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*God is in His heaven,
And His right with the world.*
—BROWNING.

London, Monday, July 4.

The Hamilton Times, always well edited and splendidly printed, has discarded its blanket-sheet make-up, and will in future be printed after the fashion set by the ADVERTISER—in eight-page form. The change has decidedly improved the appearance of our sprightly contemporary.

What a strange idea of liberty the Hamilton Spectator has! It contends that the best offices in the gift of the people of Canada shall be reserved for men who refuse to become Canadians, and who clear out of the country as soon as their government pay is stopped; and it now further asserts that a school trustee who threatens a teacher with reduction of salary unless she consents to spend a public holiday as his whims may dictate, is not guilty of petty tyranny. One of these days we may expect our contemporary to propose the revival of the Family Compact.

It turns out that the death of Hon. John Robson, Premier of British Columbia, resulted from neglected injuries of a very commonplace nature. Mr. Robson was driving in a hansom cab, and accidentally shut the door on his little finger, crushing it. A physician who was called in at the Metropole Hotel, where the Premier was stopping, did not consider the injury serious, and it was not until Dr. George Ogilvie, the celebrated specialist, was sent for six days later, that it was discovered that blood poisoning had set in. Dr. Ogilvie amputated the finger, but it was too late, and Mr. Robson's life paid the forfeit.

The most important business of the Dominion Parliament, the consideration of vast expenditures of public money, has been reserved by the Dominion Government till one-half of the members have gone home and the other half are restless to get about their own business. Important measures are also being rushed through without that consideration which should be given them. The Government should be compelled to have its public measures ready within two weeks after the House assembles. If the responsible Ministers acted promptly at the start of the session, there would be no "scampering" of legislation at the close, and no temptation for members to demand additional indemnity.

Some notable men have already been returned to the new Parliament of Great Britain without opposition. Among others is Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, who has represented the busy manufacturing borough of Wolverhampton for over half a century. Mr. Villiers was the pioneer in the agitation for the abolition of the protective laws in Great Britain, and he was a strong advocate of free trade and the abolition of the Corn Laws before either Cobden or Bright entered the House of Commons, and forced the issue to the front. The venerable statesman is the oldest member of the House in point of years, but not in point of service. Mr. Gladstone, though seven years younger than Mr. Villiers, was first elected to Parliament 60 years ago next December, and Mr. Christopher R. M. Talbot, of Glamorgan-shire has represented that shire for 55 years, having had a contest only three times during that period. Mr. Talbot is Lord Lieutenant of his county, and enjoys the distinction of having refused a peerage. He is 86 years of age. J. Henniker Heaton, who made a fortune in Australia, and is the champion of the scheme to provide a penny ocean post, has also been returned unopposed as member for Canterbury. J. A. Platon, who with Sir J. Whitehead, has been re-elected for Leicester, is a well-known Congregational minister. He took a prominent part in the last Parliament. Both gentlemen support Mr. Gladstone. The other M.P.s so far elected are either strong personally or because the represent constituencies in which their party is greatly in the ascendancy.

PETROLEUM IN THE NORTHWEST.
The Minister of the Interior, in reply to Sir Richard Cartwright the other evening, gave a number of interesting particulars regarding the investigations made in the petroleum territory in the Canadian Northwest. Mr. McConnell, the surveyor, who went over the ground, thinks there is an extensive petroleum area, about 400 miles square, in the territory of Alberta. But no basin has been discovered, as borings have not been made. There are indications, however, over a wide territory. Mr. McConnell calculates that there are 58 square miles of what is known as tar-sand—that is, immense banks saturated with tar. So

dense, indeed, is the tar that it burns freely in a fire. The Minister says it would make first-class natural asphalt for roads. Without boring, and it is strange that no boring has taken place, it is only possible to surmise the depth of these petroleum beds. It is thought that in the neighborhood of Athabasca Landing, some 80 miles north of Edmonton, 1,500 feet would have to be bored to reach the basin; and it is estimated that further north, on the Athabasca River, it would be necessary to bore to a lower depth. Mr. McConnell's investigations this year will be extended further east over a track of country almost the same size as that explored before, and in which no white man has ever been.

It is to be hoped that the Government will carefully follow the suggestions of Sir Richard Cartwright on the question of collecting royalties for the public benefit from these natural resources. So far, the Minister affirms, the Administration has taken steps to leave any of these petroleum lands. It has even refrained from going to the expense of boring to obtain information as to their value. But it already has had applications from speculators in Canada and in England. The future disposition of the territory, therefore, must be faced. Our Administration will fall in its duty if it hands over these apparently valuable lands to speculators without express stipulations that shall safeguard the public interests. In Canada we may well profit by the experience of older lands, where individuals have become millionaires, and their heirs have continued to wear fat at the expense of their fellows, through the appropriation of valuable natural resources to which, it is now conceded, should have been retained for the benefit of the community. As it is alleged that the regulations framed under the Dominion Lands Act for the working of minerals have been found unworkable when applied to petroleum, the present is a very appropriate time to consider the whole question. There are too many monopolies in Canada now, and a Northwest petroleum monopoly would be particularly objectionable.

WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR?
In the London County Council elections the Liberals scored a great victory because the elections were held on Saturday, and the workmen, who can ill afford time to go to the polls, were able to use the customary half holiday in recording their votes. The Salisbury Government, warned by this experience, contrived to have Parliament dissolved so that the elections for the boroughs should not be held on Saturday, and it is believed that as a consequence many workmen will be disfranchised, as the elections in the big towns take place on the three first days of this week. By Thursday we shall know the result of the contest in all the boroughs throughout the United Kingdom. These boroughs contain 2,397,785 of the registered electors, against 3,726,325 registered in the counties. The full returns from the counties will not be in for about two weeks, as in these the nomination may take place at any time up to the ninth day after the receipt of the writ, and the election may be postponed until six days after the nomination. We will glean the drift of the contest long before then from the returns in those constituencies which the Conservatives carried in 1886 by majorities of less than 500. In Ireland there are 103 seats, and the Nationalists carried 85 six years ago, while the Conservatives got 18. The sanguine opponents of home rule believe that the division in the Irish party will result in the Nationalists losing several seats in Ulster. One of these is West Belfast, now held by Mr. Sexton; another is South Down, now represented by Mr. McCarty; two are East Tyrone and North Fermanagh; and Londonderry, which returned Mr. Justin McCarthy in 1886, may return to its old role. It may be assumed, therefore, that the Nationalists will number 80 and the Irish Tories 23 in the next Parliament. In England and Scotland there are 567 seats. Of these in 1886 the opponents of Gladstone obtained 375 and the Liberals only 192. No fewer than 184 constituencies which were Liberal in 1885 went against the Grand Old Man in 1886. It is, obviously, in this class of constituencies that the Gladstonians have the best right to count upon large gains. But among the 221 constituencies, also, which were Conservative in 1885 as well as in 1886, some were carried in the first-named year by small majorities, and here also the Gladstonians have some prospect of success. They have at the bye-elections already gained eight seats of this class. The number of seats carried by the Conservatives in both 1885 and 1886 by majorities of less than 500 was 57. Add this to the 184 seats won by the Liberals in 1885, but lost in 1886, and we have 241 seats which the Gladstonians have a fair chance of carrying. A few of these are in Scotland. There, as in other parts of the country, a number of the representatives returned in 1886 were selected to oppose Gladstone's Home Rule Bill. They went in as Liberal opponents of that measure, because of its Land Bill attachment. Now that it is no longer proposed to guarantee the payment of the Irish landlords by the credit of the whole nation, many Englishmen and Scotchmen favor the Gladstonian programme, and are not prepared to follow the dissident M.P.s into the Conservative ranks. These facts have to be taken into account in trying to estimate results, though they are, in a measure, offset by the quarrelling among Irish opponents of the present Administration. A detailed analysis of the figures leads the Pall Mall Gazette to predict that out of these 211 seats the Gladstonians will carry so many as to result—after deductions for the possible loss of a few seats carried by the Liberals in 1886—in a net gain of 110. Let us see how such a gain would affect the state of parties. Deduct 110 from the 275 seats carried by the Unionists in 1886 and we have 165. Add 110 to the 192 Gladstonian members chosen six years ago and

we have 302, or, in other words, a Gladstonian majority in Great Britain of 37. The Irish Nationalists are considered justified in reckoning upon electing 80 members, while the Irish "Unionists" are credited with 23. Mr. Gladstone's majority in Ireland, therefore, would be 57, which, added to the 37 obtained in Great Britain, would give him a majority of 94 in the United Kingdom. The Pall Mall Gazette estimate is held by most supporters of Gladstone as below the mark; but if it is realized his friends will have good reason to be thankful, for it means a big turn over in the electorates.

OPINION: "ALL SORTS."

PUT IN NOTED COMPANY.

The Smart Alick who grinds out editorial briefs for the Hamilton Spectator avers that the editor of the London Advertiser is not a Canadian because he was born in Scotland. By the same reasoning the two great Canadians who have recently passed away—Sir John Macdonald and Hon. Alexander Mackenzie—were not Canadians. It's about time the Spectator called off its smart young man.

AN OTTAWA VIEW.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

If the man who holds annexationist views, and preaches in favor of annexation, has a public office, he should be deprived of it. To that extent he should be punished, and so forth. In "these days of liberty of thought and utterance" it is in accordance with the spirit of the time that every citizen should be allowed to discuss in the amplest manner all questions of public interest, including the constitution of the state, without being held guilty of a misdemeanor, or subjected to pains and penalties. To aim at the subversion of the government by force or fraud is one thing, but to attempt to persuade fellow-citizens that a change in the constitution of the country is desirable is an entirely different thing. Mr. Elgin Myers has a perfect right to advocate annexation if he choose, but while doing so he has no right to retain office.

THE FALL OF HENRY M. STANLEY.

(From the New York Recorder.)

For Stanley! He tore down his American allegiance last May in order to become a candidate for Parliament on the Tory ticket, and what is the result? Mobbed and hooted on every platform where he appears, his wife insulted and the most serious charges made against his administration in Africa! Stanley has made the grand blunder of his life. His fame was secure. His name filled the world. What to him was a seat in the House of Commons, especially on the Tory benches? As a political organization that party is centuries behind the age, and yet Stanley, who opened up a continent to modern civilization, endeavors to ally himself with political mediocrity! The spectacle is as pitiable as it is interesting.

VITRIOL IN WAR.

(Knox Field's Weekly Review.)

I have been asked to preach the gospel of peace in this review, and to advocate the abolition of war. It seems to me that the best way to abolish war is to make it also the best way to live. From this point of view, the recent action of a French officer has special significance. This ingenious gentleman has created a rifle which will hurl vitriol in the faces of the enemy. He suggests that it be used solely against savages who are making frenzied rushes; but as many savages have been known to be otherwise, and as the use of this weapon would be more potent than all the bullets that ever were cast, the man who loses a leg or arm with composure, and who meets death without flinching, would run from a charge of vitriol as from a volcanic eruption or any other calamity. There are some things the bravest dare not face; the hideous consequences of vitriol are among them. As an agent of peace, therefore, this poison may become a wondrous benefaction. On what field will the new rifle make its debut?

CONCERNING FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.

(From Canada Presbyterian.)

The dismissal of Elgin Myers, Q.C.—if he is dismissed—from the position of county attorney and clerk of the peace in Dufferin county for an alleged political offense is a matter on which there is ample room for difference of opinion. Mr. Myers distinctly declares that he favors continental union by and with the consent of her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial Parliament, and on no other terms. When her Majesty says go, my children, Mr. Myers would go. He would marry politically, but not until his sovereign blessed the nuptials. Just why a man holding these views cannot be trusted to prosecute offenders for breaches of the Crooks Act or of the Orangeville bye-law the average Ontario elector may not be able to see clearly. The list of "Sirs" in Canada who were avowed annexationists when about the age of Myers is truly formidable, and includes such dignitaries as Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir John Ross, Sir Alexander Gait, Sir John Caldwell Abbott, the present Premier, and a number of other men more or less distinguished for loyalty. One thing is clear. Should Mr. Myers be dismissed, his dismissal will secure to him and his cause an amount of attention that never has been given under ordinary circumstances. For one man who would go to hear Mr. Myers as county attorney, ten will go to hear him as a county attorney dismissed.

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