EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

The Belleville Mechanics' Institute has now in its library over 1,000 volumes.

A writer in the Fredericton (N.B.) *Star* wants free industrial schools established—schools to train poor children in something of use to start life's battle with.

The contracts for the Loretto Convent at the town of Clifton, which is to cost $25,000, have been let. Mr. Jos. Conolly, M.I.A., of Toronto, is the architect.

At many of the annual meetings held in rural school sections on the 31st December, 1879, the question of Township School Boards was discussed. In Middlesex the majority were against the proposed change.

The school trustees of the Village of Millbank had 76 applicants for the position of Principal of the Public School in response to an advertisement in a daily paper. The salary was only $500.

There are now two hundred and thirty-two pupils in the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville, being an increase of seventeen over the number in residence at the corresponding period last year.

Mr. Edgar Frisby, a graduate of Toronto University and silver medallist in mathematics in 1864, has been appointed by the United States Government to proceed to California to observe the total eclipse of the sun on the 11th inst. The location selected is 550 miles south of San Francisco, on the Pacific coast.

There were about 250 scholars in attendance at the Ottawa Roman Catholic College last year. All parts of Canada and the United States were represented. The increase over the previous year was very large, and must be gratifying to the authorities of the institution.

It is currently reported among many country exchanges that, in accordance with a decision of the Toronto School Board, the Committee on Printing and Supplies have been instructed to procure 25 rubber straps, one for each school, 15 inches long and 1½ inches wide, to be used as the only instrument in administering corporal punishment to pupils attending the several schools.

The Whitby High School receipts for 1879 amounted to $3,469.24. The expenditure for salaries was within $400 of this. The Public School revenue was almost $1,000 larger, amounting to $4,409.04, of which $3,450.40 went in salaries. Out of the registered number of pupils at the High School, 163, there is an average daily attendance of 97. The Public Schools show a much better percentage, being 457 out of 552.

The fourth semi-annual session of the Oxford Teachers' Institute, under the presidency of Inspector Carlyle, was held at the close of 1879 in the College building of the Canadian Literary Institute in Woodstock. Professors Wells, McKie, and Wolverton, of the Institute, Professor Harrison and Rev. Mr. McEwan, of Ingersoll, and Mr. Payne, Professor of Pedagogy in Michigan University, took part in the discussion of highly practical subjects.

The trustees of School Section No. 12, Markham, do not agree with the views of the Minister of Education, as expressed in his recent circular. The following resolution was carried unanimously at their meeting:—"That it is inexpedient to substitute a Township Board for the management of Common Schools, in place of our present system, for the following reasons:—1st. Because our schools as now constituted work well and to the satisfaction of the ratepayers in general. 2nd. Because the duties of a Township Board would be so onerous that salaries would have to be paid for the work now performed by school trustees gratuitously. 3rd. Because, however desirable it may be that taxation for educational purposes should be equalized, it is no less desirable that educational privileges should be *equally* extended to all, a result which would not be obtained under the management of a Township Board. 4th. Because the election of the Township Board would, in a great measure, be controlled by the ratepayers in villages not incorporated; consequently such villages would secure the best teachers, at high salaries, while the purely rural districts would have cheap teachers, and the sweet satisfaction of paying for extra teachers to others. 5th. Because many school houses in Markham have recently been erected at great cost, and it would be a gross injustice to those who have already paid for school accommodation, should they be compelled to pay a share in the erection of school houses still required. 6th. Because it is not presumable that a Township Board would work so faithfully for the interests of the public at large as men chosen by a S. S. and personally interested now work for the interests of their neighbourhood and those by whom they are elected. 7th. Because in S. S. No. 12, Markham, matters are conducted harmoniously, efficiently and economically without favour to nephews, neices, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters; but should any one belonging to the section desire the appointment of teacher, there is no good reason why such should not be preferred if duly qualified." The only reasons worth considering are the 4th and 5th, the others are simple platitudes, while the last smacks uncomfortably of "Finafore." In answer to the 4th, it may be said that in school matters the supply, as in other affairs, is regulated by the demand; and that where the children are most numerous and advanced, there will be the spot where the most efficient teacher will be sought. It would be a "dog in the manger" policy to retard that progress because purely rural districts do not progress quite as fast as urban ones. The evil deprecated by the 5th reason is visionary. It is hardly possible that any township board, when constituted, would not pay every regard to vested rights or previously incurred liabilities, and by a judicious division of the population an equable mode of raising a rate might be fairly managed.

FOREIGN.

Some American educational monthlies adopt the unsightly and utterly unnecessary method of spelling "programme" as "program."

The next meeting of the American National Educational Association will be held at Chatauqua, New York, beginning on July 13, 1880. This is one of the most important educational gatherings of the year.

Herr Von Puttkummer, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Berlin, in replying to a petition of the Catholic clergy of the diocese of Munster and Paderborn for the removal of hindrances to religious instruction, said that nothing could be done until the Church acknowledged the inalienable right of the State to make its own laws.

A correspondent writes to the English *Educational Times* recommending schoolmasters to omit the teaching of the Troy and apothecaries tables. An act of the English Parliament, which came into force last year, abolished the use of pennyweights and grains. The ounce of 480 Troy grains remains as yet unchanged, but is to be divided decimally. Canadian pupils would avoid making some humiliating mistakes if their teachers omitted or postponed taking up these tables of weights.

France has agricultural schools for girls. One of the chief is near Rouen, which is said to have been begun with a capital of one franc by a sister of charity and two little discharged prisoner girls, and to be now worth $160,000. This establishment has 300 girls from six to eighteen. The farm, entirely cultivated by them, is over 400 acres in extent. Twenty-five sisters form the staff of teachers. More than one medal of the French Agricultural Society has been awarded to this establishment at Darnetel, and the pupils are in great demand all over Normandy, on account of their skill. They go out as stewards, gardeners, farm managers, dairy women and laundresses. Each girl has on leaving, an outfit and a small sum of money, earned in spare hours. If they want a home they can always return to Darnetel, which they are taught to regard as home.

OUR CABLE LETTER.

Unsettled State of Affairs in the Transvaal.

EDISON AND THE SCIENTISTS.

Movement for the Canonization of English Saints.

COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS

Proposed Day of Humiliation for Intemperance.

COMPLICATIONS IN EUROPE.

Stir in English Naval and Military Circles.

[BY CABLE TO THE MAIL.]

LONDON, Jan. 11.

Affairs in the Transvaal continue to excite anxiety. Last week Sir Garnet Wolseley telegraphed that we should not believe any stories circulated about Boer troubles, and yet during the week three of the leading men of the ex-Transvaal Republic have been arrested and are to be tried for high treason. These are A. W. Pretorius, who in 1848 was the leader of the Boers and succeeded in obtaining from the British Government the recognition of the Transvaal as an independent State; Paul Kruger, an ex-President of the Republic, and Adam Bok, a noted leader, who with the two former and Piet Joubert, Vice-President, formed the delegation which came to Downing Street about five months ago, bringing petitions from the Boers for the restoration of their independence, but went home again disheartened, and after being informed by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach that "what had been done could not be undone."

AN INIQUITOUS TRANSACTION.

The Transvaal Republic was annexed by Sir Theophilus Shepstone for England in 1877, after it had enjoyed years of independence as a Republic. The annexation was generally considered an iniquitous transaction, and the Boers held innumerable gatherings, some armed and defiant, to express their collective demands for justice. After the conclusion of the war with Cetewayo, Sir Garnet Wolseley was instructed to make peace with the Boers that the Transvaal henceforth be considered as a colony of the Empire. Since then the Boers have rebelled in various parts of their country and both Pretorius and Kruger have added their countrymen, demanding that the Transvaal should be called. Kruger and Pretorius have always counselled their people to abstain from violence, but, up to the recent declaration of Sir Garnet Wolseley, that their demands would be heeded, and that their Republican independence would be restored to them.

FRAUDE TO THE RESCUE.

The arrest of the three men for high treason is very generally condemned, and even historian, Froude, denounces, in the strongest language, England's conduct in the matter, and condemns the annexation Sir Theophilus Shepstone, saying that England has annexed a country as large as France, belonging to the Dutch people, and had broken her faith with the Republic. It will be remembered that in 1848 the title of South African Republic was taken by the Transvaal, and the Boers were recognized in their power by England, Holland and America in the same year. It is hoped that Mr. Froude's championship of the wronged people will have the effect of calling the attention of the Government to the injustice committed. It is significant that the historian has recently lost a son, who held an official position under the Government of the Transvaal.

"BULL'S RUN" RUSSELL AND SIR GARNET WOLSELEY.

A notable quarrel is on foot between Sir Garnet Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's forces in South Africa, and Dr. Russell, formerly correspondent of the *Times* and now of the *Telegraph*. Sir Garnet charges the famous scribe with falsehood and exaggeration. In the letters written by him from the Cape, Dr. Russell had denounced the conduct of some of the British soldiers in the Transvaal. He repeated the statement of an inhabitant at Heidelberg, that they "had cleared out all the poultry yards, broken into all the canteens, ransacked the houses and stolen even the church clock." He said that though Sir Evelyn Wood, when at Utrecht, ordered all liquor shops to be closed, the law officers did not sustain his action, and if a Dutch sutler refused to sell spirits to the soldiers, they ransacked his supplies. Sir Garnet Wolseley declares the assertions to be infamously untrue. Dr. Russell is now on his way home, and the discussion promises to be serious. The correspondent is no mean antagonist. The quarrel is much relished at the Horse Guards, where Sir Garnet is anything but a favourite. A large military faction is envious of his sudden rise, and would be greatly rejoiced at his discomfiture.

DINNER AT SEVEN.

The Prince of Wales has just inaugurated another social reform. Every year the dinner hour has been growing later. Half-past eight was the fashionable time during the past season, and as nobody came, or was expected to come, till nine, all opera going was out of the question. People still talked about "dropping in for the fourth act of the Huguenots," but no matter how late the curtain rose, at her Majesty's or Covent Garden, their boxes generally remained empty all the evening. The Prince of Wales has now determined to introduce something approximating to the French system. Dinner is served at Sandringham at seven o'clock. It is hoped that this will work a change during the next season, for nothing can be made more destructive of theatrical prosperity and social enjoyments than the hours which are prescribed by the mode. Many of the balls and parties are now over at midnight, owing no doubt to the swarms of youngsters home for holidays, but the vogue, once started, will probably endure, and if the Prince leads the way, society may yet return to dinner at six, and to what is now regarded as a relic of mediæval barbarism, a late supper.

EUGENIE AND HER DEAD.

On Friday, the anniversary of the death of Napoleon III., solemn mass was said at Chiselhurst, Mgr. Goddard officiating. The Empress and her household were present. Her Majesty has definitely resolved to make her pilgrimage to Zululand next May. She will be accompanied by two servants, and by Mdlle. L'Herminat, her faithful companion for many years. A London firm has been ordered to send to Chiselhurst a magnificent memorial cross, which the bereaved mother proposes to set up over the spot where her son fell. One or two members of the old Bonapartist party have been visiting at Chiselhurst. M. Paul de Cassagnac's suggestion to prolong the period of mourning for the Prince Imperial has been rewarded by a letter of gratitude from the Empress, who has also felt great satisfaction with the spirited statement of Marshal Canrobert to the Senate, that the fatal events of December 2nd, 1852, cannot be laid to the charge of the Bonapartists.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Mr. W. H. Preece, who was for many years in the Government telegraph service at Southampton, and who has some little reputation as an electrician, lectured last Friday upon the recent triumphs obtained by science in the domain of light. He ridiculed the news of Edison's latest success, saying that the American inventor's achievement in obtaining the effect of 128 candles with a single horse power, exceeded Siemen's system tenfold. Indeed, the horse-shoe lamp is everywhere discussed. Mr. Charles Bright writes this morning to the *Times* to say that after carefully studying the narrative as given in the New York *Herald*, he does not think that Mr. Edison has solved the problem. Many French scientists say the same. Meantime, there is a general conviction that the "wizard" will ultimately win. The gas companies are rapidly reducing their rates. Trials have also been made of the Brush system of electric lighting which is by some considered to be the most effective now in actual use, by reason of the smallness of engine power required, the use of a continuous circuit of single wire, and the cheapness of the carbons. The light neither flickers nor changes colour.

BILLIARDS EXTRAORDINARY.

An extraordinary feat at billiards was performed by William Mitchell, of Sheffield, this week, in a game of 1,000 points, with the younger Joseph Bennett, ex-champion of England. The score stood, Bennett 360, Mitchell 322. The latter then got on the "spot," and poached the red ball 224 times running, winning at 1,001. Being asked to continue, Mitchell ran up his total to 272. This was the largest break ever made by means of the "spot" stroke alone.

ENGLISH SAINTS.

The Catholic Union has petitioned the Vatican to canonize the English martyrs, Cardinal Fisher and Chancellor More and Archbishop Plunkett. The Dublin Union complains that for more than three centuries no English saint has been canonized, and contrasts this with the better fortunes of other nations.

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES.

Dr. Magee, the Bishop of Peterborough, writes to protest against the appointment of a special day of humiliation and prayer for intemperance, saying that the wave of intemperance which swept the land is subsiding, and that the present generation is sobrer than their grandfathers. In Scotland, the Church is unusually busy; the Cameronians are preparing to celebrate the centennial foundation of their faith. The Tay bridge disaster is attributed in many Scotch pulpits to the violation of the Sabbath by its victims. By the way, the terrible nature of the storm which destroyed the bridge fulfilled too well the *Herald's* prediction. At Aberfeldy 3,000 trees were blown down and at Ross 3,000.

THE COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK.

Commerce is still somewhat quiet, as people have not yet recovered from the effects of the holidays. The newspapers note signs of business activity in the rapid advance of prices. Tin advanced to thirty shillings a box. Liverpool earthenware dealers have advanced prices ten per cent. Iron masters are looking for an increased trade with America. Twenty-one vessels, five of them armoured, are now in process of building. Cotton manufacturers write to the papers that American cottons are purer than those of Manchester, and are gradually forcing themselves into the Indian market. Diamond owners have entirely recovered from the first shock of Mr. MacTear's supposed discovery. The labour market has been much affected by the bad weather, but in the coal and iron industries, improvement is noted, and there is an upward tendency in wages. An extensive scheme has been set on foot for the development of the northern territory of South Australia.

LITERARY CIRCLES.

A little ripple has been sent through literary circles by the announcement that a rival subscription library to Mudie's is to be started under the name of the "Grosvenor." At present Mr. Mudies' only formidable competitor is the London Library, in St. James' Square, which is frequented rather by thoughtful people than by readers of light works. The new library is to be established beside the Grosvenor Gallery, and is to contain reading-rooms and other accommodations for its subscribers. The *Cornhill's* attack on Tennyson, charging him with plagiarism from the classics of early English, is still causing a great sensation. MacMillan announces a work on Bulgaria by the Marquis of Bath, and Murray a new book on the Troad by Dr. Schliemann. *Fraser* and the *Fortnightly Review* both deal with Mr. Gladstone's visit to Scotland. The latter dwells on what it calls the statesman's "solar energy," and says, "with this blending of a contemplative spirit and a restless thirst for action, if he had lived in the Middle Ages, he would probably have found his way to the cloister, with such men as Lanfranc and Anselmo. He would have ruled his order. The monks would not have led a quiet life, and refractory monarchs and nobles would have felt the weight of his censures. Having been born, happily for us, in the nineteenth century, he found an appropriate sphere in politics, but the spiritual element asserts itself, penetrating and traversing his character in all directions, like seams of primitive granite." Journalism, meanwhile, is making merry over the discomfiture of the India Office, which has suspended its rules restricting special correspondents from accompanying the Afghan army.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

May Fair at this time of the year is somewhat dull. The Queen is giving sittings for a new coinage. The Princess Louise is preparing to return to Canada on the 22nd. Many very fashionable ladies are expressing their indignation with the leading physicians, who complain of the use of narcotics in society, asserting that scarcely a week passes without death from an overdose of chloral, and that the habit of opium-eating is rapidly spreading among the upper classes. The men are beginning to hang up their skates and don their hunting garments. Earl Percy has opened the season at Leamington Park, the Duke of Rutland at Culverthorpe, Lord Yarborough at Roxton Wood, and Lord Zetland at Brettenly, and the Quorn and Pytcheley are in full swing. Ireland is in particular request among the huntsmen this year. The Marquis of Waterford is recovering from his ugly spill, and the horn of the Beresfords is once more heard on the hill.

THREATENING COMPLICATIONS.

There was unusual activity in naval and military circles. The Government is much concerned about the attitude of Russia, which is beyond question unfriendly. It intends to lay before Parliament unmistakable evidence of Russian intrigue in Afghanistan. The *Invalide Russe* brings word that Server Khan and Ishak Khan, cousins of Abdul Achman Khan, who were residing at Samarcand, have fled across the frontier. The Czar's offer of protection, believed to have been extended to Servia and Persia, has roused general alarm. The *Standard* says this morning that the Governments of Austria and Germany are about to communicate with St. Petersburg regarding the concentration of Russian troops in Poland, and if the reply is unsatisfactory, will adopt defensive measures. The situation on the continent is further complicated by the instability of the French Cabinet. The Burmese embassy is on its way to London to complain of Lord Lytton's treatment of the King. Under these circumstances nobody cares to deny that Europe may be on the verge of a crisis which will lead it no one knows whither.

SMALL-POX IN OTTAWA.

The Scourge in the Township of Eardley.

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—A number of new cases of small-pox are reported in Lower Town. There have been but three cases in the English speaking portion of the capital since the winter set in, only one of which proved fatal. A whole family of ten, residing in the Township of Eardley, and about fifteen miles from the city, are down with the disease. They are supposed to have caught the infection in Hull, where they are seldom free from the scourge.

Choked to Death at Dinner.

ERIE, Pa., Jan. 11.—Capt. Pierce, a young lawyer, formerly a clerk of the Courts, was choked to death at dinner to-day, trying to swallow a large mouthful of meat. It is supposed he had been drinking.

METTERNICH'S MEMOIRS.

Interesting Extract from a Remarkable Volume—Character of Napoleon—Fresh Materials for History.

The long announced "Memoirs of Prince Metternich" appeared simultaneously at Vienna, Paris and London on December 22nd. An advance extract furnished to the *Figaro*, and printed in its number of December 20th, comprises one of the most interesting passages of the book, being the Prince's account of his first acquaintance with Napoleon Bonaparte and the summary of his opinions respecting that central figure of modern European history. It should be read in connection with the other extract narrating Metternich's memorable interview with Napoleon at Dresden, which was printed in the *Herald* of December 27th.

JUDGMENT ON NAPOLEON.

The judgment is frequently influenced by first impressions. I had never seen Napoleon before the audience he gave me at St. Cloud for the delivery of my diplomatic credentials. I found him standing in the centre of one of the saloons, along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and six other personages of his court. He wore the uniform of the infantry of the guard and had his hat on his head. This latter circumstance, improper in every respect, since the audience was not a public one, struck me as an arrogant pretence showing the *parvenu*; it even made me hesitate a moment as to whether I would not put on my own hat, I made a short address, of which the precise and formal text differed essentially from those which had become customary at the new Court of France.

His attitude seemed to me to show restraint and even embarrassment. His short and square figure, his negligent attitude, combined with a marked effort to appear imposing, all united to weaken that sense of grandeur which was naturally attached to the conception of the man who made the world tremble. This impression was never entirely effaced from my mind. It subsisted during the most important interviews which I had with Napoleon at different periods of his career. It is possible that it may have contributed to show me the man such as he was through the diverse masks which he habitually wore. In his melodramatic sallies, in his outbursts of rage, in his brusque interpellations I became accustomed to see a series of scenes prepared beforehand—studied and calculated for the effect which he desired to produce upon the person with whom the interview was held.

In my relations with Napoleon, which from the outset I sought to render frequent and confidential, what most struck me from the first was the eminent perspicacity and great simplicity of the operations of his intellect. Conversation with him always had for me a charm hard to define. Seizing upon objects by their essential point, stripping them of useless accessories, developing his thought and never ceasing to elaborate it until he had made it perfectly clear and definite, always hitting upon the word needful for the thing or inventing it wherever usage had not already created it, his interviews were always full of interest. He did not converse, but talked. Through the abundance of his ideas and the facility of his elocution he could adroitly seize upon a word, and one of his habitual expressions was to say, "I see what you want; you wish to reach such a point. Very well, let us go straight to the question."

Meanwhile he never failed to listen to the remarks or the objections addressed to him. He caught them up, debated or refuted them without departing from the tone or the moderation of a discussion of State affairs, and I never felt the least embarrassment in saying to him what I thought the truth, even when it was not of a nature to please him.

NAPOLEON'S METHOD OF ACTION.

As in his conceptions all was clear and precise, whatever action was necessary presented for him neither difficulty nor uncertainty. Received rules scarcely embarrassed him. In deed as in word he marched straight to his object, without stopping at secondary considerations, the importance of which he too frequently disdained. The straightest line to reach the object in view was that which he selected and followed to the end, so that nothing could turn him aside. Nevertheless, without becoming a slave to his plans, he knew how to abandon or modify them from the moment that he changed his point of view or whenever new combinations afforded him the means of gaining his point more readily by different means.

He had but meagre scientific attainments. His partisans have very specially laboured to create an opinion that he was a profound mathematician. What he knew of mathematical science would not have placed him above any ordinary officer trained like himself for the artillery service, but his natural faculties supplied the lack of science. He made himself a legislator and administrator as he made himself a great captain, by following the guidance of his intuitions. The natural bent of his spirit led him always towards the positive; he repelled vague ideas, he equally abhorred the dreams of visionaries and the abstractions of ideologists, and he treated as rubbish everything which did not present clear views and useful results. He really considered as sciences only those branches of knowledge which the senses can control and verify—those which rest on observation and experience. He avowed utter scorn for the false philosophy as for the false philanthropy of the eighteenth century. Among the leaders of these doctrines, Voltaire was the especial object of his aversion, and he pushed this sentiment to the extreme of controverting on every occasion the general opinion of Voltaire's literary merit.

HIS RELIGION.

Napoleon was not irreligious in the ordinary sense of the term. He would not admit that there ever had been an atheist in good faith; he condemned deism as the fruit of rash speculation. A Christian and a Catholic, it was only to positive religion that he conceded the right to govern human society. He regarded Christianism as the basis of all true civilization, Catholicism the form of worship most favourable to the maintenance of order and tranquillity in the moral world, Protestantism as a source of troubles and strife. Personally indifferent to religious practices, he respected them too much ever to allow of pleasantries about them among his attendants. It is possible that religion may have been for him less a matter of sentiment than the result of an enlightened policy; but whatever may have been in this respect the secret of his soul, he took care never to betray it. His opinions on men were concentrated in a single idea, which, unfortunately for him, had acquired the force of an axiom. He was fully persuaded that no man upon the public stage or even engaged in active business life ever did or could guide himself, by any other motive than self interest. He did not deny virtue and honour, but he maintained that neither of these sentiments ever served as principal guide, except to those whom he called dreamers, and to whom he consequently denied every faculty needful for participating with success in the affairs of society. I have spent many an hour in discussing with him this thesis, which my conscience repelled, and whose falsity I sought to prove to him, at least in the latitude which he gave to it. I never succeeded in making him yield in the slightest degree upon this article of his faith.

He was endowed with an especial tact for recognizing men who might be useful to him. He quickly discovered in them the direction in which he might use them to greatest advantage. Never forgetting to seek a guarantee of their fidelity in self-interest, he took care to bind them to his own fortune by such ties that all return to other engagements should be cut off. He had above all studied the national character of the French, and the history of his life proved that he had comprehended them. Especially he regarded the Parisians as children and frequently compared Paris to the Grand Opera. Having once reproached him for the palpable falsehoods which swarmed in most of his bulletins, he laughingly replied, "It is not for you that I write them; the Parisians believe everything, and I could go much further in my fictions without their refusing to believe them." It often chanced that in his conversations he would enter upon historical disquisitions. These monologues usually showed in him an imperfect knowledge of facts, but an extreme sagacity in appreciating causes and foreseeing consequences. He thus divined correctly much more than he knew, and, lending to persons and events the colouring of his own mind, he explained them in a most ingenious manner. As he always came back to the same citations, he must have drawn from a very small number of books, and especially from abridgements, his knowledge of the salient points of ancient history and of the history of France. He nevertheless carried in his memory an assortment of names and facts rich enough to impose upon those whose studies had been even less solid than his own. His heroes were Alexander, Cæsar, and, above all, Charlemagne. The claim of being himself de facto and de jure the successor of the latter occupied his mind to a singular degree. I have known him to enter with me upon interminable discussions to maintain this strange paradox by the feeblest reasonings. It was apparently my position as Ambassador of Austria which procured for me his insistence upon this point.

LEGITIMACY AND POWER.

One of his liveliest and most constant regrets was at not being able to invoke the principle of legitimity as the basis of his power. Few men have, more profoundly than he, felt how much authority deprived of this foundation is precarious, fragile, and open to attack. Yet he lost no occasion to protest earnestly in conversations with me against those who might imagine that he occupied the throne as an usurper. "I The throne of France," he said to me more than once, "was vacant. Louis XVI. could not maintain himself upon it. If I had been in his place, the revolution—spite of the immense progress it had made in public sentiment under preceding reigns—would never have been consummated. The King once fallen, the Republic took possession of the soil of France; it is the Republic that I have displaced. The ancient throne was buried under its own ruins; I had to found a new one. The Bourbons would not be able to reign over this political fabric. My force consists in my good fortune. I am as new as the Empire. There is, then, between the Empire and myself a perfect homogeneousness."

Meanwhile I have often thought that in thus expressing himself Napoleon sought only to confuse me or to vanquish public opinion, and the direct overture which he made toward Louis XVIII. in 1804 seems to confirm this suspicion. Speaking to me one day of this overture he said:—"The reply of Monsieur was noble; it was full of strong traditions. There is in these legitimists something which appeals not alone to the inclination. If Monsieur had consulted only his inclination he would have arranged matters with me and I should have procured him a magnificent lot."

He was also very much struck with the idea of tracing back to Divinity the origin of supreme authority. He said to me one day at Compiègne, shortly after his marriage to the Archduchess, "I see that the Empress, in writing to her father, addresses him thus:—'To his Sacred Imperial Majesty.' Is this title in use among you?" I told him that it was, by the tradition of the old German Empire, which bore the title of Holy Empire, and because it was also attached to the apostolic crown of Hungary. Napoleon replied in a serious tone:—"The usage is beautiful and well understood. Power comes from God, and it is only for this reason that it can be placed beyond the reach of men. Some time hereafter I will adopt the same title."

GENEALOGY AND NOBILITY.

He attached much importance to the nobility of his own birth and the antiquity of his family. More than once he undertook to prove to me that envy and calumny alone could have cast suspicion upon his nobility. "I am placed," said he, "in a singular position. I find genealogists who would like to trace my ancestry back to the deluge, and there are persons who pretend that I was born a beggar. The truth is between these extremes. The Bonapartes are good Corsican gentlemen, not very illustrious, since we have scarcely ever gone out of the island, but much better than many sprigs of gentility who pretend to look down on us."

Napoleon regarded himself as a being isolated in the world, created to govern it and to bend all wills to his caprice. He had no more consideration for men than an overseer has for his workmen. Marshal Lannes was mortally wounded in the battle of Aspern. The bulletins of the French army relate the last words he pronounced. This is what Napoleon himself said to me:—"You have read the phrase which I have put in the mouth of Lannes—he never thought of such a thing! When the Marshal pronounced my name they came to tell me, and I at once declared him dead. Lannes cordially detested me. He used my name as atheists the name of God in the moment of death. Lannes having spoken my name I ought to regard him as decidedly lost." One of the persons to whom he seemed most attached was Duroc. "He loves me as a dog loves his master." This is the phrase he used to me in speaking of him. He compared Berthier's sentiments toward him to those of a child's nurse. These comparisons, far from being inconsistent with his theory of human motives, were its natural consequence. Where he found sentiments to which he could not apply his calculations of self-interest he sought their source in a kind of instinct.

Autographs in Aid of the Spanish Sufferers.

A fete was got up lately in France in aid of the sufferers by the floods in Murcia (Spain), on which occasion a special edition of a newspaper was got out. The New York *Herald* states that its chief merit lay in the autographs which it published. They included letters from the Pope, the King of Spain and others. The Pope sent the following:—

Dimisit Noe columbam ex Arca, et illa venit portans ramum olivæ virentibus foliis in ore suo.—Gen., c. viii., v. 11.

Quum tribularentur, de necessitatibus liberavit eos Dominus—Psalm cvii, v. 6.

(Signed) LEO, P. P. XIII.

King Alfonso wrote:—

In hastening to the assistance of the unfortunate victims of the inundations the peoples of Europe have proved that charity knows no frontiers. I am most happy to be able to testify my gratitude.

Another contribution which will be read with interest is that of Victor Hugo. It is not easy to render into English. M. Hugo is too often transcendental. This is how he descants on fraternity.

The true resistance of man to catastrophes is an increment of humanity—to impel each other, to help each other. The solidarity of men is the reply to the complicity of mysterious facts. Thus is established upon earth the third term of the great human formula—fraternity. Governments still oppose liberty and equality; they will come in their time, especially liberty, in spite of monarchy; equality in spite of monarchy, equality in spite of aristocracy. But fraternity is the door that opens the earth, that empties itself the hand that helps. How prevent that? Well, know this! Beneath the hand that helps, the frontier disappears; beneath the purse that empties itself hearts are made full; through the door that opens the future enters. Spain is wounded and France bleeds. The blow struck at Murcia Paris feels. Paris is the capital of the world, and when the world feels a pang, Paris feels that pang also.

VICTOR HUGO.

A Rome despatch says the Court of Appeals has annulled the marriage of Garibaldi with the Countess Raimondi.

The Nihilist Hunted Czar.

No trace has as yet been discovered of the Moscow conspirators. Prince Dolgorouky, the Governor of Moscow, and the authorities of the ancient capital, continue to be at an entire loss as to the discovery of the criminals. Innumerable arrests, embracing all classes of society, not excepting even the highest, have, says a St. Petersburg correspondent, taken place without, however, affording the least clue to the perpetrators of the murderous plot. Notwithstanding the stringent measures adopted for suppression of the Nihilists, the latter appear not to be disheartened, but find ever fresh resources to baffle the vigilance of the authorities. The *Semlja i Wolja*, their organ, has lately reappeared, and, strange to say, on finer paper and in better type than previously. His Majesty, who is said to have had the doubtful pleasure of coming across the *Semlja i Wolja* among his usual morning papers, has been much annoyed by these seditious harangues, and ordered diligent researches to be instituted for the apprehension of the individual who placed the revolutionary sheet on his writing table. Suffering for years under a constant fear of being destined to fall a victim to the assassin's ruthless hand, the Emperor, although feigning outward composure on his appearance in public, is at heart really nervous whenever he is obliged to leave the shelter of the Winter Palace. His movements being known long beforehand by the police, large squads of them in plain clothes are always detached to post themselves along the streets through which his Majesty has to pass. The shock to his system occasioned by the recent gunpowder plot has quite destroyed the good effect of his stay in Livadia. He looks pale and haggard, and the melancholy expression so conspicuous on his features has further deepened, and now gives him an aspect of sinister gloom.

The *Voltaire* says the following is a copy of the letter found on the Czar's bedroom table:—

To Alexander II., Emperor of all the Russias:—

SIRE.—For the fifth time fate has preserved you from the stroke of justice. They were five decrees dictated by the law of humanity, a law which you no longer recognize. You know our power and determination. Beware of the sixth decree! Do you wish to be a great monarch? Do you wish all the Russian people to acclaim you and recognize you as their father? Do you wish that those who strike to-day shall become apostles instead of executioners? If you do, then cease to be a tyrant and become a man, and render to your subjects what belongs to man by the law of nature—namely, liberty. It is not your person that we attack, but your principles. So long as you remain as you are, our judgment will be always the same. Saved to-day, you will perish to-morrow. Neither death nor persecution will stay our arms. You possess brute force; we possess moral force. We have sworn to vanquish, and we must carry off the victory in the end. The first apostles of Christianity perished at the stake; their martyrdom was the cause of the ruin of Rome. Beware and reflect.

THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE.

A Berlin correspondent of the London *Standard* says that the Russian Ambassadors abroad have received the following circular, purporting to proceed from the Revolutionary Committee:—

The Russian cultivated classes have long been giving the Czar to understand that the people have no wish to continue under the yoke of a savage despotism. Manifold proofs have been given to the Czar that the nation has come of age, and is determined to have a share in the conduct of public business. The demand for the introduction of representative government is universally raised, but the Czar is deaf to the public voice. Instead of satisfying legitimate aspirations he has only increased the horrors of the police terrorism under which we are living. Such a state of things cannot long continue. A stop will and must be put to this without loss of time. We desire you to represent to the Czar that the country expects the immediate introduction of the constitutional *regime*, and that, in case of continued refusal, the revolutionary committee have resolved to remove the Czar from the throne.

Signed, on behalf of the committee,

KOROLOFF.

To control the correspondence of all persons living at the Winter Palace any letters arriving for them have to be delivered at a special office, whence they will be transmitted to their destinations or not, as the case may be.

TAKEN BACK TO KINGSTON.

Capture of a Swindler From the Limestone City at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—Detective Denis Simmons has in custody G. E. Kemp, a fugitive from Canada. Kemp was engaged in the music trade at Kingston, Ont., and obtained from Mr. Hooper, of that city, a number of pianos, which he sold for $3,000, and then skipped for the States. Hooper and another gentleman followed him to this city, where they at last got track of him. The case was put into Simmons' hands, who found the fugitive hiding in this city. He was taken back to Kingston.

SMALLPOX OR FOUL PLAY?

The Mysterious and Sudden Death of a Small-Property-Owner in Gloucester Township

OTTAWA, Jan. 10.—The recent sudden death of James Wickham, in the Township of Gloucester, and sudden burial, have excited some comment with those who were acquainted with him, and an investigation into the circumstances of the case is being made. Wickham had been in the employ of Hamilton Bros. for a number of years past, and had accumulated a little property, notwithstanding the fact that he was given to "spreeing" a good deal. In the township of Gloucester he owned a house and lot, but had not lived there for some time past, his wife having left him and gone to live with friends in the States. However, at times he lived with a neighbour named Gravelle, and it was at Gravelle's house that he died on New Year's day, and was hastily buried, the remains being interred at Beachwood Cemetery. The Gravelle's now produce papers purporting to be a will, in which Wickham leaves his property to them. These papers are not signed by James Wickham, but bear "his mark," and, as it is known that the deceased could write, the circumstance is considered queer, to say the least. Yesterday afternoon, Coroner Corbett and Detective Groulx paid a visit to Gravelle's place, which is located on Green's Creek, a short distance from the Montreal Road, near the Dominion Driving Park, on the road leading north. Gravelle and his wife stated that Wickham had died from the smallpox, but as deceased was seen in town a couple of days before the 1st of January, and in good health, his death is considered sudden. There is a case of smallpox in the house of the Gravelles at the present time. The papers were not secured, it being stated that the young man had taken them into town with him, but they promised to have them sent in to the Chief of Police to-day.

DEATH FROM STOVE GAS.

A Warning Against the Dangers of a Defective Flue.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 11.—The inquest on the remains of the late Robert Fraser, and his wife, whose sudden deaths were before reported, was concluded yesterday. It was an important investigation, and was taken much interest in by house-holders, inasmuch as the evidence given shows it is probable that many other houses in the city are liable to similar accidents. It was at first supposed apoplexy was the cause of death, but a *post mortem* examination by competent physicians showed all the organs to be in a healthy condition. The verdict of the jury was that Robert Fraser came to his death by the inhalation of a poisonous gas, generated from a hard coal stove, the pipe from which led into a defective flue in the room in which he slept, and that his wife, Eliza Fraser, came to her death from the same cause.

EPPS' COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.* Sold only in packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London, Eng.

WEST HASTINGS.

Nomination of the Reform Candidate.

BELLEVILLE, Jan. 10.—A meeting of delegates from the different sections of West Hastings was held this afternoon in the Reform Association rooms of Belleville, to select a candidate to represent the interest of the Mowat Government in the forthcoming election. Several gentlemen were proposed, but all retired in favour of Mr. E. G. Sills, who was made the unanimous choice of the convention, and was given until Wednesday next for his final decision.

A CLERICAL LOTHARIO.

Grave Charges Against a New Jersey Clergyman.

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Jan. 10.—A great scandal leaked out in the City of Morristown yesterday. A clergyman named Brisco and Miss Leonard, an attractive brunette of thirty, are involved. The lady was a member of the gentleman's pastoral flock, and formerly played the organ at the church over which he presided. She was absent from home some days past, and returned in a feeble condition and has since been confined to bed. A short time ago a stage driver found a package addressed to her and said to contain medicines and instruments for the purpose of malpractice, also a note declared to be in Brisco's writing. Miss Leonard is the daughter of a very respectable farmer. Brisco has a wife and child. Three years ago he was reported as being too intimate with a young and prepossessing widow of Parsiphany.

FLED TO MONTREAL.

The Operations of a Bogus Count in New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—An adventurer, calling himself Count Maurice Defez, has been swindling some very respectable persons in this city by promises and offers of an introduction