

Notes of the Week.

This week will see the opening of a new session of the Parliament of Canada. As the country grows in population the meetings of our Dominion Legislature must become more and more important. And while party politics are to be accepted as on the whole the best means of representing the views of the people, it is to be hoped that the asperities of former years may be unknown, and that the debates may be conducted with that courtesy and forbearance and Christian charity which gentlemen in private life gladly accord to one another. The scenes of former years cannot be re-enacted without bringing disgrace not simply on the individuals more immediately concerned, but upon the whole country. Let our legislators remember their own and their country's honor. Very numerous and important have been the changes in the Cabinet predicted by a certain section of the press, but it does not appear that there is any foundation for the reports. We are satisfied that to manage a department efficiently is no easy matter, and none but a strong man physically can hope to retain the position for many years without feeling its effects upon his health. Mr. Mackenzie and Sir Charles Tupper, not to name others, are cases in point, although the country is glad to know that both these distinguished public men will be able to participate in the work of the present session.

Post-office savings-banks on the English model have very recently been opened in all parts of Austria. The number of deposits was reported to be remarkable. The first depositor in the chief office in Vienna was the Emperor. Would not such a system be greatly in advance of our present Canadian system? Should a change take place, it is to be hoped that the rule which is now practically in some cases a loss of two months' interest to the depositor, may be changed, and interest date from the day the deposit is made to the day it is withdrawn.

No date has yet been definitely fixed for the enthronement of the Archbishop-designate in Canterbury Cathedral. The ceremony will, however, take place as soon after Easter as possible. As an evidence of the goodwill and respect in which the new Archbishop is held by Christians of other names, we take the following from an English paper:—At the anniversary dinner of the "Truro Agricultural Exchange," on January 10th, the toast of "The Bishop, clergy, and ministers of all denominations" was proposed by Mr. A. Jennings, a member of the Wesleyan body, mayor of Truro in 1880 and 1881. After expressing his regret at the absence of the Bishop of Truro, the speaker remarked that he was sure "they had learnt with satisfaction that Dr. Benson had been elevated to the Primacy, although he was equally sure they would regret to lose his services in Cornwall. Every one would acknowledge that he had been the means of doing great good, and had won not only the affections of his own clergy, but the respect of members of all other denominations." Among those who responded to the toast was the Rev. A. Freeman, a leading Wesleyan minister, who also "regretted the absence of Dr. Benson, as he had got to know so much of his lordship that he felt a sort of bereavement at the prospect of parting with him. He had begun to feel that they would have worked cordially together on common ground in many instances for the common weal."

The efforts of the Methodists to promote a union of the numerous existing sects into which they are split seem to meet with much opposition, and it is certain that if carried there will be a strong minority opposed to it, which unhappily, it is to be feared, will result in the perpetuation of the existing divisions on a smaller scale. As far as the Church of England is concerned, we hail with great satisfaction all efforts which tend to lessen the number of opposing sects and parties, and therefore take a deep interest in the success of the movement.

The English *Guardian's* Egyptian correspondent says that it has been decided to begin forthwith the process of adapting the Suez Canal to a traffic of about 10,000,000 tons, or double the present

amount. The contemplated works comprise the enlargement of old and the construction of new stations, and the widening of the canal, which works will be undertaken in the order of their importance. It is expected that eventually a second channel will become necessary, which would involve negotiations for the acquirement of land and the settlement of compensations.

It will give great satisfaction to every humane person to know that the Prince and Princess of Wales are using their influence to do away with pigeon shooting as now practiced in England. This cruel sport is almost worse than bull baiting, which has long since been condemned, and yet most excellent people among the nobility and gentry of England have been guilty of finding enjoyment in the cruel pastime which the future heir to the throne has now set his face and influence against. The practice must now stop, and the only wonder is that it should have been tolerated so long. There are evils in connection with sporting in Canada, not so bad as the practice of pigeon shooting, but bad enough for cruelty, which it would be well for the Game Commissioners or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to see about and correct.

The ex-Empress Eugenie having felt hurt at some newspaper criticisms has authorized a statement of the motives for her recent action, which appeared in the *Morning Post*, in which she says that her sole desire in visiting Paris was to bring about a perfect reconciliation in the Bonaparte family. She declares that she has no future in France, and will never leave the country which contains the ashes of her husband and her only son. If this be so, it would prevent much misunderstanding, as it would save her much annoyance if she let French politics alone altogether, and enjoy the hospitality of England in peace. Otherwise, her life may be made a most unhappy one.

There seems good reason to believe that at last the Phoenix Park Murders will be brought home to the proper parties, and the murderers receive the just reward of their crimes. It appears that fully twenty persons are more or less implicated, most of whom are under arrest, and that evidence will be forthcoming to identify them with the act, as well as to unfold proceedings in connection with the preparations for the murders. Probably, recent prompt convictions and the large reward offered, have contributed to these results, although they must be mainly due to the activity and skill of the police. Let us hope that the end of the Irish disturbances is near.

The condition of things in France has in no way improved. Most conflicting statements appear in our daily press as to what the result will be. Some maintain that the Monarchists in the Senior Prince of the House of Orleans will succeed in reaching the Throne; others that the legitimist or Bonaparte Dynasty will come off victorious, while a third are most decided in their views that nothing can shake the Republic.

It is perhaps more difficult to read the future because of the uncertainty of the French character. The cry "Vive la Republique" of to-day may become the no less vociferous shout, "Vive l'Empereur" of to-morrow. A Vienna despatch to London says that the conviction is gaining ground in Germany that the French are on the eve of fresh troubles. The position of affairs is likely to grow worse before it improves. The crisis has thrown France's relations with the European powers into confusion.

The building in which the great International Fisheries Exhibition is to be held in London in May has been privately inspected by the Executive Committee who have the matter in hand. It will prove interesting to the Canadian exhibitors to learn that the Chairman of the Committee expects the exhibition will be a brilliant success, and says that every foot of space in the building will be filled. The last accession was that of Russia, which for some time had held aloof, but now asks for 10,000 feet of space. It was also announced that the Queen had promised, if her engagements permitted, to open the exhibition May 1st, so that

nothing will be wanting to give éclat to the occasion. If Canada does as well as she can do we have no fear for the result.

Last week we were speaking of the excessive display and undue expense of funerals. Among our English items this week we note the following:—"Amongst the recently proved wills is that of the late Lord Keane, who desired that his funeral expenses might not exceed £50, adding 'My father's cost £500, which I consider a shameful waste of money.'" It is very evident that the reform has taken a deep hold upon the English people of the best class, and will become of universal practice.

Dispatches say that both the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck are very ill. The aged Emperor is now in his 87th year, and Bismarck is over 75, so that it cannot be a surprise if at any time we hear that they have been removed from earth. Having in view the present uncertain state of Europe, we may thank God that the Emperor will leave as his successor a brave and noble prince, whose Christian integrity, moderation and enlightenment are well known. With England and Germany more closely united by the ties of blood as well as even stronger bands, we may confidently hope to find each supporting the other in upholding enlarged and liberal views before the eyes of the rest of Europe.

The French journal, *Le Canada*, of Quebec, urges, we see, the right of the French population of the Maritime Provinces to three Senators, based on the population of the several Provinces. It will, we are sure, be to the interests of our country when these sectional cries are altogether ignored, and offices and places of honor given to the most deserving, irrespective of creed, color, or race. No greater evil could well befall our country than what might be expected to follow the heeding of such a suggestion as *Le Canada* makes. We are not Frenchmen, or Irishmen, or Scotchmen, but Canadians, on whom it rests to rear a great nationality under theegis of Britain, which we shall ever love to call the mother-land. As regards "rights," let all other rights be merged in the one, and let a noble and patriotic emulation inspire us to live and work with high aspirations in view. The French speaking population have equal rights with the English, but let them earn and claim them as Canadians, and having earned them, they will, we are sure, be freely accorded them.

The Queen and the ladies of the court recently manifested their kind feeling and practical charity by sending to a soldier's hospital some large Berlin wool quilts for the use of the military invalids. One of the quilts was entirely worked by the Queen herself, and a second by the Princess Beatrice. The former bears in one corner Her Majesty's cipher of a crown, V. R. I., and the date of 1882. The latter bears the initial letter of Beatrice. The other quilts have been worked by ladies of the court, but the Queen has added a border to each. Such acts as these will make the memory of the Queen more precious than the records of victories in war won in her name.

Although one has no difficulty in discovering ill-will in some of the remarks of English papers when speaking of Canada, the following shows the high estimate entertained of the Dominion in other circles, and this latter feeling is, we are glad to know, growing. The *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, a warm friend of Canada, in a review of 1882, says:—"The same year, fortunately for England has witnessed the opening out of her immense colonial territories in Western Canada, British Columbia and the great Northwest country. Settlers have flocked thither; railways have been laid with wonderful rapidity, especially the great Canadian Pacific line, and Manitoba and the regions beyond have most graciously promised us an unlimited supply of all kinds of food products. India and Australia also have increased their supplies to us of corn; so that, although in our eagerness to develop our manufacturing industries we had suffered our agricultural industry almost to die of neglect, we have to be thankful that our Colonial and Indian Empires are able and ready to supply our need just in the nick of time." If