The Week

VOL. I. NO. 47. P.O. TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1873.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

Then has been a good deal, and yet not much, since last we made the review of the affairs between the Comptes de Paris and the Comptes de Chambord, and this centuary has been recently revived by a letter which the former addressed to a certain noble by the Comte de Paris that "there is now only one Monarchy in France," alluding to the pretensions of the Comte de Chambord. But there is nothing new in the declaration of the first of these Princes, who has always said that in the event of the Comte de Chambord being called to the throne of France by the nation, he would gladly, personally, submit, and has gone so far as to regret that the impracticable position taken up by the Comte de Chambord has rendered such an event impossible. The importance given to the above expression, employed in an ordinary communication, is obvious by much exaggerated, and has arisen in the political stupidity of certain infatuated Monarchists, or is the invention of the enemies of Monarchy who want to bring the dynastic question before the country at the very moment when the order and good government of France require that it should be left at rest. The fact is, there is no such thing as a fusion in contemplation, for it is simply impossible, unless the Comte de Paris adopts the white flag, or the Comte de Chambord the tri-colour—representing at once his own declarations and the traditions of his family. Supposing either of these Princes to become the President of the Republic, "the Republic," as it has been well observed, "can be turned into a Monarchy at any moment by the simple process of calling the President King." But there must come a fusion with the nation, and the "moment," though quite within the bounds of possibility, is far from being so "simple" as may be thought. The death of the Emperor Napoleon has no doubt given a fresh impetus to the hopes and aims of the Bonapartists, and to have based themselves with the fresh force that should be taken to a strong party requires the adhesion of the Comte de Paris. The Bonapartists are a strong party in the lobbies of the Assembly. However little opposed the Comte de Paris may really be to the cause of the Comte de Chambord, it is likely enough that the Duc d'Aumale may have different ideas on the subject.

The essential conflict between M. Thiers and the Committee of Thirty, according to the latest telegrams, is shown to be absolute as ever. The Committee have indeed completed the consideration of the constitutional project, leaving the vexed question of the presence of M. Thiers in the Assembly during the discussion of interpellations to be decided by the Council of Ministers. But the vital question of the elections, the composition of the next Assembly, the members of the Second Chamber, and the organization of the Executive in the interval between the dissolution and the meeting of a new assembly, though formally proposed and strongly urged by M. Dufaure, have been wholly rejected. The action of Committee was all together unexpected, and it is believed will lead to a rupture between the President and the Assembly. The Council of Ministers is now entertained by the Assembly of M. Thiers usurpation of their rights has, notwithstanding his denial, much lofty pretension, disclosed itself in the most plain and unmistakable manner. It is remembered, that, though M. Thiers denies that he has ever agited to himself constituent powers, yet in a despatch from Versailles in January, said he "reserved to himself the right of recourse to a popular vote." It is also a fact, that he was engaged in drafting a constitution and it is also borne in mind that the message to the Assembly was the development and first application of this idea, and it has remained a foremost topic of discussion to the present hour. Hitherto the institutions of France have not changed with the name of a Republic, but with M. Thiers, it has been justly remarked, "is working the Republic with the Imperialist machinery introduced as any King who came in under cover of law in to the machinery with the same machinery, who has saved the Empire and the Republic."

There would seem, therefore, to be a strange inconsistency in these struggles with the President, who, "all, indeed, upon the form of the French Government nothing but a name, and "what's in a name. How little, indeed, is to be inferred from the preceding quotation which cries upon undisputed facts.

The Minister of Instruction, M. Jules Simon, it has not been found so easy to put down as was expected. The distinguished learned gentleman educational reforms have displayed in a remarkable degree the courage and resolution of a true Republican, and a very large number of the Assembly opposed to him have been driven to the probable course of proclaiming a temporary abnegation of their rights in the mere hope of obstructing the Ministerial proposals; that is to say, more than a large hundred Deputies intended from voting, so that by this unworthy device the number of votes required to determine the fate of a measure could not be recorded. The French, usually so animated and impassioned, have nevertheless a short talent, which they can use on occasion with marked effect. Of this nature are the abstentions resolved upon by deliberate compact, at elections, which practice has been successful, in throwing a very useful part of the machinery of the State out of gear, and causing the while much irritation, delay in arriving at the sense of the Sovereign people. But that these devices should to resorted to in the National Assembly is anything but creditable to that body, and can have no other than a bad effect upon the public. This manoeuvre is due to the strategy of the Rights. Several of the extreme members of that section, seeing that the debate would turn against them on the substantive question, rose from their seats, and hurrying along the benches occupied by their friends brought the latter to withhold their votes. This trick will lose its force and add to the popularity and strength of M. Simon. An outline of the reforms proposed by the Minister was given in these columns some time ago, together with some allusion to the generous and welcome spirit which at that time greeted M. Simon's propositions. It will be remembered that they were of a decidedly practical and utilitarian kind, and were hailed with marked satisfaction by the colleges and schools, while the strongest possible opposition arose out of the religious element, which for some time preserved, and up to the present phase of the question, certainly still presents, a very threatening front. Since the initiation of these new and important educational principles, M. Simon's star, like that of so many other public men in France, seems to have paled, but it is now struggling into the ascendant again. M. Simon is a free-thinker without the smallest prejudice against religion, and it may be said dispenses church patronage with a certain amiability that is much extolled by others than the recipients.

Prince Napoleon's expulsion from France having furnished the subject of petitions to the Legislature, they have, with others, been referred to the Committee on Petitions. The President of the Republic appeared before the committee and took upon himself the entire responsibility of this measure, in the interests, it is said, of public tranquility. The manoeuvre of which was imposed upon him as chief of the Executive Power. The vote of the Assembly, M. Thiers argued, having proclaimed the downfall of the Empire, the exile of the Bonapartist family followed as a matter of course. This is M. Thiers law, and is rests apparently upon a basis of unsatisfactory character. Whether there is any other kind of law in France by which the Prince can hopefully appeal is more than doubtful. The President has taken large powers indeed, and the plea for the preservation of public tranquility, without any overt or alleged act perilous to the public, is capable of any degree of extension, of any kind of application, dictated by the fears or the hostility of Party. When asked upon the subject the Government has any specific charge against the Prince, M. Thiers replied in the negative, and said in effect that it was a measure of precaution merely, the agitation proclivities of the Prince being well known, and threatening serious dangers. This is analogous to the familiar case of hanging a man on suspicion, but the public will hardly endorse the doctrine and practice of this summary method of adjudication.

While non-Imperialists are speculating on the vitality or non-vitality of Bonapartism, it may be worth while to turn to the solemn spectacle presented the other day in Paris. The celebration of the Mass took place in the churches for the repose of the soul of the late Emperor Napoleon, and those sacred edifices, all completely crammed, were among the largest and the handsomest in the city. It was evident that the congregations were not drawn together from curiosity merely, since almost every one was dressed in mourning, the ex-Queen of Spain being amongst the earliest arrival at the magnificent church of St. Augustin. There was no music, nor were there any hangings whatever either at the entrance or inside the church, nor were any emblems or initials anywhere displayed, most of which signs and accompaniments of mourning are observed by custom on all similar occasions of religious rites performed in behalf of humble individuals. It seems the salons hand of the Government was in this, but, notwithstanding these marked omissions, the service was of a most interesting character, and was listened to for half an hour with every appearance of extreme devotion.

Bayard Taylor, concerning Horace Greeley, writes: "There used to be a paper in New York called *The Evening Mirror*, edited by a certain Hiram Fuller, afterwards a blatant but not dangerous secessionist in London. He imagined his little sheet to be the most important journal in the city, and was in the habit of asking his acquaintance—"Have you read the *Mirror* to-day?" At an editorial dinner he proposed the question to Mr. Greeley, in my presence. The latter, with an indescribable drawl, almost a whine, replied—"Why, no—I don't read the *Mirror*. I am afraid of exhausting the edition!"

The captain of a vessel just arrived at New York from China, reports that on May 5th, in lat. 29 38 S., lon 180 45 E., he saw a large sea serpent passing within six feet of the ship's quarter. When he was some 15 or 20 feet astern he lifted his head above the water, opened his mouth and looked round at the ship with surprise, as though he had just waked up out of a sound sleep. As near as he could judge he must have some fifty feet long and two feet in diameter and a deep brown colour.

CANADIAN.

Elora is to have a new market house, and the local papers are discussing where it shall be located.

The Oshawa *Reformer* has been sold outright to the Ontario *Reformer* Printing and Publishing Company.

The Pilkington and Elora volunteers have had a rifle match. The shooting on both sides was good, but Elora came out ahead by 14 shots.

The Picton *Gazette* understands that the revenue derived from the fisheries around the shores of Prince Edward are so insignificant as not to pay even the salaries of the county overseers.

The telegram lately published stating that two steamers per week of the Allan line were running to Portland is untrue, the only foundation for it being the fact that one or two of the Glasgow steamers made a trip to that port.

The village of Arnprior, says a correspondent, is making rapid progressive strides. During the past two years new buildings have been put up on all sides, and several are in course of position. Churches, mills and dwellings of really good and substantial appearance now adorn, and the hotel accommodation is excellent and plentiful.

The attention of the County Council of Simcoe is being seriously directed to the subject of Refuge. With a population of less than 4,000, Tecumseth spent last year in relief, $1,700. There seems to be a growing feeling throughout the county that a House of Refuge has become a necessity.

Last week a public meeting was held in Oshawa, at which a resolution was carried unanimously requesting the Town Council to submit a by-law granting $3,000 towards purchasing a site on which to build a female college. It is estimated that the cost of the buildings is to be $25,000, and this sum is to be raised by subscription by the Rev. Mr. Dewdill.

The Stratford *Beacon* learns that a few days ago an order was issued by Mr. Spicer, local superintendent of the Grand Trunk, to the different agents to use every means in their power to prevent the necessity of dispatching trains on Sunday, and to endeavour to diminish Sunday labour at the various stations as much as possible, with the view of finally abolishing it altogether. This is a move in the right direction.

The *Quebec Mercury* says: "Coroner Paint held an inquest at Ste. Anne de Beaupré on the body of Madame Marie Morgan, wife of Jean Marin, aged 60 years, who died suddenly while on her way to church on Sunday morning. She had just got out of her sleigh at the church door, while her husband had gone to stable the horse, when she fell to the ground and was taken into a neighbouring house, where in a few minutes the poor old spark had already fled. The inquest established that she had been suffering from acute rheumatism, and that death was accidentally caused by disease of the heart."

The Clinton *New Era* says: our farmers are disposing of a large number of their best cattle, which they will supply, at good prices, to buyers from Boston and New York. The demand for beef cattle has been on large cities is great, and farmers have shown wisdom in raising such. The breed of cattle in this section has been much improved of late years, and thanks are due to the importers of heavy draught stallions for the part they have taken in this community not to sell their mares, as the demand for heavy horses will continue to be great for years to come.

The North sydney *Herald* says that last week Mr. Livingston, of Big Bras d'or, observed that the ice was drifting from the water's edge. He at once started to secure the prize that he imagined almost within his grasp, but when he approached it he found it "objects." The seal showed fight, and for an hour a sharp contest took place between it and Mr. Livingston, the latter with a club and the former with its sharp teeth. At last Mr. Livingston, with torn and tattered garments, secured his mashup, and he now has the novel sight of a real white seal skin, which he intends to be gifted by his children, and astonishing the neighbours.

A few days ago, as described by the Cobourg *Sentinel*, James Gilmore, a tailor by trade, well known to the farmers of that vicinity and Haldimand county, commenced a periodical force, and while under the influence of liquor went to the house of Mr. Alexander Ainlowie, and threatened to kill the family, they retired for the night leaving him sitting in the kitchen, but upon rising in the morning they found him lying in the same position as they had left him—unconscious, and all efforts to rouse him failed. The jury returning a verdict to the effect that he came to his death from intemperance.

The deceased was about 60 years of age.

The Brantford *Expositor* tells the following as a specimen of what it says it can furnish to those that may be made on the mind. There were assembled in a workshop in this city the other day a few journeymen and a couple of apprentices, all of whom were telling stories about the consequences of dog bites. Most of the stories had been bitten twice by dogs, and such effect had the narratives upon the mind that he became convulsed, the blood rushing to his face and head, and completely prostrating him mentally and physically. A doctor was called in, who attended him, and cautioned the men against further conversation on the subject in his presence, as it might endanger his life or mental faculties. The boy was several times seized with most strenuous tones.

A week before, Mowat never swears—he commentated, threw in the first two syllables to get a chance to bring the last out with a vehemence of a tornado.

"Tell them I am not in—Say I'm sick—I'm dead—make any excuse you like," said the Premier, as he dashed into the room and ran into the next room in the house.

"Say, sir, yes sir," said he, as I entered, "I can assure you, sir, that your claim will receive due consideration at the hands of my Government. Let me see what compensation do you represent?

"I am not on that day at present, said I, "no, of course not. I beg your pardon, Mr. Ringge, but I have been so pestered with those confounded delegates that I hardly know which way to turn. What can I for you today?

"I did my duty that morning, and my first impulse was to ask him to set em up, but on second thought I knew it would be no use.

"Mr. Mowat, said I, the Indian business is strongly against the Indians.

"I know it," he replied, "it hurts us like the devil—developments in Pilgrim's Progress, I mean.

Mowat never swears—but he came awful near it that time. The company he got into was beginning to look for the door, and after a while he'd be able to lie, steal, and swindle without scruple or remorse, just as well as the best of them.

"Well," I resumed, "why don't you stand?

"I only wish we could.

"It's easy enough. Just abolish all the Indians.

"Abolish it—How?

"Why, by a vote of the House. Are a majority of the House not Indians, and yet you permit this scandal to exist. Vote it down. But it out of existence—put it out anything, but it out of Parliament, but a soul of your following dare vote against you in the slightest instance—fear you might shut down on them.

"Being in a resolution declaring that it is the duty of the Government to see to it that there aint any such township on Indian map, that Lewis used all his influence to defeat me, Mr. Ringge, and Mr. Lewis is an agitator, that McKellar is an honest man and incapable of such a transaction—in short, anything and everything, all per the Party's duty, and the Party's duty.

"Then what is my one hint at Proton, you can triumphantly annihilate him by pointing to the overwhelming majority by which McKellar was returned.

"But, my dear sir," said Mowat, in astonishment, "the House would never support such a resolution. Why, the facts have been disclosed in the report, signed, too, by several members of the House, and they would have to repudiate their own works.

"What of that. So much the worse for the facts. I tell you Mowat, I would do for any mortal thing you like to propose, so long as the Surplus Distribution is in doubt.

"Dolly, you know I put the question for a while longer, and if any of the members show a disposition to weaken on the present position, you can strengthen them by a mild hint that if they don't support your Government they may find that they aren't so fearfully in the Surplus Distribution list.

"I said the House would hardly be prepared to go so far as you suggest, but I'll consult my colleagues about it at once, said the Premier, and I'll prepare a resolution adopted it would forever silence the tongue of detraction, and put you in a position to defy all comers.

"Say, Isaac, here's a whole squad of Indians, and I want to talk to them alone.

"It is a delegation from somewhere or other, said a clerk rushing in.

"Confound the Indians, said Mowat, in his most strenuous tones.

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