

EXHIBITION NOTES.

During the week the city has been filled to overflowing with visitors to our Dominion Exhibition, the number arriving this week, and especially on Tuesday, being much greater than during the previous week. The attractions have been great, notably the torpedo explosion, which many went to see and failed to see, as the explosion occurred so quickly. The fireworks have been very excellent, the colours being of the most beautiful and intense hues. Music has been heard every where, and the city has been gay with flags. It has been a carnival for all, and doubtless has been of material benefit to the city. There has been no trouble, we are happy to say, all the visitors as well as citizens have been well behaved, and very little, if any, excess was to be seen. Tuesday was the gala day of the week at the Exhibition grounds, being the day of formal opening by His Excellency: this was done in the presence of over forty thousand spectators, the large grounds being almost covered with people. The opening, instead of being a formal one, appeared to be rather informal on account of the immense concourse of people crowding the buildings, so that it was with great difficulty the buildings could be opened at all by His Excellency.

The usual address of welcome had been read to Lord Lorne, to which a very sensible reply was made by him both in French and in English. One or two points in the reply are worthy of notice. Speaking in reference to phosphates, he said that "they had attracted the attention of the Agricultural Chambers of Europe, and that fresh combinations would ensure a large supply from the valley of the Ottawa." Also, in reference to Exhibitions, the point was well taken, that "the question was not whether such an Exhibition would pay its expenses, but rather whether such an Exhibition would spread useful knowledge over wider districts which require it." His Excellency visited the buildings, and was much pleased with the exhibit.

In noticing the articles it is almost impossible to select any for especial notice, as there were so many of great merit. We may mention that the New York Piano Company, with their usual enterprise and forethought, succeeded in pleasing many visitors with the selections played upon their admirable instruments. There were many other exhibits of great merit, the carriages of Messrs. Larivière being exceptionally fine, also the exhibit of Wm. Clendinning in ironware, stoves, &c., being a very useful one,—and the exhibition of Canadian woollens was an excellent one. Whether the enhanced beauty and quality of the goods is due to a protective tariff we know not, but that the goods are superior we are sure. We have not space for any detailed report of the exhibits, but that the Exhibition has been a very great success cannot be doubted. The cattle, implements and grains shown were of a very high order of merit, the show of cattle being far ahead of any show we have yet held in Montreal.

The Poultry and Pet-dog show has been held in Great St. James Street and though unequal in many respects to former shows, it is very interesting and has attracted a great many visitors. There is no question but what the most careful pains have been taken by the different committees to provide amusements for all, and to them and the councils of agriculture of arts and of manufacturers the thanks of the public are due and are freely accorded, also on the part of the volunteers, thanks are due to the Corporation for the Cup presented for competition. This is one of the most chaste and exquisite cups ever made in Montreal, fully equal to many we saw at the Centennial. This was made by Mr. Harper of Montreal and reflects great credit upon him.

We have heard many remarks made comparing the Exhibition held here with that of Toronto; some saying the Montreal one was much better than the one held in Toronto. Be this as it may, our ambition should be to make ours as good as possible, and if Toronto should be able to give a better one, which we very much doubt, then we should increase our efforts. The cattle exhibit here could not be excelled anywhere, and the grounds are unequalled.

IRELAND.

In the September number of the *Nineteenth Century* will be found an article on Ireland by James Anthony Froude. As is to be expected it is extremely well written and lucid in the highest degree. The thoughts emanating from his pen are always suggestive, and exact from the reader close attention. In this article Mr. Froude gives a concise and clear *resumé* of Ireland's history since Henry the Second, seven hundred years ago, attached Ireland to the English crown—since which "English administrations have pretended to govern there; and as a result we saw in the last winter the miserable Irish people sending their emissaries, hat in hand, round the globe to beg for sixpences for God's sake to keep them from starving. The Irish soil, if it were decently cultivated, would feed twice the population which now occupies it; but in every garden there grow a hundred weeds for one potato." If, in order to remedy this state of affairs, the landlord "ejects an inefficient tenant" and replaces him by a competent one, the latter is driven out by "gangs of blackened ruffians," or else the landlord himself is shot. The constituents are told to pay no rent, and yet to hold fast to their farms; and the English Government devised the remedy, that since the people would not obey the law, the law should be altered to please them, and that no rents should be

paid for two years. These are rather bold statements of Mr. Froude, but seem to go bluntly to the root of the question. Further, it appears that Government officials have been murdered with impunity, and of this we are told that "men, otherwise well disposed, will not risk their lives to assist authorities which allow their own officials to be thus murdered."

Such in effect has been the history of Ireland, and "there appears to be some ingrained capacity in the English nature either to assimilate the Irish race or to control them; and however politically undesirable it might be to us to set Ireland free, it is doubtful whether we have a right to sacrifice thus ruinously the moral and material welfare of a whole people to our own convenience *when we are unable to discharge the elementary duties of protecting life and property.* We may make the best resolutions; so our fathers made resolutions, but they availed nothing, and ours will avail nothing. *We have failed—failed ignominiously, and had as any government would be which Ireland could establish for herself, it could hardly be worse than the impotent mockery with which the English connection has provided it.*" The italics are ours, and whatever may be thought of the correctness of these statements, no one will deny that Mr. Froude has courage to thus boldly state opinions which, we presume, are repugnant to the great body of Englishmen. The statements, if true, are very humiliating, and well substantiated as they are by further statements in the article, need very strong proofs to confute them.

The statement is often made that the Irish are combative and unfit for freedom and Mr. Froude, it appears to me, shows rather conclusively that it is the English who have rendered them unfit. The Irish in ancient days were no worse than other nations and became Christians before the Saxons and "Irish missionaries carried the gospel into Scotland and Germany;" they were possessed of for those days, advanced literature and had schools of learning which attracted students from all parts of Europe. "The Danish invasions destroyed all this . . . the element of better things was still in the people and under wise treatment might have blossomed elsewhere. Under the spell of English cultivation it has borne thistles instead of figs, and for grapes, wild grapes. The history of political blunders is not an edifying study." It is true that the history of political blunders is not an edifying study if by "edifying," we are to understand "gratifying," but if we are to understand "instructive," this statement of Mr. Froude is hardly correct, as it is most certainly true that the history of political blunders is very necessary and very instructive. To account for this sameness of result as regards dissatisfaction in Ireland is one of the most difficult problems in political history as England has tried many systems in Ireland and all with the same result. "We (England) have been tyrannical and indulgent, have been Popish and have been Protestant—have colonised Ireland with our own people, taking the land from the Celtic tribes and giving it to strangers and again we have repented and made what we considered reparation. We have repeated these processes time after time and all that we have effected has been to alienate our own colonists without recovering the confidence of the Irish." All this has been without effect and why? Let Mr. Froude answer. "*We have never given Ireland a firm just and consistent administration.*"

The government of India, in comparison with that of Ireland, is manifestly in favour of that of India, and there is no reason why this should have been the case. In Irish government the principle would seem to have been to transfer and implant in Ireland English laws and institutions without considering sufficiently whether they were adapted to the Irish, and without considering the advisability of granting a freedom that would be the freedom desired by the Irish—namely, "freedom from the English connection." As this seems to have been what was desired, all efforts at reparation have been fruitless, and we consequently read of nothing but disaffection and revolt. Passing by the administration of Irish affairs during the time of the Tudors, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, &c. (of which Mr. Froude gives us very interesting notes), we come to our own times, and note the remarks upon the Land Bill of 1870. Of this Mr. Froude says: "In itself the act was a just one; but, like so many other Irish reforms, it was introduced with language which gave it a double meaning. Mr. Gladstone's bold admission that his Irish policy was due to Fenianism, turned a measure right in itself into so much fuel for disaffection; it encouraged hopes which can never be gratified, save with the final release of Ireland from the English connection. . . . One by one we have thrust our political inventions upon her, and called it governing. We are now giving her our latest discovery, that there ought to be no such thing as governing; that the power of man over man is to be abolished; that every one must look out for his own interest, with a fair stage and no favour" [referring to Mr. Forster's Compensation Bill].

Taken altogether, this article is a remarkable one, and no doubt will provoke severe criticism. The outlook for Ireland is not a cheerful one, and what improvement in its condition can be effected and how is hard to discover. To the Conservative party it is absurd to look for the unravelment of the question, and the primary object to be effected by the Liberal party is to put down outrages, or "there is nothing to be looked for but the continuance of the chronic misery which the fatal contiguity of the two islands has created, from the hour of Henry the Second's conquest."