

until they took such tangible shape as to be ready for the legislative action of the succeeding Government. Of the former the negotiation of the Reciprocity Treaty, the Grand Trunk, and other railway legislation, the establishment of the Upper Canada Municipal Loan Fund, &c., may be noted as exercising much influence on the rapid development of the country's resources; while of the latter it is sufficient to remark that agitation had done so much towards the solution of the Clergy Reserves, and Seigneurial Tenure questions, as to make their final settlement a matter of comparative ease.

When Mr. Hincks retired from office in 1854, the policy of his Cabinet was adopted by his successors, and he continued to give them his support in parliament until 1855, when he was appointed by the Imperial Government to the Governorship of the Windward Islands. Having completed the usual gubernatorial term of service there, Mr Hincks was appointed Governor of British Guiana in 1862, which office he continued to fill until the completion of a second term, at the close of last year. During these twelve years of Imperial service he received many proofs of the approval of the Home Authorities; and in December last was among the number of those distinguished Colonists selected by the Queen for decoration with the order of Knight Companion of St. Michael and St. George.

His visit to Canada last summer was immediately connected with his private affairs, and to see old friends from whom he had been so long separated. Being disengaged from Imperial service, he consented to accept office in the present Government in place of the Hon. Mr. Rose, and to again undertake the management of the Canadian finances. It may be said that the hopes of his friends and the fears of his opponents run equally high as to the consequences of his administration; but he brings to the performance of his duty an exceptionally long and varied experience, and a knowledge of the world on both sides of the Atlantic, which, with his abilities as a statesman, are calculated to inspire either hope or fear, according to the political party-light in which they are viewed. By those who only remember former political differences as things of the past, having no influence to create present antagonisms, the return of Sir Francis Hincks to public life is heartily welcomed; to others it has been manifestly distasteful; while there is a large party in the country, though not much heard of as yet, either in parliament or through the press, knowing little, and caring less, about old political divisions, who look to the questions of to-day and of the future, and who will judge Sir Francis, not by his acts, real or alleged, fifteen or twenty years ago, but by his administration of the financial affairs of the Dominion. Before that large party he appears as a new man, with all the advantages of his great experience and none of the drawbacks incident to old political differences.

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS IX

On the eve of the meeting of the Ecumenical Council at Rome, the public curiosity is naturally directed towards the Holy Father, at whose instance this august assemblage has been summoned. Though the events of his public career are still within living memory, though a quarter of a century has not yet elapsed since, to his own surprise, he was elected by the Sacred College of Cardinals to fill the vacancy created by the death of Gregory XVI., still the agitations in the religious, and the changes in the political world have been of a character so momentous as to invest the history of his Pontificate with more than ordinary interest. The summoning of the whole Catholic hierarchy of the world to solemn conference on the affairs of the Church, an event which had not taken place for three hundred years before, will alone give distinction to his reign, already rendered remarkable by so many striking changes within the States of the Church and in the Church's relations with the nations of Europe.

Giovanni Maria Mastai Ferretti, who in 1846 ascended the Papal throne as the 250th Bishop of the See of Rome, under the title of Pius IX., is a member of a noble Italian family. He was born at Sinigaglia, in the Marches of Ancona, on the 13th of May, 1792, and is consequently now in his 78th year. Early in youth he is said to have been distinguished by a remarkable sweetness of disposition and for a most active benevolence. At the age of eighteen he went to Rome with the intention of enlisting in the body-guard of the Pope (Pius VII.); but he was seized with epilepsy, and for a time disabled from military service. The reigning Pontiff, remarking in him signs of superior ability, ordered him to make a "Novena" for the recovery of his health, and for Divine guidance in the choice of a state in life. He did so, and his health being restored he resolved to enter into Holy Orders. During the prosecution of his theological studies he exhibited such a spirit of meekness and piety that the Principal of the Seminary declared his conviction that he was "rearing in him a tender plant which would one day grow into a great Pope." In due time he was ordained priest; and, if we mistake not, he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination nearly two years ago. He was first appointed chaplain to an educational

institution for orphans, founded at Rome by a poor citizen for the benefit of his poorer brethren. But the Pope, not forgetting the early signs of ability which had first interested him, when the young Ferretti went to Rome to enter the ranks of the guard, transferred him from this quiet sphere of duty, and appointed him auditor to Monsignore Mugi, Vicar Apostolic of Chili. Returning from South America, he was appointed by Pope Leo XII, Prelate of the Household and President of the Great Hospital of St. Michael. While holding these important posts he employed much of his time in preaching "retreats" and educating the poorer classes of the Roman youth, to whose interests he was devotedly attached.

In 1829, when in his thirty-eighth year, he was raised to the Archbishopric of Spoleto, from which See he was transferred in December, 1832, to that of Imola, where, in consequence of symptoms of disaffection and threatened revolution appearing in the Romagna, it was believed that his personal character and influence would tend to allay the excitement of the populace. Whilst at Imola, so liberal were his benefactions to the poor, that his steward often knew not how to provide for the wants of the Archiepiscopal household. The only occasion on which he is said to have quitted his diocese was, when in 1840, he was summoned to Rome to receive the Cardinal's hat, he having been in that year elevated to the dignity of Cardinal, under the title of SS. Peter and Marcellinus. On his return to Imola, he devoted himself to the affairs of his diocese with the same assiduity, for which he had already become distinguished.

On the 1st of June, 1846, Pope Gregory XVI. died, and the Sacred College was immediately summoned to elect his successor. Cardinal Ferretti, then engaged in preaching a "retreat," went to Rome to attend the Solemn Conclave. On the 16th of the same month he was elected Pope, on the second ballot, and proclaimed under the title of Pius IX. Five days later—on the 21st June—he was solemnly crowned at St. Peter's.

Europe was then on the eve of great political changes. The storm which burst forth with such fury upon the crowned heads of the Continent, in 1848, was even then betokened by the signs in the political atmosphere. Interpreters of the auguries, both political and religious, were not wanting; and some of them had measured to the year, and even to the month, the career of dynasties and the duration of systems. Pope Pius found his own small dominion in a condition bordering on civil confusion. Many of his subjects, to the number, it is said, of about two thousand, were either in exile or in prison for political offences, and one of his first acts after his accession, was to proclaim a general amnesty. Of his first year's administration, it was written at the close of 1847, that (were he to die then) "his year's Pontificate will have left to the Papal States, either in actual working, or in germ, a native military organization, a reformed prison discipline, a tolerant policy towards the Jews, a mitigated censorship of the press, the admission of civilians to political functions, an admirably adapted Municipal Council for the City of Rome; a grand Council of State, representing the whole of the Papal Provinces; a better regulated system of taxation; the introduction of railways throughout the country; a Customs Union with other Italian States, which will destroy those local animosities so ruinous to Italy, and lay the basis of a new era of commerce; and lastly, the principle of Italian nationality and independence." Such is a description of the reforms, either effected or in contemplation by His Holiness for the improvement of the political and material condition of his subjects; but between the adverse influences of the reactionary policy of Austria and some of the Italian Princes on the one side, and the violent republican and revolutionary spirit which had got abroad among the populace, on the other, these reforms were not then destined to bear their expected fruit. In the early part of 1848, the French revolution, the expulsion of Louis Philippe, and the proclamation of the Republic, created an explosion which shook all and toppled over many of the thrones of Europe. The spirit of revolution soon spread to Rome; Garibaldi and Mazzini, with kindred spirits, put themselves at the head of the excited populace; the Papal Minister, Count Rossi, was basely murdered; the Republic proclaimed and the Pope made a prisoner within his own palace. Under these circumstances the Ambassadors of France and Spain offered him a refuge and safe conduct to any place he might select in their respective countries, but this offer he declined, being unwilling to depart further from the seat of his government than was absolutely necessary for his own personal safety. He, therefore, having escaped from Rome in disguise, took up his residence at Gaëta, a small town on the frontier of Neapolitan territory; from this place, three days after his departure from Rome, he promulgated a decree annulling all the acts of the revolutionary government and superseding it by a State Commission. Pope Pius remained eighteen months in exile at Gaëta and Portici, and on the 14th of April, 1850, he returned to Rome, escorted by Neapolitan troops,—the French Republic, under the Presidency of Lamartine, having previously sent to the Eternal City a sufficient force of French troops to guarantee tranquillity. The administration of affairs was then resumed, as nearly as was deemed prudent, according to the programme of '46 and '47. Though the question of the evacuation of Rome by the French troops has frequently been

the matter of public discussion and diplomatic negotiation, a small force still remains there; and the Papal army has been strengthened of late years by recruits from all quarters of the world, among them not a few of our own Canadian youth. The personal popularity enjoyed by His Holiness on his accession was proved twelve years later not to have been diminished; for when in 1858 he made his triumphal progress through the Papal States, he was everywhere received with the most unbounded enthusiasm. Of late years his public appearances in the streets of Rome have always been attended with the same manifestations of popular affection.

Of the political and dynastic changes effected in Italy within the last decade, by the triple agencies of revolution, war and diplomacy, it is only necessary to remark here that the Pope has solemnly protested against them, and denounced their abettors; that he has not surrendered his title to sovereignty over any portion of the States of the Church which have been annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and that to such incursions as the Garibaldians have been able to organize for the purpose of wresting the remainder from his rule, he has successfully opposed the force at his command.

The institution by the Pope of the Catholic Hierarchy in England in 1850, with Cardinal Wiseman as Archbishop of Westminster, was the occasion of much excitement in Great Britain for a short period. The proceeding was denounced as the "Papal aggression;" and an "Ecclesiastical Titles Act," which, however, has virtually been a dead letter, was passed to mark the national indignation. It is now conceded that the change was one merely affecting the management of the internal affairs of the Church; and were His Holiness to appoint a hierarchy for any other part of Her Majesty's dominions, in lieu of administration by Bishops *in partibus*, as Vicars-Apostolic, the change would pass almost unnoticed.

In 1854, on the 8th December, the Pope promulgated the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and ten years later an encyclical letter, with a syllabus embracing the "principal errors of our time," contained in eighty propositions. The encyclical of 1854 and the accompanying syllabus were mainly a digest of the principal matters contained in the consistorial allocutions, encyclicals, and other letters issued from time to time by His Holiness, since his accession to the Roman See. He has also from time to time denounced the tyranny of the Emperor of Russia in his government of Poland, with especial reference to the persecution of the Catholic Bishops; but the most important of his recent administrative acts is the summoning of the Ecumenical Council, which, as we have said, meets on the 8th inst.

The average duration of the incumbency of the two hundred and fifty-eight predecessors of Pius IX., has been seven years, one month and a few days. The Pontificate of St. Peter, calculated from the date of his removal from Antioch to Rome, in the early part of A. D. 41, to that of his martyrdom, on the 29th June, A. D. 68, extended over twenty-five years and a few months; that of Pius VI., (elected A. D. 1775), which is the next longest, was twenty-four years, six months and fourteen days; of Adrian I., (elected 772), twenty-three years and ten months; and of Pius VII., (elected A. D. 1800), twenty-three years, five months and six days. The reign of the present Pope has already exceeded the last mentioned period; and his health is still such as to give reasonable hope of its continuing for a few years longer.

The portrait of His Holiness which we print in the present number, was Leggotyped from a photograph recently received from Rome.

GENERAL NEWS. CANADA.

Hon. M. Cameron has issued his address to the electors of North Lanark.

The Prince Edward Island traders are shipping largely of cats, potatoes, hay, spars, fish, sausages, cheese, laths, boards, and geese to Bermuda, this fall.

The *Pembroke Observer* learns that the fearful scourge of small-pox is again visiting the Ottawa, and has gained footing in Portage-du-Fort.

The Dominion arbitrators are at present sitting at Ottawa, investigating Mr. McGreevy's claim for balance due on public buildings.

The International Coal and Railway Company inaugurated the commencement of their railway on the 13th instant, at Sydney, Cape Breton.

The Hon. C. Dunkin, Minister of Agriculture, and the Hon. Alex. Morris, Minister of Inland Revenue, have been re-elected by acclamation,—the former for Brome, and the latter for South Lanark.

The medals commemorative of the establishment of the Dominion have been received and forwarded by mail—bronze ones to Senators and M. P.'s, and silver to the members of the Quebec Conference.

The proposed dinner to the Hon. Sir George E. Cartier and Hon. Mr. Langevin, in Quebec, has been postponed for a fortnight, both gentlemen having been suddenly summoned to a Cabinet meeting at Ottawa.

The quantity of gold produced in Nova Scotia from the date of the first discovery of the precious metal to the end of 1868, a period of eight years, amounts to 160,000 ounces. The best year was 1867, when the yield amounted to nearly 30,000 ounces.

The skeleton of a coloured woman has been discovered in an abandoned lumber camp in New Brunswick. Nothing was left but skin, bones, hair, and some articles of clothing. The remains have not been identified, and at present there is no clue to the affair.