

The Gleaner.

AS A. CROCKETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1888.

MR. PARNELL ON HIS DEFENCE.

The latest move in the duel between the Times and Mr. Parnell is the action for libel in the Scotch courts, which claim for £50,000 damages—a move which seems to have taken the Times by surprise. It is not so strange, however, when we remember that a Scotch jury can arrive at its verdict by a two-thirds majority, and need not be unanimous as in England. Mr. Parnell proceeds entirely upon the letters which he alleges to be forged, and the articles referring to them, published in the Times. Before this action can be tried the Special Commission will probably have commenced their sittings. The three judges met last week for the first time, and fixed Oct. 16th as the date when the inquiry shall begin. In the verbal duel which Mr. Parnell and Mr. Chamberlain have been fighting, the victory, we think, with Mr. Parnell. The quarrel began by Mr. Chamberlain's attack on Mr. Parnell during the recent debate on the Special Commission Bill. Mr. Chamberlain conducted the charge against Mr. Parnell, of conduct calculated to prejudice him with his followers, and leading to the inference that he was ready to accept terms from the then government far short of what the bulk of his party were insisting upon. Especially he was contending that Mr. Parnell would have been content with some scheme of National Boards instead of House Rule, and that he even agreed to a somewhat stringent Crimes Bill if it were limited to one year. Mr. Chamberlain declared that he could produce evidence in Mr. Parnell's own handwriting to prove these allegations. Mr. Parnell dared him to do so. After waiting seven days, Mr. Chamberlain sent a letter to the Times containing the proofs he boasted of. It turns out that Mr. Parnell was quite right when he said that he never accepted the proposal of a Board or Boards to take the place of House Rule, but that in 1882, and for some time afterwards, an administrative Dublin Council was acceptable to the Irish party as a stepping stone to House Rule. Then, as to the Coercion Bill said to have been prepared by Mr. Parnell's own hand, it amounts to this: That Mr. O'Shea took to Mr. Chamberlain, in the spring of 1885, a copy of the Provisional Government of Ireland Bill, with certain clauses struck out. Mr. O'Shea appears to have told Mr. Chamberlain that the clauses had been made by Mr. Parnell, though Mr. Chamberlain does not explicitly say so. But the matter evidently rests on Mr. O'Shea's authority alone, as he was the go-between. Mr. Chamberlain's reputation as a man who had allowed himself to use such positive language when charging Mr. Parnell.

THE THREAT TO RETALIATE.

President Cleveland's recent message to Congress can only be regarded in the light of a political expedient. We trust that the course of the President will be met by our own government with "dignified non-interference." The Boston Herald, referring to the threat of retaliation, says:—"Fortunately, on international questions the movements are made with some deliberation. Nothing is likely to be done that will gravely affect our relations with our neighbors across the line until the presidential contest is decided. That decision, once it is reached, and however it may fall, will remove the fisheries question to a safer basis, where it can be measured by the conservative judgment of the nation, and dealt with on its intrinsic merits, without regard to political considerations."

TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

On Sunday of last week the facilities in connection with the opening of the new international railway through Bulgaria, connecting Constantinople on the east with all the great European capitals on the west, were fully observed at Sofia. Up to the time of opening this railway Constantinople could be reached only by a roundabout route, through Bucharest, Brest, and Vienna, but now, after the journey, from Vienna, being by steam, this roundabout route still remains the quicker by half a day, as the international train via Sofia will require four and a half days between Paris and the Turkish capital. But the advantage of continuity has been secured, and for the passengers and goods, especially the latter, counts for much, while doubtless a greatly accelerated rate of speed will take place when the traffic makes it pay to put on a swift service of trains. Nineteen years have passed since the first international railway was first planned, and it is not yet a success in the mercantile sense. Tourists and travellers may not relish the prospect of travelling a brigand-infested route, but even if the natural scenery be all that an enthusiastic newspaper correspondent declares it to be, and the hotel accommodation, by all accounts, has yet to be created. Regarding political influence on the opening up of this new railway route upon the Bulgarian question is likely to be considerable. The prestige of having accomplished the object in the teeth of Russia's strenuous efforts to prevent it, and in spite of the Porte's obstinacy and bending to Russian designs, will be of service to Bulgaria in her future struggle for a recognized position among European sovereign states.

MR. GOSCHEN'S RETROSPECT.

Mr. Goschen has left his mark on the States-book for the Session by so stating the interest on the Debt that for the present is null and void—a half a year

NEWS OF THE WORLD CONDENSED.

From Our Own Telegraphic Reports and Our Exchanges.

Personal, Political and Religious News of the Day.

Cable, American, Canadian and General Topics.

Eight hundred prophesies have been drawn up by an inundation of Tenz Tenz, China. One thousand houses have been burned at Shanghai. Ten thousand factory operators made bonfires by the fire.

Rumors are revived of the existence of the engagement between Chamberlain and Miss Edouette. It is asserted the marriage will take place next year.

Cholera broke out on the Portuguese steamer India while bound from Macao to Manzanillo, and within 48 hours there were 38 cases, of which 24 proved fatal.

Bradleigh announces that he is still bedridden with debt and that if value were to clear himself by tongue and pen he must relinquish his career in the British parliament.

Earl Spencer, who is at Hamburg, in reply to a correspondent, emphatically contended the rumor that his views on Irish home rule are changing. His views, he says, were never more strongly in favor of the Irish rule than at present.

Scottish lawyers report that it will be easy to delay the trial of Parnell's action against the Times until after the completion of inquiry has made its report, which is expected to be submitted to parliament in the early part of the session of 1889.

The steamship King was towing the small steamboat Great Eastern in the Clyde to Liverpool Thursday evening, when an enormous wave was encountered by the vessel. The Great Eastern vanished in the darkness in the direction of the sea. She was laboring heavily.

The boiler of the Whiting paper mill at Newark, Wis., exploded at early hour Thursday morning, killing three persons and injuring thirty others. The mill was destroyed.

Farmers in the northwest are jubilant over the crop prospects. The wheat is expected to be a bumper crop.

It is announced that the writ for the federal elections in Montreal will be issued immediately.

Mr. Henderson, formerly an Ottawa alderman is spoken of as an opponent to the Hon. Mr. Dwyer in Assiniboia.

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MORE OR LESS FAMOUS.

From Paragraphs Concerning the Deaths of Two Bits of Good.

Modjeska, the actress, is a society favorite in California.

Nelly Grant's husband has become rich through the death of his brother.

The leading fortune teller of Paris, Mme. Moreau, left a fortune of \$50,000 francs.

The empress of Brazil made a pilgrim age to Lourdes because of the emperor's recovery.

Miss A. Lipincott, the daughter of Grace Greenwood, has gone on the stage.

Harriet Beecher Stowe continues to receive \$1,000 a year from royalties on "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Princess Waldemar, of Denmark, is under the instruction of the Danish painter, Franz Henningsen.

A club of society women in London is going to start a large poultry farm near London. Bee culture is also included in the scheme.

Mme. Boulanger is said to be very pious and melancholy, and does not enjoy her husband's popularity or the female admiration which she commands.

There is a prospect that Mrs. Kate Chase may enjoy great prosperity again, as her property in Washington is rapidly going to start a large poultry farm near London. Bee culture is also included in the scheme.

The queen of Portugal has been having a great time in Paris. She has done an immense amount of "shopping" and has acquired a taste for the life of the capital.

Mrs. Cain, of Tyler, Tex., seeing a beautiful place for her husband to come home, and when he got there it was to find a large poultry farm near London. Bee culture is also included in the scheme.

Typens, thirty-fourth queen of the Zulu family of KwaZulu, is encamped at the Cape of Good Hope, where she is waiting for the arrival of the British.

The mother of the present German emperor is confined in a prison. She was to become the wife of Louis Napoleon, when he was president, and would have been so but for the opposition of Queen Victoria.

An American authority for the assertion that Fred Douglass has a very heavy, absolutely perfect hand. The things of yellow natural to the skin gives the appearance of a finely sculptured hand, and he has by time, but preserved with infinite care.

Mrs. Mary Johnson is much annoyed by the "potential nuisance" which she has now upon her shoulders. She has a specimen of her writing in her pocket, and her manager has applied a copy thereof, with a printed card saying: "Miss Johnson desires to know if you will be so good as to write her a letter, with her compliments, and to be so good as to send it to her at her residence, 100 Broadway, New York."

Oliver Thomas Miller is now 50 years of age, gray-haired, stout and jolly. He has been writing for the amusement of his children, then for their instruction in natural history. Five years ago he devoted exclusively to the study of birds, of which he has written several volumes. He is now writing a book on the life of birds, and has been endeavoring ever since to introduce to the study of birds in his new work.

A Mrs. Pratt, in Louisville, the widow of a well-known Presbyterian divine, is making quite a little fortune out of her pen. She has a specimen of her writing in her pocket, and her manager has applied a copy thereof, with a printed card saying: "Miss Johnson desires to know if you will be so good as to write her a letter, with her compliments, and to be so good as to send it to her at her residence, 100 Broadway, New York."

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