but the importance to the Dominion of these to which reference has been made is very great; and they will probably have great influence upon the general prosperity, which now appears to have everywhere set in.

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. Sir John Macdonald led the House with dignity and the courtesy naturally attaching to his high position and great experience.

This session will be remembered for the loss of Mr. Holton, and I had almost said for that of Hon. George Brown. Many of the old members of both Houses have been made sad for the last few days by the painful accounts received of his lingering illness-in fact, as I write these lines, that Mr. Brown is dead. A man who has made a great mark in the country goes down to the grave with him. It is another special loss for Mr. Mackenzie and for those who resist the wild annexational tendencies of such men as Mr. Goldwin Smith. Mr. Brown was, above all things, sound in his aspirations to build up a Canadian power in connection with the British

This session, too, will be remembered for the fall of Mr. Mackenzie from the leadership of the Opposition. I have watched his career from the time he first entered Parliament, and (up to the time of his delivery of his Pacific Railway operations in the sale of the lands, and it was speech) it has been impossible not to admire the very great industry and ability which he has uniformly displayed, coupled with rugged honesty and consistency. I think, now, as I honesty and consistency. I think, now, as I consider the facts with deliberation, that the act of that speech was forced upon him, and I think, also, upon the rank and file of his side of the House, by the persistency with which Mr. Blake was pushing forward to the front. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Mackenzie did not resign his position before he made that speech which was, moreover, as futile as it was damaging to himself and his party. It is but justice to say that, during the short time that Mr. Blake has led his little band, he has exhibited both dignity and ability, and he appears to have made great exertions to be agreeable. There can be no doubt about his powers of speech, none about his polished training, none concerning his great legal attainments; but there is much about the soundness of some of his political opinions on points which affect the autonomy of the Dominion as a part of the British Empire. It is for his great restraining influence on questions of this kind that the loss of the Hon. Geo. Brown will be a calamity to Canada.

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. The former amounted to \$1,152,260, and the latter to \$382,342; in both cases nearly double those of the corresponding month of last year, an evidence of the marked improvement in the business of the country.

On the vote for the Esquimault 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. To this Sir John Macdonald replied that these gentlemen in their opposition were not only not consistent with themselves, but showing flagrant bad faith to British Columbia. He could only account for their action on the ground that they desired to sever the connection between the Dominion and that Province, and he was sure the country would not sustain them Nothing could be more calamitous or short-sighted. The Government measure was carried by a vote of 109 to 42, Mr. D. A. Smith, of Selkirk, leaving his friends of the Opposition and voting with the Government.

On Tuesday, the Committee on Debates presented a report in favour of establishing a permanent staff of reporters engaged by the House. This was probably the best course to take, if it was resolved to have official reports of debates. On the same day the House passed an amendment to the Canada Temperance Act, the effect of which was nearly to nullify it; but, greatly to the joy of the temperance people, this amend-ment was rejected by the Senate, and now we have divers congratulations on the wise check afforded by having two Houses.

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. This report does not upport the claims of Ontario, but makes very important modifications in the award of the arbitrators. The Committee found that the Province of Ontario could not claim territory that had been granted in 1870 to the Hudson's Bay Co., or Indian territory that did not form a part of the old Provinces of Canada, or carry its boundaries within the limits of the old Province of Assiniboia. The Dominion Lands Act was amended so as to give the Governor-in-Council much larger discretionary powers, with a view to enabling checks to be put on speculation, specially in coal and other mineral lands. I think the possession of these powers by the Government is very desirable, and their exercise may prove to be most salutary. The bill for the amendment and consolidation of the Indian Laws passed through its final stages. It had for its object to ameliorate and improve the condition of the Indians, and to enfranchise them as soon as possible, while keeping in view their tribal system. The list of intoxicants entirely prohibited in the North-West Territory was extended, and power was given to remove them from the possession of any Indian when found. The second reading of the Q. M. O. & O.

Enilway Bill, which had excited so much speeu lation, was moved by the Minister of Justice, but Mr. Blake raised a point of order to the effect that the bill would interfere with private rights, and was, therefore, not properly introduced. After some discussion, Mr. Macdonald said, the point of order having been raised, the bill could

not be proceeded with this session.

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, the lands to be selected and reserved from time to time by the Governor-in-Council, and to be of fair average quality; the prices to be fixed by Order-in-Council, the minimum being one dollar per acre, and the proceeds to be set apart exclusively for the cost of the railway. I think this minimum price very low. The average will probably be three, and if the lands were not in the hands of the Government might be five; the average of U. S. lands in the hands of railway companies having been between five and six. The Dominion wheat lands, it must be borne in mind, are the richest in the world, and there are probably 250,000,000 acres fit for settlement. Mr. Blake moved in amendment that the Railway lands should not be sold except to actual settlers, but the Government did not think this wise, as being likely to hamper their rejected on a vote of 76 to 25.

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. Mr. Colley made a very able speech, as did also Sir John Macdonald, the object being to call attention to the fact that we occupied quite as large a portion of the continent as the United States, with nearly as large a sea board on both oceans and that, even taking the Mouroe Doctrine, which, however, is not recognized, we have an equal right with the United States in the control of the canal. Sir John said that the canal ought to be made absolutely free to all nations, and not allowed to be closed, even in the exigencies of war. Of course, any negotiations on this question must be by the Imperial authorities, and the object of the discussion appeared to be to direct their attention to Canada's interest in the matter. At the close of the sitting, Mr. Blake, in his new position of leader, made some remarks on the conduct of the House, with respect to unseemly interruptions, and also contended that the sessions should be held earlier in the year To this Sir John replied that the session could not be held earlier than February, as the reports

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, and said they produced a very detrimental impression on strangers. It is, however, well known that the English House of Commons has rough and ready modes of putting down members they do not wish to hear, and I fancy nothing in the Canadian Parliament ever equalled the disorders of the English Parliament last session in the attempts to restrain the Home Rulers.

On Friday morning (Thursday being a holiday) the House met at 10 a.m., when it adopted the report of the Printing Committe, cancelling the contract of Messrs. McLean, Roger & Co. That question is, therefore, now thrown open

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. The event took place at St. Martin's Junction, on last Saturday week, and a large number of persons interested in the development of the public works of the Province were present thereat. Several remarkable speeches of encouragement were made and special compliments were paid to the two principal officers of the Company then present, Captain Labelle, General Passenger Agent, and Mr. Davis, the enlightened Superintendent of the Mechanical Department. The design of these carriages is due to the skill and knowledge of Mr. Davis, and their construction has resulted in a large saving for the road. Captain Labelle, who pre sided on the occasion, is known throughout the Dominion as the chief navigation officer of the Richelieu & Ontario Company, and more recently in connection with the splendid steamer Quebec. Although still a young man, he has a long record for ability, attentiveness, courtesy and intrepidity displayed on many occasions of danger, notably in the terrible inundations of 1865, and the burning of the Montreal in 1857. No appointment could have been more appropriate than his to the Chief Superintendence of the passenger traffic of the new railway, and the incident met with the approval of all parties.

# HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY. May 3.-The first council under the new NDAY, May 3.—The first council under the new Administration was held at Windsor Castle yester-day.—General Luard is to leave at once to assume the command of the Dominion militia.—Another ship labourers' into took place in Quebec yesterday, the French-Canadians being the assailed party. the French-Canadians being the assailed party.—General Wolseley will remain at Capetown till the return of the ex-Empress Eugenie, when he will escort her to Engiand.—English officers serving in the Turkish gendarmeric are to be re-engaged on condition only of their agreeing to a reduction of 45 per cent. in their pay.—A peaceable strike has taken place at the Consett Iron Works. The fall in the price of iron in the United States makes it impossible for the proprietors to maintain wages at former rates.—A select committee has been appointed to take into consideration whether Charles Bradlaugh, M. P. tor Northampton, is to retain his seat in the Commons upon making a simple affirmation.

ESDAT, May 4.—War between Russia and China is said to be now inevitable.—The Anti-Social Bill has been passed in the German Reichstag.—Prussia is determined to deprive Hamburg of its privileges as a free port.—Serious strikes are prevalent in iron-works and cotton mills in the North of England.—A reign of anarchy is predicted for Turkey, whose Government is losing all power.—Montenegro holds Turkey responsible for the violation of the convention cesling certain territories to the former.—The award to Americans for the Fortune Bay difficulties will be persistently contested by the Gladstone Administration.—The Canton of Appenzell. Switzerland, has re-established the death penalty for murder and incendiarism resulting in death.—Chung How, of Kuldja Treaty fame, is to be decapitated after all, his sentence having been confirmed by the Emperor Kuangsu.—The Russian aristocracy is opposed to the Czar's liberality towards the Poles and Jews. The Czar, however, is determined to persist in his purpose. CUESDAY, May 4 .-- War between Russia and China is

WEDNESDAY, May 5 .- "Fashion" won the Chester cup energy, May 5.— Fashion won the Chester cupy yesterlay.— Earl Cowper, the new Viceroy of Ireland, has been installed.—Right Hon. G. J. Goschen goes temporarily to Constantinople as British Ambassador.—Indian financiers have apparently under estimated the cost of the scientific frontier by £4.000,000.—It is reported that the native Governor of Ghuzuee, representing British interests, has been murdered.— Bremen and Lubeck are to share the same fate as Hamburg at Lineeck are to share the same lake as liamong at the hands of Prussia, and are to be shorn of their privileges as free cities.——The French Budget Committee recommends that the Chamber disallow the 10,000 france granted to French Cardinals yearly, and also the expenses of translation from one see to another.

THURSDAY May 6.—1 and Beaconsheld will accept a retiring pension of £2,000 per annum.—The Duke of Connaught was upset yesterday while driving to Aldershot, and was badly bruised.—A number of arrests have been made in Cuba in connection with a recently discovered conspiracy there.—The Turkish Government has seized the pension fund of its cityl aervice employees to pay contractors.— Turkish Government has seized the pension fund of its civil service employees to pay contractors.—
The Liberals' foreign policy includes the main tenance of the Treaty of Berlin, cordial relations with France, and harmony in the Anglo-French control in Egypt.—A quarrel has taken place between Father Hyaointhe and his cicaire owing to to the latter's refusal to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Bishop of Edinburgh.

FRIDAY May 7.—The British Government will, early in 1881, amend the Liquor License Act in such a maner as to satisfy the moderate temperance reformers.—The home authorities are favourable to the formation of a Canadian naval reserve.—If, R. H. Prince Leopold leaves for Canada on Thursday next, by the Allan steamer Sardinian.—From Cabul counces the news that the Kohistoni oblack around that city have been dispersed. chiefs around that city have been dispersed. A

despatch from Buenos Ayres states that the Nationa Congress of Paraguay has sanctioned a concession to a bank about to be established by an English company.—Lord Granville has taken the initiative to effect a direct understanding between the Powers, with regard to the Montenegro affair. Turkey has been asked for a categorical statement of its intentions.

of its intentions.

SATURDAY, May E.—Mr. Gladstone was re-elected for Midlothian without opposition.—Eighteen persons were killed by an explosion on the St. Gothard tunnel works.—Southern Russia and the Caucusus are threatened with the ravages of the beetle and locust.—The Prince and Princess of Wales are to lay the foundation stone of the new Cathedral at Truro next week.—The Moscow cruiser committee are said to have collected a fabulous sum towards carrying out their project.—The engineers sent to leandula to creet an obelisk where the Prince Imperial fell, have got the structure into position.—The marriage of the Princess Pauline, of Wurtemburg, and Dr. Wilm, a physician to the Grand Duke at her father's court, with whom she had fallen in love, was solemnized on Saturday.—The steamer American, of the Union Steamship Co.'s Line, foundered on the voyage from Southampton to the Cape of Good Hope. The ship Acme is also reported as having foundered on her way from Bristol to Quebec.

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; but it may not be generally known that the example was originally given to him by Lully, the "father' of French opera. This illustrious musician, who had risen from the position of scullion of Mdlle. de Montpensier's kitchen to the rank of gentleman of the King's bedchamber, disgusted at the want of public appreciation of one of his finest operas, ordered that work to be performed solely before himself, on which occasion he reversed the verdict of the public by rapturously applauding both the piece and the performers, whom he afterwards entertained at a sumptuous supper prepared by his own hands. Louis the Fourteenth, on hearing of the occurrence immediately ordered the opera to be produced at Versailles, saying that the greatest living composer of the period must necessarily be a better judge of the value of his work than either the critics or the public. This decision was speedily endorsed by the Parisians, who, on a second hearing, de-clared the work to be the masterpiece of Jean Baptiste de Lully.

#### PREMIERS SINCE 1754.

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

ł		Time in	Office.
	Appointed.	Yrs.	Days.
ı	1754-April 5 Duke of Newcastle	5	52
1	1762-May 20 Earl of Bute		322
1	1763-April 16 G. Grenville		87
1	1765-July 12 Marquis of Rockingham		:22
	1766-Aug. 2 Duke of Grafton		179
i	1770-Jan. 28 Lord North	12	34
	17:2-March 3 Marquis of Rockingham.		152
	1782-July 13 Earl of Shelburne		250
	1783-April 5 Dake of Portland		260
	1783-Dec. 27 William Pitt		80
	1891-Mar. 17 Lord Sidmouth		56
	1884-May 18 William Pitt		246
	1806-Jan. S Lord Granville		64
	1807 Mar. 13 Duke of Pertland		102
	1810-June 28 Spencer Percival		352
	1812-June 8 Earl of Liverpool		307
	1827-April 11 George Canning		121
	1827-Aug. 10 Lord Goderich		165
	1828-Jan. 25 Duke of Wellington	2	301
	1839-Nov. 22 Earl Grey		231
	1834-July II Lord Meibourne		128
	1834-Nov. 16 Dake of Wellington		2.
	1834-Dec. 8 Sir Robert Peel		131
	1835-April 18 Lord Melbourne		135
	1841-Sept. 3 Sir Robert Peel		ະາ
	1815-Dec. 10 Lord John Russell		15
	1845-Dec. 20 Sir Robert Peel		180
,	1846-June 26 Lord John Russell		
,	1850-Feb. 22 Earl of Derby		
	1852-Dec. 19 Earl of Aberdeen		
	1855-Feb. 5 Lord Palmerston		
1	ists-Feb. 21 Earl of Derby		11
:	1859-June 13 Lord Palmerston		
:	1 1865 -Oct. 20 Earl Russell		
2	1866-June 27 Earl of Derby		
	1868-Feb. 25 Mr. Distaeli		
•	1878 Dec. 3 Mr. Gladstone		100
٠	1874-Feb. 21 Mr. Disraeli (Lord Be		
	field)		59
	1880-April 23 Mr. Gladstone		

# HUMOROUS.

Ir 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. The other day he had his moustache taken off and when he came home in the moustache taken off, and when he came nome in the evening she met him as usual, but as soon as she saw his altered looks she ran crying to her mother, and with real grief exclaimed? "Ok dear! what shall I do; I don't know my papa!"

A LANCASTER young lady playfully threw A LANCASTER young lady playfully threwher arm around the waist of a lady friend, and a pair of seissors hanging therefron severed an artery in her arm and she nearly bled to death. This accident should teach young ladies that throwing arms around the temale waist is a dangerous piece of business that should be performed solely by the male sex. The latter are strong and brave, and don't mind having an artery severed now and then for the good of the cause.

# READY FOR HARD TIMES.

Stop spendeng 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, and especially stop the foolish habit of running after expensive and quack doctors or using so much of the vile humbug medecine that does you only harm, and makes the proprietors rich, but put your trust in the greatest of all simple, pure remedies, Hop Bitters, that cures always at a trifling cost, and you will see better times and good health. it one. Read of it in another column.