

in no mood to deal with the real facts of the case; it prefers to misjudge the Chinese immigrants that, by going beyond the limits of its constitutional powers, it may decree their exclusion.

On Monday evening the Local House indulged itself in a warm and prolix debate about the events of 1837. Mr. Broder waved the bloody shirt by a motion to pension the Loyal Volunteers. Most people will acquiesce in the verdict of Mr. Young, who "was afraid that the country would think the House had very little to do when they spent the whole of one afternoon and the greater part of the evening over the dry bones of the Canadian rebellion." Mr. Badgerow was quite right in saying that the struggle was not against the British Crown but against the enemies of responsible government here and the Governor who had identified himself with their party. It was in short not a rebellion, but a petty civil war between an oligarchy and those who desired to overthrow it. The Mother Country herself had been on the verge of a similar conflict a few years before in the struggle for free Parliamentary government against the oligarchy of the Rotten Boroughs. The issues are now dead, and the idea of pensioning those who fought on either side is preposterous. If it is to be done at all their admirers must do it by subscription.

MR. EDGAR has taken up the question of copyright at the point where the disallowed Bill of 1872 left it. His motion is for an address to the Crown "to exempt Canada from the operation of the statutes of the United Kingdom respecting copyright, so far as is necessary to give the Parliament of Canada a clear authority to legislate upon all matters respecting copyright in Canada." To this motion the condition ought to be attached that the exercise of the privilege sought should secure to British authors, whose works might be reprinted in Canada, the same advantages which it is in their power to obtain from American reprints which find their way to this market. The right of Canadians to use reprints of British works is not in question: that right exists and has long existed under the regulation of law; the only question is whether American publishers shall have a monopoly of the business, or whether, British authors being put in no worse position, it may be shared by Canadian publishers. If the address were passed, as proposed, without any condition, its object would almost certainly be defeated. The literary class in England is not disposed to make a surrender of rights the extent of which it is rather inclined to exaggerate; and its influence would be exerted to defeat a request for the liberty of reprinting unaccompanied by a guarantee of compensation. If this guarantee were given there is no reason why the prayer of the address should not be granted, and from the Canadian point of view there are strong reasons why it should. The rights of British authors being protected, Canadian publishers ought to be allowed to enter the lists as competitors; the competition might be useful, and could not be injurious to British authors, who have nothing to gain by pushing, beyond the line indicated, their claims in this country, which possesses and exercises large powers of self-government. The rule would always be that the great majority of British publications would not bear reprinting in Canada. While Parliament passes the address in the amended form suggested, let Sir Leonard Tilley encourage importation by a repeal of the duty on books. The effect would be to exert a salutary influence on the reading public, and remove the objection of British authors to the change which Mr. Edgar seeks to bring about.

SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL'S speech in the Senate, when introducing the Land Transfer Act for the North-West, did him honour as a lawyer and a statesman. It must have been a relief to the House to turn from the wrangle which had been going on over old Bank of Upper Canada matters to a subject deeply affecting the interest of unborn generations. The mover made the most of a dry subject. He showed, moreover, that he had become a convert to the Torrens System against his will. While admitting that the system was likely to be of lasting benefit to the North-West, he seemed to doubt the necessity, or perhaps the practicability, of its introduction into Ontario. He dwelt a great deal on the superiority of our short forms of conveyances over those in use in England. He did not apparently perceive that the greatest advantage in the Torrens System (though it has many others) is the getting rid of the chain of title. Sir Alexander has evidently been out of practice many years as a conveyancer, and has not recently searched a title in Toronto with two thousand registries and has not recently searched a title in Toronto with two thousand registries on the abstract index. For a Conservative we are surprised that he took so readily to the idea of abolishing the "heir-at-law." He does not seem to have retained any superstitious reverence for the old legal lore which was crammed into him in his student days. By half-a-dozen lines he

abolishes tenants in tail, base fees, springing and shifting uses, contingent remainders and other pit-falls hallowed by the reverence of legal generations. In every Australian newspaper may be found in advertisements of land sales the momentous words "Torrens title." Hereafter we may find the name of Sir Alexander Campbell perpetuated in the same way when those of the authors of more ambitious measures have sunk into oblivion.

IF Mr. Gladstone's mental powers at the age of seventy-five were to give way under the accumulated burden of his cares, aggravated as it is by personal annoyance of every kind, and by the danger to which his life is constantly exposed from demonstrations of Irish gratitude, he would only be paying a mortal's tribute to mortality. Nor are signs of growing infirmity wanting. The letter to Mr. Smalley, which was published the other day, on the future of English-speaking nations, was, to say the least, a strange effusion to appear at such a time of public danger, and seemed to many readers indicative of a wandering mind. But the stories of lunacy betrayed in wholesale purchases of toys and antiquities are reproductions of a very stale fiction. Many years have passed since a friend of Mr. Gladstone, having heard, in what seemed a trustworthy quarter, a most circumstantial account of his having purchased and ordered to be sent to his house the entire contents of a toy-shop, anxiously enquired of a person who was sure to be well informed whether there was any truth in the story. "I begin to think there must be," was the reply, "for I have now heard it every season for six years." Since Peel roused the ire of the Protectionists to madness by deserting the Corn Law, no public man in England has been the mark of enmity so bitter as Mr. Gladstone, and reports of his lunacy have been the form which calumny has most frequently assumed.

RUSSIAN enmity is a legacy of Lord Beaconsfield, and it is the sole fruit of the vaunted diplomacy which produced the Treaty of Berlin. The decay of Turkey has not been arrested, the passes of the Balkan have not been fortified, Cyprus has proved worthless, and, as England could not afford to garrison it, would probably, if war should break out, be at once abandoned. But Russia has been fatally estranged; and it is only natural that she should take advantage, without much delicacy, of the present difficulties of her avowed opponent. How would England have felt and what would she have done if Russia had behaved towards her as she behaved towards Russia in the Russo-Turkish War, or if Russia like her had invaded the neutral zone between the two Empires in the East? It is a grand achievement of diplomacy to contract a formidable enmity and lay it up for yourself in store against your day of trouble. When Palmerston was the chief of the Jingo and Disraeli was leading the opposition to him in the House of Commons, Disraeli could see clearly and state plainly that the expansion of Russian Empire in Central Asia was just as natural and as little a ground for suspicion or hostility as the expansion of British empire in the southern part of the same continent. But, having afterwards assumed the part of chief of the Jingo himself, he at the same time assumed, and as usual over-acted, that of the diplomatic antagonist of Russia. He sent out as Viceroy of India an aristocratic dandy and poetaster whose vanity impelled him to a flashy policy and who found, as a Viceroy is too sure of finding, sycophants ready to assure him that the impulses of his vanity were wisdom. For the second time Afghanistan was invaded, and the result of the second invasion, as of that of the first, served only to prove the sagacity of all the great Anglo-Indian statesmen and generals, including Wellington, who had deprecated aggressive movement in that direction and pronounced Afghan independence the best bulwark of British India. It is thought by cool-headed judges that Russophobists have exaggerated the importance of Herat, and it is to be hoped, in the interest of all who would be involved in the conflict, including Canada, that the mere possession of that place will not be made a question of peace or war. It is not likely that Russia wants war with England; her Government has already too much upon its hands. Yet the situation is evidently critical, and for this addition to an accumulation of perils the gratitude of England and those whose destinies are identified with hers is due to Lord Beaconsfield and his Music Hall train, though perhaps the Rothschilds and their fraternity may also claim a share, as they certainly may claim a share of whatever gratitude is due for the entanglement of England in Egypt.

MR. PARNELL demands Grattan's Parliament. Which of Grattan's Parliaments? Grattan sat, after the Union, in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and at first as member for an English borough. But the Irish Parliament in which he sat was a Parliament of Protestant ascendancy; Catholics were enabled to vote as electors, thanks in great