

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. I., No. 23.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1878.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

CONTENTS:

THE TIMES.	THE POPES.
MR. MACKENZIE ON THE STUMP.	AGRI-HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.
THE ERA OF EXHIBITIONS.	A LAY OF A LONDONER.
THE MONTREAL HARBOUR, TRADE AND SHIPPING.	CORRESPONDENCE.
THE TEMPORALITIES FUND OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.	THE MILL OF ST. HERBOT, BY THE AUTHOR OF "PATTY."
	CURRENT LITERATURE.
	MUSICAL.
	♫. ♫. ♫.

THE TIMES.

The Quebec Parliament is now in full swing, the Liberal party triumphant. Every stage in our Provincial proceedings seems to bring fresh disasters upon the Conservatives. When the late Government was dismissed by the imperious mandate of the Lieut.-Governor, the Conservatives were quite sure that the electors would redress the great wrong they had suffered. The Constitution was said to be in danger, and the most appalling pictures were exhibited of what the people might expect if Mr. Joly were not at once turned to the right about. But the electors judged differently, and at the polls seemed to say they would give the new Ministry a chance. But when the votes were counted it looked as if things had favoured the Conservatives with a small majority, which power was to be used sternly to condemn the action of the Lieut.-Governor, and turn the usurper, Mr. Joly out. But when the Legislative Assembly met on Tuesday last another surprise was sprung upon the Conservatives. Mr. Turcotte had decided to befriend the new administration, and held to his purpose, even voting himself into the Speakership, in spite of Mr. Chapleau's wrath. Then Mr. Price, of Chicoutimi, who seemed to hold the balance of power in his hand and himself in dignified suspense, decided that his duty, and whatever else might come of it, lay in the wake of Mr. Joly; so he nobly followed the path of duty, impelled by a fine sense of honour. And now, the hopes of the Conservatives are withered all, and nearly dead. The Reform party is in the ascendant; the work of retrenchment as to expenditure has been well begun; the prospects of the Province are brighter. It would be well if we might regard the election of Mr. Turcotte to the Speakership as some promise of a coalition Ministry. The Provincial House is not strong enough to govern by party. But to accomplish that must be a work of time; meanwhile Mr. Joly must cut down expenses all round, even in the Cabinet, if that is possible, and learn to govern with less money, and without Price.

It is stated on good authority that the Catholic priests of the Province of Quebec have got alarmed within themselves, and warnings from without—that is to say, from the bishops—that it is time for them to apply themselves once more to the work of directing the political opinions of their flocks. They have kept their hands off for a while and disaster has come of it; so Mother Church must interfere in her own interests, which were identical with those of the DeBoucherville party. We can have no objection to the priests being politicians and exercising all the influence they must of necessity have as educated men; only, let us have no terrorism—no Papal bull or bishop's *mandement*—or threat of everlasting hell upon the disobedient. If in a fair and legitimate way they can command the votes of their people, they are clearly in the right. It is absurd to shut a Priest out from politics *qua* Priest. But he must not be allowed to play on the superstitious fears of the ignorant.

Sunstroke being a human affliction of the perfectly remediable kind, we trust our brethren of the Press will be persuaded to make some little effort, during the hot season now approaching, to impress upon their readers and the public, the necessity for adopting the proper measures for preventing, and if possible removing altogether, so painful an incident in the affairs of a civilized land. The necessary appliances might at least be made quite accessible.

The debate at the meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales which followed Mr. Baldwin Brown's address from the chair was very remarkable in every way. It proved how great was the uneasiness which had been produced among the churches by the

action of the Leicester Conference with regard to the question as to the basis of communion. Evidently the mind of the Congregational Church is enlarged and enlightened. True, it fell back upon a general declaration of faith in an evangelical form, but there was a marked generosity and breadth of sentiment and tenderness which gives evidence of a true Christian spirit. The Assembly of Congregational representatives is perhaps the freest body of ecclesiastics of all that meet under the sun. There is no fear of facing any question that can be of importance to men. Men of learning and rare eloquence speak in the interests of truth as far as they know it, not banning or damning those who see and think differently. The Congregational Church ventures to think, and is not afraid to speak; it is a church militant; it has energy and life, and therefore a future.

It was a pleasant and instructive sight to see that same Congregational Union turning from the discussion of theological questions to a consideration of the Eastern question, and passing a resolution expressing its strong conviction that England's attitude towards Russia, and warlike preparations have endangered the peace of Europe—condemning the action of Government in bringing Indian troops to Malta, and calling upon the churches to use all legitimate influence in urging upon the Government the duty of entering into a Congress. A body of religious men so acting, give evidence that they know the place and power of a Church, and what its functions are. A Church must have its say on all matters that pertain to the general well-being of society. That is to follow the example of Moses, and Elijah, and Isaiah, and Jesus Christ himself.

Another stage has been reached in the Historical Development of Theology in Scotland. Mr. Fergus Ferguson was condemned by the Presbytery of Glasgow, but the judgment was reversed by the Synod. This was put on the ground that Mr. Ferguson had given further and more satisfactory statements with regard to his position—but without doubt, this is another case of "whitewashing." Presbyterianism is advancing with the general advancement of the Church universal, but scarcely likes to own it even to its own heart. Still there is movement, and where there is motion there is life. The life of the Churches of Scotland is strong and deep, and now that it attested its need for fuller and more liberal expression of itself, no power of earth can stop it. This is the best buttress the Scotch can rear against the Catholic Church.

The recent report of the Commissioner of Fisheries in the Dominion shows that industry is constantly growing, despite the business depression. During the year 1877 the value of the products of the industry was \$12,029,957, which is \$882,367 greater than the amount realized in 1876. Comparisons with earlier years show that the improvement has been gradual since the Treaty of Washington gave the Canadian fishermen a free market in the United States. The value of fish exported in 1867 was \$7,000,402, being \$1,462,381 more than in 1876. The exports of the last six months of 1877 were \$1,118,521 in excess of the entire year of 1876. About 50 per cent. of all these exports went to ports of the United States. The imports of the products of the fishing industry into Canada for the year were valued at \$1,329,530 of which 70 per cent. came from the United States.

Socialism has become an organised evil in Germany, and what troubles may arise from it we are just beginning to learn. A second attack has been made on the life of the Emperor William, and this time it came very near success. The man who made the attempt was the tool of a party who had conspired together; he managed to convince himself that he was playing the *role* of a martyr, so took what appeared a certain means of accomplishing his end, thinking little of his own escape. The Emperor was seriously wounded. The would-be murderer was arrested and got killed on his way to the prison. But that is not the end of it. All can see well enough that had the attempt succeeded it would have answered no purpose at all. The Emperor is an old man—has a son made of no mean stuff, and a Bismarck as First Minister. The army is popular because it is felt to be a necessity, and for some time to come it will be paramount. But it is evident that many among the Germans chafe against the military character which the nation is compelled to sustain. They think the Empire has paid