// THE WEEK:

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The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

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MACDONELL v. ROBINSON.

The lawsuit commenced more than a year ago by Mr. Macdonell against the publisher of THE WEEK, on account of a paragraph which appeared in that journal relative to a charge brought by Mr. Macdonell against Mr. S. H. Blake has been hitherto prevented from coming to issue by the length of the Interlocutory Proceedings. It has been agreed that the action shall be prosecuted no further. We have now to say that if any words in the paragraph which gave rise to the action are capable of being construed so as to reflect on Mr. Macdonell in his professional capacity, as no such reflection was intended, the words are withdrawn, and regret is expressed by us for their insertion. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

SOME of our contemporaries have been rebuked for discussing Riel's case on the ground that it is still before the Courts. We should be very sorry to countenance anything like tampering with public justice; but as the appeal is on a question of jurisdiction and on the merits of the case, there seems to be no objection to discussing the merits, much less do we see any objection to discussing the principles which should guide the Executive in exercising or refusing to exercise the prerogative of mercy. For ourselves, however, we have nothing more to say. We deprecate the intrusion of any Party influences or considerations into the domain of justice. Under a law necessary to the preservation of all States, which was made long before this rebellion occurred, and by a tribunal the impartiality of which there is no reason to doubt, Riel has been found guilty of treason, a crime which, if not so degrading and repulsive as many others, is of all crimes the most dangerous to the community. If any extenuating circumstance has come to light, if any flaw has been found in the evidence, by all means let justice be stayed; otherwise it ought to take its course. The Indians who were set on by Riel suffer the full penalty of their offences, and are sent without compunction to the scaffold, though they, being mere children in understanding, must be held far less guilty than their instigator. But if it is found impossible to carry out Riel's sentence because he was the champion of the French element and the French are resolved to protect him, let the ground of political necessity be frankly avowed. The worst of all solutions is a lie. The wretch who was executed for the murder of Mr. Brown was really insane, though, as his insanity was caused by dissipation, it was criminal; but nobody who is in his own senses believes that the planner, organizer and leader of the rebellion in the North-West was not sane enough to be accountable for his actions.

OUR thanks are due and are very heartily paid to the *Mail* for putting what ought to be a final extinguisher, so far as Canada is concerned, on Imperial Confederation. It was time that our political horizon should be cleared of this nebulous fancy, which obscured and confused our view, while it never took or was likely to take a definite, much less a practical, form. This has now been effectually done. If the great Conservative and Imperialist organ of the Dominion pronounces against the scheme, what chance has the scheme of acceptance here? Of the two intelligible objects of the project, the submission of the Colonies to an Imperial tariff and their assessment to Imperial armaments, neither would receive the assent of a hundredth part of our people. The unlimited exportation of Imperial pauperism and vagrancy to Colonial shores, if that may be reckoned as a third object, would scarcely find more favour than the other two. That the refusal to put back the clock and part with our self-government for the sake of a nominal representation in a Parliament on the other side of the Atlantic implies no want of affection for the Mother Country, of gratitude for all that she has given us, of pride in her greatness, or of desire that the bond of the heart between us and her may endure for ever, the character of the *Mail* itself is a sufficient guarantee.

A BAD feeling between French and English, in Canada, has been manifesting itself ever since the outbreak of Riel's rebellion; but it would be a mistake to conclude that it is universal and represents an implacable antipathy of the two races. There are many English and many French-Canadians by whom it is not shared, who deprecate the existence of any feeling of mutual hostility, and look with horror upon anything approaching to a war of races. But that hostile feelings of race are being industriously fomented by individuals is as undeniable as it is regrettable. The feeling of alienation and of hostility unhappily has a tendency to increase. As is natural, perhaps, the greatest feeling is manifested by the French; and it is desirable to see if it has any and what justification. There can be no doubt whatever that there are French journalists anxious to save the neck of Riel for no other reason than that he has French blood in his veins: the motive is avowed. We need not say that justice cannot be administered in this way; no man can be executed or saved from the gallows because he is French or English or of any other nationality. There are people who allege that none but a fanatic can desire to see justice take its course in the case of Riel. With such it is useless to argue. There may be some grains of reality in some of the complaints of the French. If it be true that, in the great majority of cases, a French-Canadian cannot get an answer, in the same language, to a question put in French to the average public officer, where French is one of the official languages, there is ground of complaint; but the habit of answering in English, if it exists, would not have sprung up if it were attended with substantial inconvenience, much less if it constituted a real grievance. But if there be any ground for complaint, correction of an inconvenient practice may fairly be called for. Another complaint is that of twenty-six agricultural instructors appointed in the North-West not one is a French-Canadian or a Roman Catholic. If, by accident or design, anything like injustice has been done here, it ought to be corrected in future appointments. But the claims of race and religion are being pushed to an extent which it is impossible to concede. The claim that one-third of the North-West should be reserved for exclusively French colonization is one that cannot be listened to. The effect of such an arrangement would be indefinitely to retard the settlement of the country. If left to itself the North-West will fill up with an English-speaking people; but if one-third of it had to wait till it could be filled by French-speaking colonists it would be indefinitely condemned to sterility: for fast as the French-Canadians increase, they could not for a century do much towards filling up one-third of the vast area of the North-West. Whether eight French-speaking Senators from Quebec

out of twenty-four English be a fair proportion is a question that can be calmly discussed, and over which there is no need for loss of temper. But when we are told that the Ottawa Government ought to be constituted on a denominational basis, and that the "small" allowance of five Roman Catholics out of a dozen members is proof of grave injustice, it is time to put in a protest. Members of civil society are not, for this purpose, to be assorted according to their religious belief: their rights and their duties do not depend on the colour of their religious opinions. And if the denominational basis were taken, all denominations would have to be represented, and equality of representation, as between Ontario and Quebec, on which the Senate is based, would have to prevail. The result would be that no Church could have a larger representation than another. A great grievance is attempted to be made out of the losses to which the families of the insurgents in the North-West are said to have been subjected. Whatever degree of truth there may be in these statements, one thing is certain: all the losses were occasioned by the conduct of the insurgents; and they who had no scruple about taking other people's lives and property have earned no special privilege of complaint. They must have known before they took up arms that losses both of life and property would result, and they forfeited all right of complaint by their action. The Government which has undertaken to relieve the wants of the destitute sufferers from the insurrection, without enquiring whether they be the wives and children of rebels or of loyal settlers, cannot be charged with being wanting in the duties of humanity. A rupture between the two races may come; but if it even were inevitable, there would be no reason why it should take a violent form. Meanwhile let both races try to be just towards the other, and the calamities which a war of races would bring may be easily averted.

What would Ireland gain by Separation? That is the question which an Irish patriot will ask himself, if he has kept his senses and looks to the future, instead of abandoning himself to frantic and howling hatred of Englishmen and Protestants. She would hardly gain in external security by being placed under the guns of a Power made her enemy in the very act of separation and immeasurably superior to her in strength. She would hardly gain in internal harmony by a measure which would undoubtedly be the signal for a struggle of the Catholic majority against the Protestant minority with English and Scotch sympathy at its back. She would hardly gain in economy by being compelled to maintain her own armaments and establishments instead of drawing, as she now does, heavily on the Imperial Exchequer. She would hardly gain in greatness by depriving herself of her share in an Empire of which the Civil Service, in India, at present swarms with Irishmen. It is alleged that she would gain commercially and foster her own manufactures by adopting a Protectionist system and excluding English goods. How can she be a manufacturing country without coal? In former days she might have been a manufacturing country, because her water-power was as good as that of Yorkshire and Lancashire; but water-power has given way to steam. Her linen trade—the creation, by the way, of an English Lord Deputy—is an exporting trade, and could not be helped by Protection. England with her vast hives of industry is the great market for the produce of Irish pastures, and if Ireland were to commence a tariff war, this market would be closed; for the artisan democracy of England would not allow itself to be fettered, in defending its own industries, by the theoretical objections to retaliation which tie the hands of the economical purist. It would retaliate without compunction, and it could import as much meat, cheese and butter as it wanted from other countries than Ireland. It would also probably close its ports against the immigration of Irish labour by which the British artisan has been heavily weighted in his efforts to raise himself to a higher state. An Irishman, when he proposes to wage war against British goods, forgets that no small part of them is the work of Irish hands. Nor could the discouragement of popular education, which is the invariable tendency of priestly ascendency, fail, in an age of scientific industry, to place the Irish artisan at a great disadvantage in his competition with the British workman. These are points which dynamiters do not take into consideration. Nor do they see, at the end of the vista, what, however, is plainly to be seen—a war and a reconquest.

That the Irish would enjoy greater freedom if they were separated from England is an assumption not only unsupported, but contradicted by all known facts. Their manifest tendencies, both as Celts and as Roman Catholics, are all the other way. Their compatriot and great champion, Mr. Godkin, says of them "that if left to themselves they would preserve order, and probably by the use of methods of much greater severity than Englishmen dare to venture on." What Great Britain has done to them, by way of exceptional restraint, for the preservation of their own lives and property, is nothing compared with what, if left to themselves, they would habitually do to each other. Assuredly all the measures of coercion ever passed are nothing, put together, compared with the tyranny of the Land League. "Irishmen," proceeds Mr. Godkin, "have certainly much less tenderness to individual rights than Englishmen, and are really much less shocked by the exercise of arbitrary power if only it is lodged in what they consider the right hands. It is worthy of note that during all the struggles of Liberalism against Absolutism in all parts of the world during the last fifty years Irish sympathies have been with the Conservatives and Reactionaries both in Church and State. In Europe they have been the friends of the Kaiser and the Pope, in America of the slaveholder; and one does not need to be a bold man to predict that whenever we see self-government in Ireland, we shall see the law, whatever it be, enforced with an indifference to personal freedom and convenience which will surprise those Englishmen who are now not shocked and alarmed by Irish license." These are the words of an Irish champion, and his opinion is borne out by all the facts. Nothing could exceed the tyranny of the old Irish chiefs; nothing can exceed the tyranny of the Irish priesthood: Tweed ruled his Irish following in New York with a rod of iron, and Parnell not only usurps the power but gives himself all the airs of a despot. What the liberties of the Protestant minority would be under Irish self-government we know from the experiment made in the time of James II., when the Irish Parliament passed an Act attainting without trial and without distinction of age or sex every Protestant property-holder in Ireland. From her connection with Great Britain Ireland has derived her free institutions. Without that connection they would fall, and give place to the arbitrary sway either of the demagogic despot or the priest; while the first act of the priest would unquestionably be the destruction of the system of national education which has been introduced in face of priestly opposition by the Government of the United Kingdom and which is the soul of freedom.

The journalists and orators of the United States who harp so exclusively on the sins of England against Ireland cannot be said to sweep a large field with their moral vision. There must be something in their political traditions, or, if they are Protectionists, in their commercial sentiments, which fixes their censorious eyes on British misdoings alone. The difficulty which England has with the Celtic and Catholic Provinces of Ireland, and with these only, does not stand by itself. It has its parallel, more or less distinct, in every nation of the Old World, the structure of which is composite, or of which a portion has been kept by retarding accidents on a different plane of civilization from the rest. France accomplished her annexations early, not without a full proportion of violence and fraud; but her unity was completed only by the expulsion of the Huguenots and the slaughter of the Vendeans. She is struggling with native resistance in Algeria. Nay, Paris itself the other day attempted under the Commune to make itself a separate state and was coerced into unity by the cannon. The recent history of Austria has been a constant struggle with Separatism, and she has still trouble in Bohemia, in Bosnia and on the Adriatic. Germany has trouble in Posen and in Alsace-Lorraine, as well as with the Particularists of Hanover. Russia has her Poland, her Baltic Provinces, her Finland. Italy has had to repress resistance in the old Bourbon territories of the South. Spain is always contending with insurrection in Cuba. There is a domestic feud between Sweden and Norway. Switzerland, forty years ago, had to suppress with the sword the Secessionist League of the Catholic Cantons. Germany, Austria, Russia, Italy, Switzerland, have all put forth for the maintenance of their integrity an amount of force compared with which British coercion in Celtic and Catholic Ireland is mildness itself. The common engine of European repression is the state of siege. Germany is at this moment expelling all Polish immigrants from Posen. What Russia does it is needless to say; yet she has never lost the affection of the people of the United States, nor is a word ever said by them of her iniquities. She has just issued a ukase suppressing the Polish language. Such an act on the part of Great Britain would throw the American press into paroxysms: done by Russia it passes unnoticed. England is restrained by conscience and humanity from using the power which, if used, would end Celtic insurrection in a month; and it is in great measure her tenderness that exposes her both to special embarrassment and to special abuse. No doubt the nationalities and empires of the Old World were originally put together by processes which we should now deem immoral. It would not be right now for a Pope to grant Ireland to an English king or for the English king to accept the grant. But history cannot be undone, especially when, as in the case of the British Islands, Nature, as well as immemorial prescription, has ordained the union. The union which the Americans enforced with the sword was not seven centuries old.

That Mr. Lilly, of whom we were speaking the other day, should be at once a Roman Catholic and a Rationalist, is not so wonderful when we find that he is a Roman Catholic of the school of Cardinal Newman. Whether he was one of the converts does not appear; but it appears plainly that he considers them the salt of the Church, and thinks that they redeemed Catholicism in England from a very low condition when they joined it. Evidently this singular rivulet of proselytism, though it has fallen into the main stream of Roman Catholicism, has not blended with it. How should it? Newman was not a mere mass-priest or a pupil of the Jesuits. He was a sceptical philosopher in search of a religious system; and though he has found his religious system he is still a sceptical philosopher. Such webs of dialectic as his Faith never wove. In one of his Roman Catholic books he gives a list of the most portentous of the miracles and relics, including the House of Loretto which came from Palestine to Italy by leaping through the air, the Holy Coat of Treves, and the Liquefaction of the Blood of St. Januarius. Then he vehemently professes his belief in them all; but the effort of swallowing is perfectly perceptible. You see plainly that, having made up his mind that the system is his only refuge, he forces his intellect into compliance with his results. His real position as an intellectual sceptic devising reasons for embracing a faith appears in all his writings, especially in that curious attempt to prove that unreason is reasonable, the Grammar of Assent. To say of him, as Mr. Lilly does, that his chief guide is Butler's doctrine of Probability, is putting the same thing into other words. It is evident that he detests the Syllabus, which is the perfect expression of the mind of Rome, though he pretends, and probably persuades himself, that what he hates is the violence of the faction by which the Syllabus was framed. A greater contrast there cannot be than there is between the orthodoxy of Cardinal Wiseman and the philosophy of Cardinal Newman. There is a clever picture representing the horrible disenchantment of an enthusiastic novice when, in place of the ideal ascetics of his imagination, he finds himself among the real monks. We think of it when we read Newman. The late Pope, a thorough-going Ultramontane, who had begun to fancy himself in hypostatic union with the Trinity, looked askance at the great Convert. The present Pope, among other symptoms of his comparative liberalism, makes the author of "Development" a Cardinal. So that if Archbishop Lynch looks closely he will find, even within the pale of ostensible unity, there are some interesting shades of difference. Mr. Lilly contemplates without reprobation the hypothesis that the "Hebrew narratives" are a set of fables. We should like to hear him on the House of Loretto, the Holy Coat and the Liquefaction of the Blood of St. Januarius.

Mr. Lilly is not quite correct, we venture to think, in his account of the origin of Tractarianism. He traces it to the influence in the minds of its founders of revived Sacramentalism and Butler's doctrine of Certitude, or rather of Probability. Revived Sacramentalism was of course a vital part of the system, and there can be no doubt that Butler's strange doctrine is the fancied anchor to which Dr. Newman's barque is moored on the shoreless sea of doubt. But the origin of the movement, historically, is clear enough, and is stated with a rather surprising frankness in one of the earliest of the "Tracts for the Times." The progress of Liberalism in England, at the period of the Reform Bill, threatened to withdraw from the clergy the support of the State. A party among them then began to look about for some other support, and they found it in Apostolical Succession and in the Catholic theory of the Sacraments. "Hitherto," says the writer of the Tract to his fellow-clergymen, "you have been upheld by your birth, your education, your wealth, your connection; should those secular advantages cease on what must Christ's ministers depend? Is not this a serious practical question? We know how miserable is the state of religious bodies not supported by the State. Look at the dissenters on all sides of you, and you will see at once that their ministers, depending simply on the people, become the *creatures* of the people. Are you content that this should be your case?" It is fair to say that with the love of clerical authority, here somewhat unreservedly displayed, was combined a poetic ideal of the Church which gradually found its historic type in the Church of the Middle Ages. The Romanticist Reaction was at that time going on in European literature and art; and Walter Scott may in virtue of his mediævalism be regarded as a precursor of Newman. The mediæval beauties and the semi monastic life of the Oxford Colleges also played an important part; and at that time Science was still an exile from the University, so that theological and æsthetic influences reigned alone. Newman's secession after all was probably involuntary; he most likely looked forward to remaining the leader of a mediævalizing party in the Anglican Church; but some of his disciples having been led by him to the brink of Roman Catholicism took the plunge, and he had no logical ground for refusing to follow. He and his friends have tried for us at their own risk and cost whether the right way lay in that direction; and for this we ought to be grateful.

Lord Salisbury's manifesto appears to have been framed with skill and delivered with effect. The exact line taken by him upon the different questions we shall know better when we have the full text. The *Standard*, which praises the manifesto as a whole, finds a want of firmness of tone in the part relating to Ireland. It is difficult to see how firmness of tone on the Irish question could have been expected of a leader on the eve of an election for success in which he notoriously depends on the Parnellite vote. Such a position is unique in the history of British Statesmanship, and it has its peculiar exigencies, to which even the haughtiest patrician and the loudest professor of loyalty, if he wishes to escape the ire of Mr. Parnell, must bow. Lord Salisbury is above all things an aristocrat. He is thoroughly and sincerely convinced that upon the existence of an hereditary nobility depend social order, national greatness, public virtue and, above all, chivalry and honour. The special object of his hatred is commercial wealth, which, with its vulgar pretensions to power, treads on the heel of aristocracy. The blow struck at the possessors of that wealth in his speech was dealt, we may be sure, from his very heart. He would be as willing to plunder the millocrats as Mr. Chamberlain would to plunder the landowners. The Established Church he now cherishes mainly, it is believed, as a bulwark of aristocracy; for the strong High Church sentiments with which he set out in life are said to have greatly yielded to the influence of intercourse with the secular world and of Science, which the Marquis himself cultivates in his laboratory at Hatfield. The Monarchy is of course the indispensable coping-stone of aristocracy, and as such must be upheld. Everything else, not excepting the Union, Lord Salisbury probably is ready in case of supreme necessity to treat as tubs for the whale, and in lavish promises of philanthropic legislation, so far as the cities are concerned, he vies with the liberality of Mr. Chamberlain. But he cannot confine the semi-Socialistic movement to the cities. Supposing that he retains power he will have with his own patrician hands to abolish primogeniture and entail, and he can hardly fail to see that when the great estates are broken up, as assuredly they will be if primogeniture and entail are abolished, titles will lose their magic and hereditary aristocracy will fall. Lord Salisbury's game is desperate in the end, even if, by grace of Mr. Parnell, he obtains a majority now.

For the present Lord Salisbury has a most effective coadjutor in Mr. Chamberlain, whose passionate desire to become at once Prime Minister must, unless the whole spirit of English society has undergone a marvellous change, be hurrying him beyond his mark. It is impossible not to mistrust the motives of a man who, having made a large fortune by methods as far as possible from Socialistic, when the object of his pursuit changes and satiety of wealth has awakened the lust of power, hoists the Socialistic flag, appeals to the instincts of a plundering proletariat, and promises to let it levy blackmail on property if it will only gratify his ambition. Mr. Chamberlain in his eagerness to be first has broken all the honourable rules of public life. He has courted popularity on the stump at the expense of his colleagues in the Cabinet; he has betrayed two of them, Mr. W. E. Forster and Lord Spencer, for whose acts he, as a member of the Government, was just as responsible as they were themselves. He courted with ignominious assiduity, and by offers of consenting to the virtual Dismemberment of the nation, the favour of Mr. Parnell, and turned round only when Mr. Parnell had actually spurned him back to the side of patriotism and loyalty. His Socialistic and Disunionist proposals are thrown out obviously for the purpose of catching votes, and are explained away or modified as soon as it appears that the fish does not rise or that there is danger of a reaction. His ability is unquestionable; but it lies mainly in the line of caucus organization, and in this he has so able a coadjutor in Mr. Schnadhorst that it is difficult to say how much of the work which has covered England with a web of caucuses, of which he is the head centre, is his own and how much is that of his lieutenant. It has evidently been his policy to use Mr. Gladstone as his stalking-horse, at the same time securing to himself the succession: and the aged Monarch of the Liberal Party, though not open to gross adulation, is open to skilful infusions and even to a refined kind of flattery. It is certainly no injustice to Mr. Chamberlain to say that his sense of the blessings which the nation would reap from his Premiership is so strong that he would rather wreck the Liberal Party than not be its chief. That he may wreck the Liberal Party is not impossible. Mr. Gladstone's manifesto had restored to the party a union which would have almost certainly given it the victory. But Mr. Chamberlain is fast undoing the work. It is not unlikely that this formed a topic of earnest talk at Hawarden.

In Eastern Europe the outlook is still stormy; Servia on one side and Greece on the other are full of military excitement, and a general rush is commencing for the spoils of the moribund Turk. The Turk also is preparing for war; he is hopelessly bankrupt and destitute of material resources. But, in spite of the corruption of the Government and the decadence of the Empire, the descendants of the conquering hordes retain their military qualities, and like a tiger wounded to death Turkey may yet give the incautious hunter an ugly stroke of the paw. It is not likely, however, that war will actually break out. The Great Powers have a veto, which, if they can come to any sort of agreement among themselves, they will certainly use. The chief arbiter of the situation is Bismarck, who appears disposed to arrest the work of territorial spoliation and save for the present what remains of Turkey. A curious suspicion has dawned that he has an eye on the Asiatic Provinces of the Turkish Empire as a future field for German emigration. Lord Salisbury appears to acquiesce without resistance in the demolition of the most vital portion of the Treaty on which rests his diplomatic renown. It is instructive to remember that he and Lord Beaconsfield were actually prepared to leave Berlin and declare war in case this all-important article had not been conceded to them. Founded on the sand of Turkish connection, the diplomatic edifice was doomed to speedy ruin; and its wreck is a warning to Diplomacy that though she may make fancy maps she cannot alter real tendencies or relations. Russia evidently takes umbrage at the consolidation of a strong Christian principality on her road to Constantinople, and her jealousy proves that the true mode of curbing her ambition is not to prop up Turkey, which quakes at her frown, but to foster the growth of independent nationalities.

If, as is stated, the Conservative and Republican papers in France with one accord ascribe the result of the elections to the Tonquin expedition, we must suppose that we were mistaken in ascribing it mainly to the recoil caused by the headlong violence of the Republicans in their attacks upon religion. Let it be noted, however, that it is to the Conservative party that the gain has chiefly accrued, though it is the Socialistic Radicals that are most opposed to a policy of military aggrandizement. Every symptom that we have observed of late has betokened, if not a religious reaction, a reaction against rampant, aggressive and tyrannical irreligion. The opinions of our most trustworthy informants on the spot pointed the same way, and so did the defeat of the Liberals in Belgium, of which the main cause unquestionably was their unmeasured hostility to religious education. But if a dislike of the policy of military aggrandizement was really the cause of the political revolution in France, the day was a happy one for France herself and for Europe: since we may infer that the unquiet and rapacious ambition which for two centuries has incessantly vexed Europe and retarded European civilization is at last sinking to rest; and that even in the land of Louis XIV. and Napoleon the government of the people—the government of those who bleed and pay—is opposed, as in reason it should be opposed, to war. The hope dawns that in time there may be a popular revolt against the blood-tax of the conscription, and that an end may be put to the European deadlock of bloated armaments by the franchise in the hands of the suffering masses. We only hope that it was not the ill-success of the French Government in Tonquin that was its crime. "Woe to the vanquished!" was the utterance of a Gaul.

The Scott Act enthusiasts seem bent upon proving more clearly than ever that fanaticism is subversive of morality. No duty can be plainer or more important than that of voting at elections for the man who is best qualified to serve the State. In a democratic community, where so much depends on the right use of the electoral trust, the obligation is pre-eminently strong. Yet here are a set of people, pretending to superior morality and identifying their movement with the cause of God, who deliberately propose and exhort others to abuse their electoral trust for the purpose of excluding from the service of the State in all departments legislative, executive and municipal, down to the School Trusteeships, all who presume to differ from them as to the expediency of a particular mode of dealing with a particular social question. The point immediately threatened by these political boycotters is the municipal government of Toronto, from which they are resolved to cashier everybody who does not repeat their shibboleth. The interests of the city are various and the qualifications needed for its administration are equally so; but one qualification is to be paramount: that of entire submission to the will of the promoters of the Scott Act. Our sanitary system, our water supply, our public schools, our police, our finances—everything upon which the health, comfort and well-being of our citizens depends—may go to the dogs; the one thing needful is that all power and all public emolument shall be in the hands of the friends of the Scott Act. Temperance, however well-established, will not do; even total abstinence will not do; nor will adherence to the plan of the Liberal Temperance Union, to the plan of High Licenses, or to any policy but the Scott Act. Statesman after statesman, legislature after legislature, on both sides of the Atlantic has tried to deal with the question and has confessedly failed. Massachusetts has had to repeal her law, and Iowa is apparently about to do the same. Prohibitionists differ among themselves; while notoriously some of the best and ablest of men, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright among the number, are opposed on the highest grounds to prohibitive legislation altogether. But the promoters of the Scott Act are infallible, and not to agree with them is mortal sin. We know very well what will happen. The test will be refused by conscientious dissidents, who will thus be excluded from the service for which they are of all men morally the best qualified: it will be taken with enthusiasm by hypocritical knaves—tipplers, perhaps, in secret—who use a social agitation as a ladder wherewith to climb into political office, and some of whom have not failed here, as well as in the United States, to mingle with the sincere leaders of the movement; it will be taken with reluctance by men who are not knaves but whose consciences are weak and who will be demoralized and depraved by their submission. There is hardly a viler act than constraining a public man by threats of loss of votes to act against his convictions and to profess what he does not believe. Citizens, however, who care for liberty and public right now see what they have before them: that which is now done by the Scott Act men may be done hereafter by the Anti-Vaccination men, by the Anti-Tobacco men or by the devotees of any other tyrannical crotchet. What would be the condition of legislatures when this practice became general? If the game of boycotting is to be played on one side it must be played on both sides, and we shall have to mark down and to oppose on all occasions the men who resort to such practices for the coercion of their fellow-citizens. Does the Methodist Church, whose pulpits have become the organs of the Scott Act, sanction political boycotting? If it does, let us hope that the other Churches do not; for when they do, though they may be teachers of something higher than morality, teachers of morality they will no longer be.

The members of the Church Temperance Society of the State of New York, as we learn from *Harper's Weekly*, have formally abandoned Prohibition, being convinced by experience that it is "absolutely impossible in great cities." They have embraced instead a policy identical in principle with that of the Liberal Temperance Union here. A Bill has been framed and will be brought before the Legislature of New York, founded on the recognition of "a broad distinction between distilled and fermented liquors." For the sale of distilled liquors it is proposed to enact a license fee of $1,000; for the sale of fermented liquors a fee only of $100. Evidently this practical mode of dealing with the question by the discouragement of whiskey and the substitution of beer, cider, and native wines, is growing in favour among the reasonable friends of Temperance in the United States. The tendency of prohibitory legislation is exactly in the opposite direction: it drives the people to the use of whiskey and other ardent spirits, as the only liquors which are easily smuggled. It practically discriminates, but in favour of whiskey. "When experience," says *Harper's Weekly*, "shows that prohibitory laws not only do not prevent intemperance, but breed evasion and contempt of the authority of law, it is no answer to say that dram-selling is a curse. If the object be to limit its evil results, experience shows that merely to repeat that it must be prohibited is practically to increase the evil." These are the words of common sense; but to crusaders common sense is apostasy and treason. Will our Scott Act friends venture to say that all the members of the New York Church Temperance Society have gone over to the Devil's side, and that *Harper's Weekly*, which approves their policy, is an organ of Satan?

When people urged that the Mahdi should be let alone, the reply was that if you would let him alone he would not let you alone, inasmuch as he was no mere local pretender, but a vicegerent of Heaven, and claimed dominion of the universe or nothing. The same is the case with every vendor of a universal panacea. Ayer's Pills, as they cure every kind of disease, leave no room for St. Jacob's Oil; and Mr. George, having proclaimed that all economical ills will be cured by the wholesale spoliation of landowners, cannot admit that humanity has anything to gain by the rival nostrum of Protection. Those who, unsatisfied with the demonstrations of Euclid, require fresh proof of the rudimentary truths of Geometry, may find it worth their while, after the Euclids of Economic Science, to wade through the lucubrations of Mr. George. He who having read Adam Smith and Bastiat can still deny that the system of Free Trade is the best both for the distribution of wealth and for its production must be a protected producer or argument-proof. But reasonings were scarcely needed to prove that which common-sense dictates, and which is confirmed by the

daily practice of all mankind; for the largeness or smallness of the commercial area can in this respect make no difference, and the rule which holds good for a street must hold equally good for the commerce of the globe. But upon the adoption of a principle in itself incontrovertible, a practical limit is placed by the necessity in which all nations find themselves of raising a revenue by customs, in other words, of having tariffs; while each nation must and will adapt its tariff to its own commercial circumstances, giving such advantage as it can to its own producers. It is by shutting out of view this part of the case, and by the excessive purism which abjures the use of retaliation as an engine for breaking down hostile tariffs, that the Free Traders are apt to deliver themselves logically into the hands of their enemies. To the arguments of Adam Smith and Bastiat there was nothing of much importance to be added. But their views have been decisively ratified by experience, since nobody can doubt that the immense growth of British production, trade and wealth dates from the abolition of Protection and the admission of untaxed food. Their case has also been strengthened by the proofs which are unhappily accumulating in Protectionist countries, that Free Trade is the system of purity and Protection is the system of corruption. Protection creates an interest which, having no natural basis, depends for its existence on the Government, and fights for its creator and preserver with a rope always round its neck. The best point made by Mr. George is that Free Trade is not British. It is no more British, as he truly says, than is walking on your feet.

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IT was reported the other day that the Queen's name had been hissed at a Liberal meeting in England, but the incident turns out to have been exaggerated and to have had no significance. Irish Nationalists treat with insult the Queen's name, as they treat wth insult the British name, showing thereby clearly enough that they are no more disposed to live under the same Crown with the people of Great Britain than under the same Parliament. It is possible that the same indecency might be committed in a meeting of Socialists, but it never would be committed in a meeting of Liberals, even if they were of the Republican stripe. The Crown is not an object of hatred to any class of Englishmen. On the other hand it must be admitted that the affection for the person of the Sovereign, once so warm among the British people, has of late grown cold. Read the newspapers after an appearance of Her Majesty in public and you will be assured that she was greeted along the whole line with enthusiastic cheers. Witness the scene yourself and you will find that the enthusiastic cheering is apocryphal, that the display even of common respect by the crowd is not universal, and that the only emotion generally felt is curiosity. Nothing else was to be expected, since Royalty has been for nearly a quarter of a century in a state of voluntary eclipse, "hid in its vacant interlunar cave" of rural seclusion at Balmoral. All the time it has no doubt been conscientiously signing a great number of State documents; but a stamp could do as much: the only important duties of Royalty in these days are social, and these have been almost entirely suspended; there has been no Court, no Royal hospitalities, hardly any appearances of the Sovereign at the opening of Parliament, or on any public occasion. The wearer of the Crown has become a stranger to the people. The neglect of Ireland by the Court, in spite of constant remonstrance and of every possible inducement to adopt a more gracious course, is now felt to have been most injurious to the State. The reason given for seclusion has been the loss of the Prince Consort; but the people say that death enters all households, and that, when a reasonable time has been given to sorrow, duty claims us again. Nor can they easily believe that a reception at Buckingham Palace or an attendance at the opening of Parliament would be intolerable when it is pleasant to attend a gillie's wedding in the Highlands. The real motive, as the people suspect, is the desire of hoarding money, and their suspicion has been fostered by the unaccountable suppression of the Prince Consort's will. The upshot, however, is that to the other serious features of the political situation is added the general absence of any feeling towards Royalty which could make it, in any case, a rallying point or a fulcrum of Conservative resistance. The sex of the Sovereign, indeed, would render it impossible to give her any advice in following which she would incur the slightest risk, though it is perfectly conceivable that, in the sequel, measures involving considerable risk to those who are responsible for them may become essential to the salvation of the State. The Prince of Wales, in spite of the shadow that rests upon his private life, and his unfortunate choice of companions, is personally popular; but he is heir-apparent and not King. Yet even he might in the hour of the nation's peril be doing something more worthy of his ancestry than pleasure-hunting in Norway. Royalty abdicates, though it does not put off its Crown.

*THE UPPER CANADA REBELLION.**

MR. DENT has not laid himself open to the reproach, which writers of subscription books too often earn, of trying to please everybody. He is as outspoken as could be desired; his style is vigorous, and there is ample evidence of painstaking research. New matter is introduced, and familiar subjects are presented with a new face. If the writer's object was to produce a popular book, he must be held to have succeeded; but one lays down the volume with the feeling that the last word of impartial history remains to be said. The "Story of the Upper Canada Rebellion" is an indictment of the official party, the Family Compact, and would doubtless provoke a reply, from the Tory point of view, if any living issues had come down to us by way of survival from the pre-Responsible Government period.

Mr. Dent, in the course of his indictment, lays on individuals faults which were the inevitable outcome of the system of government then in vogue. The germs of all the evil which he so vigorously relates lay in the form of government which, soon after the conquest of French Canada, was established. And yet it is difficult to see, even at this day, what better could have been done than to put the colony under the Constitution Act of 1791. There were two colonies, in fact: a French-speaking and an English-speaking colony; if there had been only one the task of government would have been greatly simplified. In framing a constitution for the two colonies, it would not have been wise to give greater privileges to one than to the other, and it would have been a perilous experiment to place British interests in Lower Canada under the absolute control of an alien race. Some sort of representative institutions had to be granted; and to give unchecked power to the representative body would have placed the British population at the mercy of the French. The check of a nominated chamber was interposed between the Crown and the representative Assembly. This, if not in itself satisfactory, was a compromise which fairly met the case. The value of the acquisition secured by the Treaty of Paris depended upon fair play being secured to British subjects whom the new field of emigration might attract; and, whatever its theoretical faults, the Constitution Act of 1791 served that essential purpose.

The evils of a Crown-nominated Chamber were not unforeseen, but they were accepted for the one virtue which that Chamber contained; in difficult cases it became the arbiter between the Legislative Assembly and the Crown. In the absence of this buffer direct collision between the Legislative Assembly and the Crown must have constantly occurred, and the result would have been more serious than any to be apprehended from the check interposed by the negative of the Legislative Council, a co-ordinate branch of the Legislature. The vice of the system was that the responsibility of the Executive Council was inverted: instead of being due to the elective Chamber it was exacted by the representative of the Crown. This was the theory, and with the theory, in extreme cases, the practice corresponded. But the general course of the administration ran in a contrary direction. The mists of the local atmosphere dimmed the vision of the Governors. On nearly all questions in which the Imperial interests were not directly concerned the Executive Councils had practical control. To the Governors the Executive Councils owed a responsibility which, in most cases, was little more than nominal, while to the elective branch of the Legislature they owed none. The result was the establishment of an irresponsible Oligarchy.

The possession by the Executive Councils of practically irresponsible power produced the natural consequences: arbitrary rule haughtily exercised on one side, on the other the bitterness of impatience under misrule, the occasional correction of which was possible only through appeals to Downing Street which could seldom be prosecuted with success. In the bitterness of a contest carried on between a permanent Executive Council and a permanent Opposition which did not, however, always form a majority of the Legislative Assembly, the popular desire for a change of system was engendered This was the origin of the revolutionary movement which, as has often happened before, sought shelter under existing constitutional guarantees which the imagination conjured up. The official hierarchy had duties to perform under the Constitution. All the interests of the Crown were intrusted to the colonial officials under the Governors; and, under such a system, obedience in the servants of the Crown ranked as the first of duties.

This system, with all its faults, and they were many and great, served the paramount purpose of maintaining British supremacy in a conquered country. The only alternative that has ever been suggested was to rule the ancient inhabitants of the country despotically; and no one whose

* The Story of the Upper Canada Rebellion; largely derived from Original Sources and Documents. By John Charles Dent. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.

opinion is of the slightest value now believes that such an expedient would have been either wise or successful. There is now no room to doubt that irresponsible rule was continued too long, that it survived the circumstances which formed its only justification at the time of its birth, and that when it had outlived its utility it became an occasion of evil and disaster. The members of the official hierarchy could not be expected to join in the revolutionary movement. They held the fort of which they had been placed in command, and they cannot be blamed for defending it. But they were blamable for misrepresenting the condition of affairs and the bent of public opinion to the Imperial Government. The Imperial Government had no disposition to do injustice to the colony; but even Lord John Russell continued, almost to the time of the Union, to regard Responsible Government as incompatible with the Imperial relation. The agitation for bringing about a revolution, which was regarded with aversion and dread, found no favour in the Colonial Office. The resistance it met there only served to give keener edge to the aggression, and the rebellion was the result.

The rebellion left behind many bitter memories which did not always pass away with the generation by which it was witnessed. Carried away by what he feels to be a just indignation, Mr. Dent, in recalling the events which preceded the outbreak, frequently seasons the narrative with a strong infusion of the spirit of the old struggle. Whether this be done unconsciously or by design, we cannot help thinking that the time has come when a calmer and a more judicial tone ought to prevail. Consciously unjust he has evidently no intention to be. Though the faultiness of a sytem of government cannot absolve the Family Compact from moral responsibility for the acts of its members, there were among them men who, in spite of their errors, have strong claims upon the esteem of posterity. Chief Justice Robinson, without being perfect, was a fine type of man, whose superior, take him all in all, the period in question did not produce. Mr. Dent's hero, Dr. Rolph, can of course be set off to advantage by contrasts strongly drawn. But contrasts of this kind have their inconveniences. The men opposed to the Oligarchy were assuredly not all perfect. Some of them, for whom Mr. Dent asks the crown of political martyrdom, were not worthy to wear it. Of two of them, Judge Thorpe and Sheriff Willcocks, this may safely be said. Judge Thorpe ought to have known that he could not be allowed to retain his seat on the Bench along with a seat on the Opposition side of the House of Assembly. The two positions were incompatible; and before he sought election to the Assembly he ought to have resigned his seat on the Bench. That the dual function was permitted to be exercised by friends of the Government was no warrant for the anomalous action of Judge Thorpe. The official hierarchy had a right to claim neutrality from the judge, and his liberal principles should have saved him from the error into which he fell. He delivered strong invectives against the official party, and though there was abundant room for criticism, we must, before giving implicit credence to his statements, take into account the nature of his mental constitution. Judge Thorpe charged Wilberforce with perpetuating the slave trade twenty years after it was in his power to have enforced its abolition; and this imaginary sin of the great enemy of slavery he affected to trace to an unworthy motive: that it might serve "to uphold the pendulum in its vacillancy between the minister and the people." As judge in Sierra Leone, Mr. Thorpe had come into collision with Wilberforce, as in Canada he had come into collision with the Family Compact. The complaint was that Wilberforce did not force Pitt to carry abolition twenty years before the House of Commons was willing to accept it. The truth is, Pitt needed no compulsion; personally he was in favour of abolition, even when he felt it his duty to vote against Wilberforce's motions. Had opportunity offered, Judge Thorpe would probably have rebuked the Saviour of mankind for delaying the scheme of redemption from the time when he disputed with the doctors in the temple to the day of his execution on the cross. Posterity will, we think, refuse to accept Judge Thorpe's removal as a political martyrdom.

Sheriff Willcocks's case requires a fuller statement for its complete elucidation than Mr. Dent has given. Mr. Willcocks opposed the Government whose servant he was, and lost his office in consequence. Under the Oligarchy opposition of this kind was a serious thing; and, if persistent and bitter, it would not be allowed under the responsible administrations of to-day. Willcocks was an aërial writer, who knew how to hang a great array of denunciation on a very slender thread of fact; but he must have been comparatively harmless from his habit of dealing in generalities. For instance, in No. 5 of his *Guardian* (1807), he mildly attributes to the Government a "wish to keep the people of this Province in a state of perpetual ignorance, and that every act of tyranny, oppression, extortion, fraud and iniquity may be not only perpetrated with impunity, but buried in oblivion." And, nearly five years later (*Guardian* Extra, June 9, 1812), while boasting that he had sold to Richard Hall, Esq., a pronounced Tory, his "crazy" printing material for four times as much as would "purchase a new and complete set of types and press," he denounces the "band of sycophantic office-hunters, pensioners and pimps." The New York *Morning Post* described him as the editor of a little paper published at Newark, "which uniformly opposed and calumniated the Government of Upper Canada." In the extra just quoted Mr. Willcocks made loud vaunt of his loyalty; and when the war broke out he offered his services to the Government as a volunteer, but only, it would seem, with the design of deserting to the enemy. When Fort George was attacked his local knowledge would be of essential service to the enemy. Accordingly, we find the American General Boyd, when in possession of the Fort, Aug. 17, 1813, winding up his despatch giving an account of the capture in these terms: "The Canadian volunteers, under Major Wilcox *(sic)*, were active and brave as usual." On this state of the facts we submit that it is no defence of the conduct of Mr. Willcocks in deserting to the enemy, in the hour of supreme peril, to say that he had been goaded by oppression suffered at the hands of the local authorities.

These illustrations, to which additions could easily be made, are given to show the difficulty Mr. Dent is likely to encounter in the execution of his bold and magnanimous resolve to set up an impossible hero in the person of Dr. Rolph, surrounded by a number of minor heroes, and to exalt his virtues by contrast with the shortcomings, real or assumed, of other public men of the period. The Rebellion of 1837-8 continues too generally to be discussed in a tone of acrimony which, at a later period, will wholly disappear. Two works on the subject, in French, published last year, are even more rancorous than "Blanc et Noir," produced at a much earlier period. And that the subject is still capable of evoking strong feeling a discussion in the Ontario House of Assembly last session made plain. If Mr. Dent's book is pitched in a key which some may think too high, other writers and speakers, even the most recent, are open to the same criticism. Perhaps we are too near to the events related to be able to regard them without some excess of feeling, personal or political. Thorpe Mable.

NOTES FROM THE CONTINENT.

Paris, France.

The second volume of the "Mémoires sur le Second Empire," by M. de Maupas, are, considering his political opportunities and position, very impartially written. The ancient home minister of the Second Empire claims for himself alone the principal *rôle* in the *coup d'état* of December, 1851. He is severe on Marshals Saint-Arnaud and Magnan. However, it was not the less their plans which made the crime successful. The author says Prince Jerome Napoleon was kept in the dark about the conspiracy, and his father also, the old ex-king, lest he might peach, the first being connected with the demagogues. The financial swindlings of high officials are judged in a manner worthy of history, as also the personal politics of Napoleon III. M. de Maupas approves of the maladroit marriage of the emperor, and lauds Prince Napoleon for his "transcendental talents," also for his military courage, which opinion does not credit him with, although certified to by Marshal Canrobert. The conduct and consequences of the war in the Crimea, Italy, China and Mexico, the responsibilities of the 1870 invasion, and the revolution springing therefrom, are masterly descriptions, but too short.

Tennyson is known to French literature since a quarter of a century, and is studied as a classic. "Enoch Arden" and the "Idyls of the King" are on the official list of school-books. He appeals to the most cultivated tastes, and, to be felt, he must be studied under the conditions in which he has written—that is to say, in solitude, calm, and with forgetfulness of or disdain for vulgarities: in a word, in the tranquil fulness of intellectual power. "The Idyls of the King," more than any other of Tennyson's works, the French consider to be the product of distinct inspirations laboriously pieced together, where the mosaic joinings are visible. It is thus that royal residences are ordinarily constructed: just as it has been observed of Fontainbleau, a palace *rendezvous*, aged, and of different styles. Arthur is the personification, as he ought to be, of the "flower of kings." Tennyson has given to that oft-sketched figure polish, finish, elegance, and artistic splendour, making him the apogee of a civilization. Arthur is not only the ideal of society but the superior soul of humanity.

The French best like Tennyson's poems of real life—the peasants and the sailors. He observes the characters in the truest of all ways, by living in their midst. Out of simple materials, apparently beneath prose, he makes poetry. This explains why "Enoch Arden" and the "Grandmother" are popular and great favourites. "Enoch Arden" may be estimated by a reference to Zola's boast about his book: "It is the first that has truly the odour of the people." Be it so; but if the people has its odour it has sometimes, too, its "perfume," and that perfume exhales from every page of "Enoch Arden." Tennyson is not ranked by the French as the exponent of the Anglo Saxon genius in the sense as are Shakespeare and Dickens. He possesses the art of composing the science of proportions, and an exquisite sentiment of form and sound. He sculpts, he

retouches, he erases. But then they are the thousand blows of the hammer which impart to the forged object its form and value. Tennyson possesses instinctively the genius of harmony of words. He imitates all with his verses, from the neighing and galloping of steeds, the sharp dry snap of the guitar, the joyous vibration of bells, the dying away of echoes, the sough of the waves as they kiss the beach: all the sounds of living nature, from the groaning thunder to the chirping of the grasshopper.

Wherever Spain has truly dominated, she has left manners stationary and traditions untouched. This is more evident still in the mother country itself, where Spaniards unite all the miseries to all the grandeurs. It is still full middle age in the Iberian Peninsula. The houses are built the same as under Philippe II., and the windows are protected with railings of the same model as during the domination of the Moors. But in the past the manners of the people were in harmony with its institutions; now that harmony exists no more; there is a permanent antagonism between what Spaniards wish to be and what they can be. So thinks M. Quesnel. It is not in sitting under the orange-trees at Cadiz, or the laurel-roses of Seville, that Spain can be known. The towns everywhere are at all times an imperfect mirror of a nation's social life. A truer test is to mix among the agricultural population, the artisan and the small-proprietor classes of the provinces. Again, it is very difficult to appreciate the history of a people where changes are so sudden, and revolutions, *coups d'état* and restorations succeed without end—and without reason: where events march as rapidly and as irregularly as a drama by Lope de Vega.

Spain is not a kingdom, but a combination of several provinces slenderly roped together and full of dislikes and jealousies. Neither is Madrid a capital in the sense of other capitals; it is one of the Spains within Spain, a centre for intrigues, place-hunters and adventurers in every walk and grade of life, and from all parts of the provinces. Pleasure, smoking, and making love are the chief businesses in Spain. Every Spaniard who has neither Jewish nor Moorish blood in his veins is an hidalgo; hence why the shepherds of Catalonia are so proud of their birth. It explains also why the Andalusians are so proud, where the humblest peasant or miner, when he has his slouched hat cocked over one ear and his *faja*, or red silk scarf, round his waist, feels himself to be a prince. If he met a lady he would, like a Raleigh, spread his mantle on the ground for her feet.

The Spaniard's contempt for life makes him a brave soldier, but a cruel, pitiless man. He is cruel towards animals from his cradle; he will often bite the ears of his mule, or prick it with his stiletto, if it gets stubborn. He replies, "they are not Christians,"—*ño son Cristianos.* It was this spirit made Señor burn Jews and heretics. The Spaniards are a brave people, but paradoxical; the immortal type of Don Quixote lives in them still. The most constant preoccupation of the labourer and the artisan is to escape the conscription; but once soldiers they are brave. Few Spanish women know how to write correctly; but they make good mothers and faithful wives: are so brave, so good-humoured and merry, that look but in their pretty laughing faces and you forget all defects.

M. Jarnétal, in his account of the Coreans, states the inhabitants ignore umbrellas; but, in order to preserve their woven hair hats from the rain, they wear a hood umbrella without handle, made of oiled paper. It opens over the hat, and is kept in position by strings. The shower past, the wearer puts the folded hood up his sleeve or into his boot. The Coreans, the author says, were the discoverers of the famous China ink and also of a special paper, largely employed in the East, called "Corean." This paper is also made into waterproof garments, and owes its quality of impermeability to a liquid obtained from an unknown plant in the interior of the country. Before a man marries, his mother visits his intended to ascertain that she is neither old, blind, humpbacked or crippled. The *fiancée* presents a suit of clothes to her betrothed; his mother examines them minutely, and, if she sees they are well stitched, concludes the girl will make a good wife.

France endows a school at Athens, as she does at Rome, to which she sends the best prize pupils of her lyceums to finish their artistic or literary studies. That at Athens has paid at least, as it gave the world "Grèce Contemporaine," the masterwork of a once student, Edmond About. He impressed on the imagination that Greece, since it was snatched from Turkey as a brand from the burning, had become simply the headquarters of bandits to take the money or the life of those travellers who repaired to that classic land, impelled by their classical reminiscences. The more roads were opened up, About hinted, the greater the facilities afforded to the bandits to operate. M. Bikelos has published "De Nicopolis à Olympie," a collection of letters written on Greece of to-day. It is the answer, by facts, to About's imaginings. He states all is changed; the voyager in travelling through the Kingdom of Greece has no want now of an escort; brigands have disappeared; the country is as safe as the boulevards of Paris. Greece is even adopting English fashions of dress. More important: the Athenians have relinquished their day-dream of possessing Constantinople; the modern seven sages of Greece no longer cherish the chimera of another Greek empire, with Byzantium for capital. That said, the author demands from Europe all the aid science, commerce and good sense can accord, so as to enable her to take her modest rank among the nations, not of the East, but of the West.

In the novels of Balzac and his disciple Zola, although they be terribly "tuffy," they are laid down on so methodic lines and unfolded with such clearness that the reader is never fatigued. The contrary is just the case with the reigning sensational novel, "Le Guerre et la Paix," by Tolstoï, a Russian. Half of the first volume is a labyrinth, the whole three are a tax on your mental powers. Yet, such is the attraction of the united incidents that you cannot throw the work aside. Since Balzac, one has never seen so many distinctly marked and original visages. Who or what are they? You feel they are real, only you have never encountered them. They are all types of Russian society, aristocratic and democratic, moving in different orbits. The drama is Russian society in Peace; later, War, in resisting Napoleon's invasion. The scene is laid at Moscow. The Invasion of Russia by Napoleon was never better dramatized; never was the terrible Retreat more vividly portrayed. Zero.

THE BIRTH OF WORLDS.

The new star in Andromeda has been popularly regarded as probably a new world. This, whatever else it may be, it assuredly is not. Stars are of course not worlds, whether they be new or temporary or simply variable. The idea gains ground steadily that all so-called new stars were but variable stars, with a somewhat exceptional range of variation, and probably of very long period. If the star Mira or Wonderful, in the constellation Cetus, were so situated that when at its faintest it was visible as a third-magnitude star, it would outshine all the stars in the heavens when at its *maximum* of splendour. So would Eta Argûs, and so also would the so-called new star in the Northern Crown. Indeed, if we regard the nebula in Andromeda as lying further away than the faintest star visible to the naked eye, then, were we brought so much nearer that its distance was only that of a first-magnitude star, the *nova stella* (probably but a *stella mutabilis*) which shone out recently in its midst would have been resplendently visible instead of needing a telescope for its detection.

Neither this star, nor any other new, variable, or temporary star ever observed, can be said to have thrown the least light on the birth of worlds. Certainly, if the nebular hypothesis of Laplace represents the real way in which solar systems are formed, no new star has thrown light upon that process, or possibly can. For the process imagined by Laplace involved no catastrophes. It was a steadily acting process, rather leaving nebulous rings behind than throwing them off as commonly supposed; the rings separated into parts as they shrank longitudinally by a gentle movement, and the various fragments coalesced rather than collided, for they were all travelling the same way round; in fine, Laplace imagined no fierce conflict of matter with matter such as the sudden outburst of splendour in what we call a new star necessarily implies.

It might be well, however, if the interest excited by the new star, though it may throw no new light on Laplace's hypothesis, should direct some degree of attention to the very remarkable defects which any astronomer who knows aught of physics, or any physicist who knows much of astronomy, cannot fail to recognize in that remarkable speculation. Attracted by the effective way in which some features of our solar system, for which the theory of gravitation cannot account, appear to be explained by Laplace's hypothesis, many astronomers overlook the startling difficulty which Laplace overleaped at the outset. On the other hand, many physicists are unaware that the hypothesis started from what, with the knowledge of physic obtained since Laplace's time, is seen at once to be an absolute impossibility; they know only that a number of astronomical facts appear to require some such theory; of the details which are also required (but which a physicist at once sees to be quite impossible) they know little.

Let us consider how the theory of Laplace was suggested and what the theory required. We may take, as an example of what Laplace could and could not do, that masterpiece of mathematical analysis, his inquiry into the stability of Saturn's ring-system; here the mathematical work was almost perfect, and the conclusion, that the rings must be narrow and eccentrically weighted, was demonstrably right, on the assumed premisses; but these premisses were erroneous. A knowledge of physical laws such as Laplace could not have, but such as many boys in our time have acquired, would have shown Laplace that the rings of Saturn could not be what he assumed them (quite unquestioningly) to be at the very outset of his inquiry. Solid rings on the scale of the Saturnian system could no more remain unbroken under the forces to which they are subjected than a model of the Menai Bridge, perfect in all other respects, but on such a scale as to span 100 miles, could bear its own weight. In this case, where not a theory, but a magnificent calculation of his, was in question, science has not hesitated to set Laplace's conclusions aside, because of the falsity of his assumptions, adopting, instead, the results which Maxwell Clerk, Pierce, the Bonds and others have established—viz., that the Saturnian rings consist of myriads of tiny satellites, like sands on the sea-shore for multitude. But, strangely enough, in the case of his far-famed hypothesis of the birth of worlds, which starts from a similar, or rather from a much more monstrous mistake (very natural, though, in Laplace's time), science has scarcely even questioned his results, far less examined his initial assumptions.

The facts which the nebular hypothesis of Laplace was intended to explain are simply these: The planets travel the same way round, and in nearly the same plane. The central sun turns the same way on its axis, so do all the planets whose rotation has been observed; all the moons travel round their ruling planets the same way—except the moons of Uranus and the moon of Neptune; and these bodies, travelling as they do at the very outskirts of our system, may be regarded as having, perhaps, been exposed to disturbing influences affecting, in their case, the action of the laws, whatever they were, which gave these features of uniformity to our solar system. Laplace suggested, as a hypothesis which seemed to him to result from these features, that the whole mass of matter out of which the solar system was formed was once an immense disc, extending beyond the path of the remotest planet now known, and rotating as one gigantic whole. Granting only this assumption, and starting from it, all the features of the solar system mentioned above would follow. The ring would gradually

shrink as its heat was radiated into space, until the outer parts, retaining their original velocity, could no longer cohere, but would be left outside in the form of a gigantic ring. This ring as it further shrank (along its length now), would dissolve into fragments, and these would eventually coalesce into a single planet, the outermost. Then another would be formed in the same way, and another, and yet another, until at last there would be left, in the middle, the great mass which was afterwards to govern that family of worlds. Each planet, at its beginning, being like the original gaseous disc, would go through a similar process of contraction, and form as many bodies subsidiary to itself as its quantity of matter and the conditions under which it had itself been formed would allow. The process would fail in some cases, and so several small planets would be formed instead of one large one, as we see in the case of the asteroids; or, as in the case of Saturn's system, a ring or set of rings (rings of small satellites, as we now know) would form instead of a single large satellite.

Laplace's theory, if we grant its initial assumption, accounts fairly for all the features of the solar system except the singular distribution of the planets into families—the giant planets outside, as if guarding the rest; the terrestrial planets near the sun, as if under his protecting wing; the asteroids or minor planets in the mid space between these families, as if keeping them apart. But, unfortunately, the initial assumption, on which the whole theory depends, is as utterly inadmissible as the theory that Saturn's rings might conceivably be solid. It is almost inconceivable how amazingly impossible that initial assumption is. Few probably know that a solid disc of steel, extending only to the earth's orbit, could not move as a single mass. If the central part of such a disc—say a region as large as the sun's globe—were set rotating as by some mighty hand, the outer parts would not feel the impulse until more than ten months had elapsed. But imagine a disc extending to the orbit of the planet Neptune, thirty times further from the centre than is the earth's path. Imagine, further, such a disc-shaped region of space, not occupied by a mighty mass of the stoutest steel, but by a vaporous mass many thousands of times more tenuous than the air we breathe. It is such a disc that we have to imagine, according to Laplace's theory, rotating as a single mass. No argument is really needed to show that this is absolutely impossible. But it is a truly remarkable circumstance that, while a mathematician like Maxwell Clerk did not hesitate to point out (with perfect justice, be it remarked) that the solid flat rings which Laplace recognized in the Saturnian system, because they seemed to be plainly visible there, would be absolutely plastic under the forces to which they were exposed, astronomers and physicists have been apparently afraid to acknowledge that a vaporous disc such as he only imagined, a disc rarer than the rarest known gas, so vast that the whole Saturnian system would be but as a speck by comparison, and moved by far mightier forces than act on that system, could have no coherence whatever and could not possibly even begin to behave as Laplace's theory required. If the mere mathematician had been thus weak we might not have wondered, for mathematicians often rejoice over problems depending on impossible conditions—perfect rigidity, absolute uniformity, entire absence of friction, and so forth. But physicists and astronomers have usually required conditions more in accordance with the actual workings of nature.—*London Times.*

HERE AND THERE.

Most people thought it had long since been decided to erect the new Ontario Parliament Buildings in Queen's Park, and had the discussion now taking place in the Toronto press not originated with a henchman of Sir John Macdonald's it would probably have been howled down as a device of Mr. Mowat to delay a large expenditure of public money. From the first it has appeared to many disinterested persons that Queen's Park is no proper site for the Provincial House. That demesne has already been too much encroached upon, and as the only central open-air public resort in Toronto is altogether out of proportion to the city's requirements. To call Clarence Square or St. James's Square adjuncts to the Park is simply puerile, and indicates a very contracted view of the purposes for which a public park is calculated—as also is the objection to parks being used as play-grounds. The squares and other open spaces which dot the city are of great value as "lungs"—places of public resort for recreation they are not, any more than is Spadina Avenue or Bloor Street. Whether or not the position suggested by Mr. Smith is adapted for the proposed structure remains to be seen; until expert opinion has been formulated it would be superfluous to surmise; but that it would be a public misfortune to have the new legislative halls in Queen's Park appears clear.

The *Canada Law Journal* has the following: "The pernicious example set some years ago by Vice-Chancellor Mowat in stepping down from the Bench into the arena of party politics has been followed by Judge Thompson, of Nova Scotia, who takes the position of Minister of Justice of the Dominion. For either party after this to refer to the subject would indeed be for the pot to call the kettle black. We presume, therefore, there will be very little said about it. That there is now ample precedent for this descent is a misfortune to the country."

Independent journalism in its steady progress to public favour is being freely kicked by the way. Less could not have been expected. Of course it is the party organs and a few violent politicians who, conscious of the mistake they have made in alienating the sympathies of moderate men by extreme language and rash measures, now seek to belittle the literature forced into existence by their own folly. "Whoso is not with us is against us" protests the partisan, and so the journalist who places Truth above Party and the Public Good before Self-Interest is incontinently attacked on all sides. There is an old saying that a cause must pass through three stages ere it can claim to be successful: first, it is ignored; then it is attacked; finally it is endorsed. Party frenzy shortened the preliminary experience of the Independent Press; it is now undergoing the middle stage. *Fortuna sequatur.*

Unfamiliarity with English affairs has betrayed some of our contemporaries into crediting Lord Randolph Churchill with having originated the project for making Galway a great naval port. The scheme has been mooted scores of times—on several occasions in connection with a proposal for the establishment of a new line of trans-Atlantic steamers. No English Government has of late seen its way to granting a subsidy for such a purpose; and, as Parnellite terrorism has driven capital out of Ireland, besides discouraging English investors, the idea has lapsed for want of support. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that a line of steamers running from Galway to New-York or Point Levis would divert trans-Atlantic trade. The time saved would not nearly compensate for the trouble of transhipment of either goods or passengers.

Apropos of the proposal to make Galway an open port: A line of steamers under contract with Her Majesty's Government was actually run from Galway to New York or Boston in about 1856 to 1861, *via* St. John's, Newfoundland. A company at first supplied chartered boats for the line, one of them being called the *Brazil*, and another the *Prince Albert*, both of them formerly in the service of a company running a steamboat line from an English port to Brazil. The company proposed to build four steamers for the service; one, the *Connaught*, was completed and put upon the route, but was burned at sea. The amount of subsidy received by the company from the Imperial Government cannot now be stated, but they received $28,000 to $30,000 per annum from the Government of Newfoundland. The wharf and premises now occupied at St. John's by the Allan Company is still called "The Galway Wharf," and the agency of the Allan line remains in the hands of Sir Ambrose Shea, who was the agent of the "Galway Company," and from which, as he alleges, he received the property in lieu of certain demands held by him against the company.

The Protectionists of Canada, alarmed at constant secessions from their ranks and at the growth of Free Trade ideas, eagerly seize upon every incident from which they can extract comfort. No sooner had Parnell declared in favour of Protection for Ireland than the Separationist leader became a statesman in the eyes of loyal National Policy men. It might have been more prudent on their part to await the verdict of that portion of Ireland on the new departure which is not only the most intelligent and prosperous but the most loyal and law-abiding. The lazy tag-rag and bob-tail Irish led by Mr. Parnell have everything to gain by the "No-Rent" cry, and fatuously follow any lead which is "agin the Government"; but the prosperous North has not only steadily refused to countenance the Home Rulers, but may be depended upon to take up arms in extremity on behalf of the British Government. The hardy and hard-working Protestant North, who number about two millions out of a whole population of less than five millions, are a unit on this question, nor do they need commercial protection. Honest industry has done for them what it would have done for most parts of Ireland. In Belfast, when making his tour of Ireland, Lord Carnarvon beheld a conclusive refutation of the accuracy of Mr. Parnell's views that a protective tariff is indispensable to the development of Irish industries. We may pass over the linen manufacture, a success in which Belfast is *facile princeps* in the world, because that industry unquestionably received considerable State protection in the last century. But take iron ship-building, of which Belfast is now one of the chief centres in the United Kingdom. This industry has an existence of only a quarter of a century in the Ulster capital; yet, despite the formidable competition of the building-yards of the Clyde and the Mersey, Belfast has been able to construct ocean steamers to the orders of several leading Liverpool steamship companies, besides doing a large Continental and American business in the same line. Belfast is unique among Irish towns. Nearly the equal of Dublin in population, it is much its superior in commercial enterprise. Its broad, handsome thoroughfares, continuously crowded with a busy traffic, its numerous and beautiful public buildings, ecclesiastical, educational, and mercantile, its many factory chimneys, its large docks crowded with home and foreign shipping, combined with the thriving industry, contentment, and passionate loyalty to the throne and the union with Great Britain of its orderly and energetic population, cause the stranger visiting Belfast for the first time to rub his eyes and ask himself in wonder if he can really be in one of the chief towns of the Ireland of whose poverty, discontent and disaffection he has heard so much.

The *Christian Guardian*, speaking of the Irish Land League just formed in Toronto, asks: What possible good can come of raking up penal laws and wrongs to Ireland that are things of the past? One of the speakers is reported to have made a violent speech. He said that in the Irish famine of 1847 "English ships brought grain to British ports, but not a grain to Ireland"; then he went on to refer to "that stupid Yorkshire clown, Buckshot Forster," a remark which brought forth cheers and hisses. In Mr. A. M. Sullivan's book, "New Ireland," we read the following: "Foremost in this blessed work during the famine were the Society of Friends, the English members of that body co-operating with its central committee in Dublin. Among the most active and fearless of their representatives was a young Yorkshire Quaker, whose name, I doubt not, is still

warmly remembered by Connemara peasants. He drove from village to village, he walked bog and moor, rowed the lake and climbed the mountain, fought death, as it were, hand to hand, in brave resolution to save the people. His correspondence from the scene of his labours would constitute in itself a graphic memorial of the Irish famine. That young Yorkshire Quaker of 1847 was destined a quarter of a century later to be known to the Empire as a Minister of the Crown—the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P." This is certainly a grateful tribute, and one worthy of the favourable notice of the young Irishmen of to-day.

A HANDFUL of Irish diamonds: The other Sunday Mr. Kenny, M.P., "advised the people to moderation, *till at least such times as they had settled the land question*"; Mr. Mayne, M.P., advised that the grabber and his family should be ostracised, while everyone who passed him on the road should make the sign of the cross! Mr. Lalor, M.P., proved to his own complete satisfaction that taking a vacant farm was an offence in the Divine eyes, and further remarked that he would not sell the person who would do such a thing a loaf of bread, or a pound of tea, or a quart of milk, nor would he haul his cow out of a ditch! A Catholic curate at the same meeting announced that "land-grabbers should be deprived completely of all that was dear and valued in life"; and, finally, Mr. Biggar, M.P., thought that branch boycotting should yield to individual action. Select Sunday sermons for the poor, ignorant peasantry of Ireland!

AN American correspondent of the London *Times* has drawn a picture of popular education in the United States which is anything but flattering to his fellow-countrymen. Education in America, he states, is almost exclusively confined to "bread studies." The great standard set up is that of immediate utility. The farm boy goes to the district school to learn to write, spell, and cipher, because he looks forward to leaving the farm, entering on city life, and making money. Logarithms will not bring dollars, and Greek is not quoted in the market. The astonishing statement is made that the lawyers, doctors and ministers of religion, who continue their culture after they have embarked upon a professional career, or who even open a classical book, are very few indeed, and that the single weekly paper which American scholarship has developed, and which embraces in its staff of contributors nearly every specialist in the entire country, has only eight thousand readers out of forty millions of people. Every one of his fellow-countrymen, continues the critic, can read, but scarcely any one knows what to read. With all respect for the correspondent's opinion, one is loth to believe that the standard of culture in the United States is so very low as he makes it out to be. The American student is, no doubt, largely utilitarian. He may look at everything with an eye to business. But he must certainly read after he leaves school or college, else how can it be explained that the best English literature—not to mention that produced at home—finds a ready and extensive sale in America, as British authors know to their cost, not only in pirated cheap editions, but in handsome and costly form? And are not American scholars taking a foremost place amongst the *savans* of Europe? America is yet but a young country; her civilization is not yet matured, because she has been so much occupied in wrestling with the forces of nature. But in Longfellow and Whittier she has sent her singers over the earth; while the selection of Lowell and Motley, and Bayard Taylor, and in earlier days Benjamin Franklin, for diplomatic employment in Europe, does not strengthen the theory of a national disbelief throughout the United States in the value of high culture and intelligence.

SOMETHING worse than opium or chloral is reported in the New York Medical Society. The *American*, remarking upon this, says that several city physicians found out that a few persons were using hyoscine to produce a sort of intoxication that resulted in profound slumber. The drug is a hydrobromate, and has to a limited extent been used in medicine in lieu of atrophine for relief in epilepsy and other diseases of the nerves. The doses must be infinitesimal in order not to be dangerous, and the peril of self-dosing lies in the liability to kill by careless swallowing or hypodermically injecting too much. Hard drinkers employed it to force sleep, and very nervous persons drove off insomnia with it. In order to test its effects it has been systematically administered to thirty-six insane patients in the State hospital for the insane by Drs. Langdon and Peterson, who say that the effects prove the very great danger of hyoscine eating. They found that it would indeed compel sleep in most cases, but that its habitual use would surely bring muscular paralysis and delirium of a particularly violent sort.

THE pending election of a Governor for the State of New York promises to cause as much mud-flinging as resulted from the Presidential contest. The "Mugwump" papers have again fallen into party line, and emulate their opponents in unearthing "records." In this connection the *Springfield Republican* says: "The effort is being made on both sides in New York to drag the campaign down to a very low level of personality. Gov. Hill has been bitterly assailed for relations with Tweed, which prove nothing conclusive against him, and Mr. Davenport's career as controller is being hunted with a fine tooth-comb. The fact that he is president of the Pleasant Valley Wine Company is also supposed to have an immediate bearing on his fitness for Governor. There was no occasion for this rain of mud, as both men stood above personal reproach when nominated."

MR. GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA has raised the ire of Brother Jonathan by asserting that American pie is on the decline—or, to be literal, that it has "retrograded." This is declared to be a flagrantly bad case of intelligent foreigner. "The unassailable fact is," says the New York *Tribune*, "that the contemporaneous Yankee pie is better than the pie made by the forefathers—meaning the foremothers. The pie of the past was not entirely satisfactory. It provoked many a jeer and sneer. Its fault was its crust. The scientific cook of to-day has changed all that. It may be affirmed without fear of contradiction from any trained palate that in no one thing have our countrywomen made such a decided advance during the last decade or two as in pie, that is, in pie-crust—for anybody can compound the filling that goes between the crusts. The pie of the Revolution, the pie of the War of 1812, the pie of the Rebellion was, as a rule, more agreeable in the abstinence than in the consumption; the crust was judged to be fatal. But since our last war an impetus has been given to the arts of peace, cooking schools have sprung up all over the land; there has been a large production and general diffusion of cookery books, and as one wholesome result the standard of pie-crust has been sensibly raised. People frequently eat pie-crust nowadays, even at railroad stations, and live. The pies of this living present may be said, in the language of the poet, to have risen on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things—to crusts more skilfully compounded and better baked."

CREMATION is now being urgently recommended in the United States on the score of economy. The New York *Citizen* says: A new company, which is to have its furnaces at Mt. Olivet, Long Island, offers to incinerate bodies for $25 each. The only other expenses will be for the urn to hold the ashes, and for the carriages in which the family and friends attend the funeral, or furnacing, or whatever the ceremony may be called. The cost of coffin, burial plot and tombstone will be saved. The undertakers will not oppose the cremation company when they understand that their services will be required in transporting the bodies, and they can make a profit upon urns as they now do upon coffins. One result of the cremation plan, if it becomes popular and successful, is that vast tracts of land now set aside as cemeteries will in course of time be available for building sites.

AT a Convention of Baptist ministers in New York, the Rev. Dr. R. B. Montgomery said that all true ministers were in favour of Prohibition, but he held that the Church should keep itself beyond a political atmosphere. "I believe," he added, "that Prohibition is made an instrument of political ambition, and that there are men in the Prohibition party to-day to whom Prohibition is a secondary matter; men who are office-seekers, who are trying to use temperance principles for their own personal ends. I, for my part, will never be a political Prohibitionist."

IN the *Contemporary* there is a diary of Mr. Gladstone's trip to Norway in Mr. Brassey's yacht the *Sunbeam*, by Lady Brassey, who was one of the party. She tells us that Mr. Gladstone went one day on an excursion of ten hours, including a walk of eighteen miles, and that at dinner in the evening he was in the highest spirits, and was discussing all subjects, grave and gay, with the greatest animation. There is life, then, in the G. O. M. yet. Lady Brassey also gives a striking account of the extraordinary enthusiasm with which Mr. Gladstone was everywhere received, even in out-of-the-way places, by the Norwegian population. The people thronged to meet him when he landed, paid him every mark of respect, strewed flowers in his path, illuminated their streets in his honour. Evidently he is "The People's William" not in England alone.

NEXT year the Queen will have reigned fifty years. There is an almost unanimous feeling in England that "something" ought to be done towards preparing for her jubilee; but, as one writer says, "nobody knows how to begin." The precedent afforded by the forms of rejoicing adopted in George III.'s reign are scarcely applicable to Her Majesty's case. Besides there is a feeling that something far more transcendental should be attempted, and consequently there is a loud cry for original and lofty ideas. In so "loyal" a colony as Canada of course the celebration will be fittingly observed; the details may be left to those whose breasts are adorned by decorations bestowed by the Court of St. James. But seriously, though Her Majesty may not have been an ideal Queen, or a brilliant genius, she has dared to pose as a champion of the proprieties, and in her downright refusal to wink at the abuses of aristocratic libertines has done more for social England than is generally suspected. Anything more than a constitutional figure-head Queen Victoria has not been; but as a woman who from childhood has lived in full view of the public gaze, and who after a reign of half-a-century is still regarded as an embodiment of domestic virtue, she fully merits what she will undoubtedly be accorded at the Jubilee: the hearty congratulations of her people.

VEGETARIAN restaurants are becoming popular in London. Half-a-dozen years ago such resorts were almost unknown; to-day, there are at least a dozen of them, if not more, in the Metropolis. There is no evidence that they are supported solely or even principally by professed vegetarians; nor can it be for economical reasons that they have been patronized, for in London a "dinner of herbs" costs almost as much as a meat dinner. Is it possible that even the busy Londoner has at last awakened to the fact that the average man eats too much flesh meat? The multiplication of journals may, indeed, have spread that truth abroad. Be that as it may, "ten years ago it was difficult," says an English authority, "to find an avowed vegetarian. Now more than two thousand persons refresh themselves daily at vegetarian restaurants in the City of London."

Look on this picture and on this. Lord Salisbury out of office: Russia is a bankrupt liar, and it is England's manifest duty to oppose her barbaric march to the Bosphorus and to India. Lord Salisbury as Premier: We practically endorse the policy of our predecessors on the Afghan question, and it is none of our affair whether Bulgaria obtains autonomy or not. Mem.: the partition of Bulgaria was the one point upon which Lord Salisbury and his chief, Earl Beaconsfield, sternly insisted at the Berlin meeting—the gaining of which meant "peace with honour." As Russia, in the San Stefano treaty, proposed a union of the Bulgarias, it is natural to suppose that the present shuffle of the cards meets with her actual if undeclared approval.

The very pith and marrow of Lord Beaconsfield's triumph at Berlin was the division of Bulgaria. On other matters he was lenient. He gave back the Dobruschka to Russia. He ceded to her Batoum. He showed the utmost conciliation on every other point. But the Balkans must belong to Turkey. And now that most inconsiderate Prince Alexander has blown the diplomatic house of cards to smithereens! In restoring to that extent the San Stefano treaty he has reduced Lord Salisbury's foreign policy to bankruptcy and the Primrose League to ridicule. Toryism has been living on the Berlin Congress for the last seven years; what will it do now that the work there done is undone by a petty prince, and its only surviving author is unequal to the task of rehabilitating his party?

The ladies who wear Turkish trousers and call them divided skirts are still preaching in pamphlets the rationalism of a reform in dress. They do not seem to make much headway. In England few, and in America fewer, ladies care to wear the substitute for petticoats offered to them. But those who do are ecstatic in praise of it. One lady has found it agreeable in climbing a mountain. But she has been beaten by a bolder reformer, who appeared simply in knickerbockers. Another lady has found that she can ride astride instead of on a side-saddle, and thinks that an advantage. But somehow or other, though we are assured the change of dress cannot be seen, it is not yet by any means popular; and it is likely to come into general use about the same time as "fonetik speling."

The cold snap that has come upon us, as the precursor of what the weather-wise are predicting will be a severe winter, gives a point that could hardly have been anticipated by the disputants to a controversy which has broken out seasonably in the columns of a London contemporary. What should we wear as a protection against chills, and how should we wear it? The winter overcoat has its recognised advantages. But when a moderately robust man has walked briskly even for a mile under the burden of a heavy overcoat he is apt to get overheated, and if he should be obliged to stop at a windy street corner, or if he should suddenly throw off his coat in a cold room or office, he is not unlikely to contract a violent catarrh. Reflections of this sort have suggested to some correspondents the expediency of using furs, which are lighter than heavy cloth and at the same time warmer. But then, on the other hand, furs are objectionable because the skin on which the fur rests has ceased to be porous and offers no natural method of ventilation. To get over this difficulty the suggestion is made that the skin or fur should be perforated or punctured. Some who profess to know all about furs complain that even this simple device is by no means effective. Wool fibres are therefore recommended, and we are told that a man clad from head to foot in wools is almost proof against all the ills that flesh is heir to. It is hardly our province to pronounce an opinion on matters which every reader doubtless feels himself competent to decide in his own interest. But the subject possesses many points of interest.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SOME SAPLING TRUTHS IN AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor of The Week:

Sir,—The use of a Ruskinism in the above title will serve to guide a few thoughts as applicable to these times; and it should be remembered that quite a number of farmers read The Week. New facts, or "Sapling Truths," have been so plentiful of late in Canada that the chronicler must be cautious. One of the biggest is, that the nicety of the soil is not of primary account in the production of crops. Old Ontario, once virgin fat, is smiling at the Great North-West that is claiming an exhaustless youth. To-day, neither can boast of soil influence in comparison with other agencies, and neither know well enough why it is so. It is because men have done well without brain-work that they now stumble when asked to use some of it as a fertilizer. Consider a moment: In fresh Ontario there were just as many crop disappointments in comparison to interests involved, but the average results were over-abundant; land was unlimited, barns burst eight years in ten, while cattle fed unpurposely—as unliken to 1885. Soil is not master now, if master then. We say it was master then for the simple reason that men knew no better, or at any rate did not care to know better. It is foolish, however, to blame them for what we call impoverished land, for none but a fool would have taken the chemist or botanist into partnership when Nature's wealth overran; indeed, it is but honest to add that the present day, under like circumstances, needs neither of the co-partners named.

A very recent truth, one indeed just shining through the efforts of a few, not yet by any means clear to many, is that Special Fertilizers are non-essential agricultural agents. Most farmers say so unknown to themselves by the very non-use of the materials. We speak more especially of the American climatic conditions, and not European. There is unmistakably a stimulating recuperative power in some climates that, along with sound, systematic cultivation, very largely disposes of specially prepared manures.

These agricultural times are in the balance a sapling truth of immense graveness here and everywhere else. The cry yesterday from Scotland was: "The state of things is positively distressing"—"things are desperate"—"the gravity of the crisis"—"ruined"—"bad laws, bad landlords, bad seasons." See *Bell's Weekly Messenger* of 21st September. These few words from the letter of a clergyman as applicable to the best county in Scotland are surely something or nothing; if nothing, we desire to know it; if true, we particularly wish the facts. The present is or is not a harvest-time for British Colonies and immigration. There should be no uncertain sound from Canada to the Mother Lands, and particularly that we have been invited, next year, to illustrate our agriculture there. The display should be none other than "magnificent."

"In the balance" with us means a waiting, and not a pending crisis as in England. No times of want can possibly take place in Canada, barring a revolution in some essential features of Nature. This can always be said of Ontario as against any other section of the American continent, and we hear too little of it from our European agents.

The class of farming in the ascendant with us to-day is not easily named. Are we becoming patriarchs, as in great areas of the United States, or do we still believe in grain? Will grass ever overrule our arable surface for the butcher or the dairy? Hence, all over the agricultural field the asking for more light. The other day the British press gave warm praise to the Ontario Experimental Farm for a recent report on experimental work, dairying especially, at the same time wishing much for similar energy. Similar energy is not now needed in the good old land where any touch of a silver lining is eagerly looked for amongst farmers. More light certainly—a new country, good cheap land, health and *independence.*

I have been tempted into these notes for the love I hold to my two countries and my profession. Canadian agricultural practices are broadening. There is now the keen eye upon the work of other nations; and men who formerly could not be drawn ten miles from home are actually, in many cases, leaders of what may be called "fast farming." In live stock our people are delightfully progressive—just with a shade of caution to distinguish them from the men of the South.

And is it not a sapling truth of the brightest character that our farmers are determined to educate? With but one public enemy to their Agricultural College there is not one of themselves who has learned for himself what is being done there and does not acknowledge that the Institution is sound at bottom; he does see some desirable improvements, just as always crop up in any other progressive business; and allow me to tell the Ontario farmers, through your columns, that the day they hear of no objections to their Agricultural College and Experimental Farm they may look for that rottenness which croakers and disappointed office-seekers like to keep warming.

Guelph, 5th October, 1885. Wm. Brown.

OPEN SPACES FOR TORONTO.

To the Editor of The Week:

Sir,—Has the best been made of the natural advantages of Toronto? Is its future as an attractive place of residence secure? It is my experience of Manchester, England, which induces me to raise these questions, for there considerable natural gifts have been flung away, with the result that we have a large and wealthy city which should command every residential advantage that man can desire, but where no one willingly lives who can afford to live elsewhere.

And now, why should I speak of Toronto in such a connection? My reason is that I see signs of indifference on the part of her citizens to the preservation, for the health and recreation of the people, of portions of the city area which should, at the earliest opportunity, have been redeemed from private ownership. Here, as in England, people seem to have looked upon the growth of the town too much as a blind force which could neither be controlled nor guided. How is it from the mouth of the Don to the furthest point of Parkdale so very little of lake frontage has been reserved for public recreation? Surely here a splendid gift of nature has been despised. Again, how is it that the beautiful wooded valley called Rosedale should have been allowed to fall into the hands of a private company which can offer no sufficient guarantees for the maintenance of its natural features? Once more, I am shown a considerable piece of ground, near the University, now being rapidly covered with buildings, and am told that it was formerly the favourite cricket-ground. I hear nothing of any compensation for the dispossessed cricketers; and perhaps it is for this reason that the Toronto boys make playthings of young trees planted in the streets. I say these things make me doubt whether the people of Toronto have as yet fully considered what is the essential condition which must be fulfilled by any city which aspires to be permanently attractive as a residence, and to create in its inhabitants the invaluable sentiment of loyal attachment to which cities have, in past times, owed all their noblest institutions and most honourable traditions. That condition seems to me to be that, next to the vital points of lighting, drainage and water-supply, the securing of open spaces, easily accessible, for the benefit of all classes should be held to be of the highest importance. The inhabitants of towns want spaces to sit out in—spaces to play in—spaces to take a walk in—and for those of them who are too young, too weakly, or too busy to go long distances, a certain reasonable provision of this kind should be made not at the furthest extremities but in the centre of the city. This can only be well done when done early in the period of a city's growth, for then large tracts of land can be acquired by the corporation, the re-sale of which, as the town extends, can be made to pay for the laying-out and maintenance of all the reserved spaces. I am afraid it is already too late to make the best of Toronto, but there should yet be ample time to secure much that is well worth preserving.

I could go on to illustrate what I have been saying from the experience of Manchester, but I must not trespass further upon your patience. I shall be satisfied if anything I have said attracts the attention of some amongst your citizens who care most for the public welfare. Their public spirit is attested by the unusual number of philanthropic institutions which we see on all sides here. They have laid some heavy loads upon the soil in the service of humanity, and no doubt they have worked to good purpose; but I submit that the time has come when public spirit should rather incline them to try how much of the area of the city they can rescue from the ever flowing tide of bricks and mortar.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Englishman.

Queen's Hotel, Toronto.

VACCINATION.

To the Editor of The Week:

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Toronto Homœopathic Medical Society, held October 9th, among other subjects the question of "Vaccination as a preventative against Small-pox" came up for discussion. The majority of the members were strongly in favour of the ordinary method of introducing the virus directly into the blood; but also advocated experimentation as to other methods of vaccination. The following was then moved, seconded and carried: "That this Society, while deploring the prevalence of small-pox in Montreal, in epidemic form, owing to non-vaccination, claim that vaccine virus introduced into the system, either by vaccination as ordinarily practised or otherwise, is clear proof of Homœopathic law." R. Hearn, M.D., *Secretary.*

Toronto, October 10th.

THE PERIODICALS.

THE *Andover Review* has issued an excellent number for October. Most of the papers are vigorous, evidencing careful preparation; they are stimulating and suggestive. Professor Torrey gives the first of a series of articles on "The Théodicée of Leibnitz," Hamilton Andrews Hill discusses "The New England Company," Dr. Burrows writes on "Commerce, Civilization and Christianity in their Relations to Each Other," and Dr. Stuchenberg presents "A General View of the Religious Condition of Germany." The customary departments are fully up to the high standard maintained by the *Andover.*

A TITLE and index accompany Part II. of Vol. XII. (October) of *St. Nicholas*—complement to nine hundred and sixty pages of beautifully illustrated song and story and sketch which together make the most delightful gift-book imaginable for young folk. Lavish as has been the display of high-class pen and pencil-work during the past, we are assured of even more and better in the forthcoming issues. A "preliminary announcement" includes the following amongst other names of intending contributors: W. D. Howells, Frank R. Stockton, Mrs. Burnett, Horace C. Scudder, Miss L. M. Alcott, J. T. Trowbridge, James Otis, Miss Rose Kingsley, and John Preston True, and a sketch by the late Mrs. Jackson (H.H.)

RAGS, it is alleged, by a writer in the *Sanitarian,* are "a national and international danger," having been the media of disease in numerous instances. The facts and arguments advanced to establish this are commended to the careful attention of the Canadian health authorities. The necessity of pure bovine virus for inoculation as a preventive of small-pox is ably maintained by Dr. Parker, of the U. S. Marine Hospital Service. Useful hints on railway sanitation are thrown out in another paper, and there are also articles on the treatment of consumption, on the malaria of Tre Fontaine, some "Cholera Reminiscences," and a reprint of Sir Henry Thompson's thoughtful essay on "Diet in Relation to Age and Activity."

ADMIRERS of the *Art Union* will learn with pleasure that in future it is to be published monthly. The proprietors are convinced that the public has recognized a *raison d'être* for a magazine which represents the interests of American Art, and ask for a measure of encouragement which will scarcely be denied to a publication having already done so much and so well. The September issue has specimens of the work of Percy Moran, Joseph Lauber, A. B. Schultz, Chas. M. Kurtz, and several members of the Water Colour Society.

Outing for October contains a number of papers of more than usual interest, and is one of the best issues, in point of illustration, that has appeared. The leading article is a charming description of a delightful resort of artists in Brittany, and is fully illustrated. The first instalment of the second series of Thomas Stevens' "Around the World on a Bicycle" graphically describes his journey from America to the German Frontier. "A Rose Leaf," illustrated, is a tragic poem by Mrs. Helen Jackson (H.H.), supposed to be her last; there is also a very interesting paper by Sylvester Baxter on the "Elements of Nature in Mrs. Jackson's Works." Thomas Pettitt, the world's Tennis Champion, presents some of the personal characteristics of foreign tennis celebrities in a well written article on "Some English Tennis Players." The Forestry question as it relates to the Adirondacks is touched upon by S. R. Stoddard in "The Head Waters of the Hudson."

THANKS to the indomitable energy of its publishers and editor, the *Brooklyn Magazine* has, in a phenomenally short time, taken prominent place amongst the magazine literature of America. The October number is to hand in new and tasteful dress, and contains a number of papers, fiction and prose adapted to varied tastes. The notable contribution is entitled "Has America Need of a Westminster Abbey?" to the discussion of which question many men of light and leading have come.

THE *Library Magazine,* the October number of which is to hand, occupies a distinctive place in periodical literature. Its aim is to present in an attractive form, and at a very moderate cost, the most valuable parts of the current foreign periodical writings of the day, with such original American papers as may be required to keep its readers abreast of our home thought. The plan of the magazine excludes fiction, but includes every other form of literature.

THE contents of the September *Fortnightly* proved so attractive that copious extracts and much comment have already appeared in the press, leaving little to add on receipt of Messrs. Leonard Scott's reprint. The *répertoire* includes ten papers besides the editorials.

ENTITLED "A Brave Life," there is a most interesting account in the *Overland* of Mary Brown, who was a helpmeet indeed to the Liberationist martyr. An ideal free library is described in another paper, and C. T. Hopkins contributes some "Thoughts Towards Revising the Federal Constitution." Other principal papers are: "Juan Bantista Alvarado," "The Great Lama Temple, Peking," "The Rancheria Affairs," "Youth and Education of Napoleon Bonaparte," and "Rough Notes of a Yosemite Camping Trip."

THE Chicago *Literary Life* continues to improve month by month. The conductors have a significant advantage in that their magazine is unique in conception, being evidently an attempt to adjust a high-class publication to the circumstances of every-day life in a high-pressure age. The papers are full of literary interest, of snap and are (most wisely) short. How so much can be sold for so little (*Literary Life* is only 10c.) is astounding.

THE most striking feature of the *Magazine of American History* for October is General Grant's autograph letter in fac-simile, covering six pages. It was written in 1883, on the death of Alexander H. Stephens, and is now published for the first time. It was addressed to Rev. Henry Whitney Cleveland, formerly a Colonel in the Confederate service, who contributes, with the letter, an intensely interesting paper on "General Grant's Military Abilities," arguing that the South underrated General Grant from the first, and that both the North and the South underrate his generalship even now.

THE *University,* a Chicago literary journal under whose name is to be recognized the old *Weekly Magazine* of that city, whose consolidation with the *Fortnightly Index* under the new name was announced last June, continues to improve both in outward appearance and in quality of matter.

NEXT year being the centenary of the publication of Burns' "Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Dialect," Mr. Elliot Stock, of London, will issue a fac-simile of the work.

PROF. THOROLD ROGERS, M.P., has made a very important discovery while pursuing his investigations at Cambridge for additional volumes of his work on the "History of Prices." This is a set of accounts kept at King's College during a hundred and twenty years, with the exception of one year, beginning with the year 1583. There is information accessible with regard to the missing year, so that the series of accounts is practically complete for the entire period. In addition to the facts furnished as to prices, these accounts contain many curious details illustrative of social life in olden days.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE HISTORY OF THE NORTH-WEST REBELLION OF 1885. By Charles Pelham Mulvaney, M.D. Illustrated. Toronto: A. H. Hovey and Company.

For an author to be struck down in the middle of his work is commonly disastrous to that work. Dr. Mulvaney, however, had the assistance of a "well-known journalist," and as his sketch of the North-West *émeute* was merely a *réchauffé* of newspaper reports it has not suffered from his untimely death. Founded upon such data, the "History" is naturally not free from inaccuracies and inconsequent conclusions, and bears traces of haste as well as of literary slovenliness. It has not risen above its authorities, which were flavoured to suit the palates of readers in one political camp or the other. Moreover, an exaggerated idea of the rebellion is taken, which, coupled with the perfervid language used in describing leading events, must have caused many a volunteer to repeat the oft-raised prayer: "Save me from my friends." To constantly write of participants in arduous marches or light skirmishes as "heroes" and to describe the half-armed rebels as "a foe as brave, as adroit and as experienced in the hardships, perils and horrors of frontier warfare as can be found under the sun," may pass muster as the coin of the penny-a-liner but in the mouth of a historian it is absurd, and only renders both him and those he apotheosizes ridiculous. The "illustrations" do not certainly err on the side of flattery, or of over-elaborateness. They ought not to have been inserted. Apart from these blemishes the joint authors seem to have attempted impartiality, and, as the only extended account of the rebellion yet published in volume form, the book is of undoubted value.

THE INGOLDSBY LEGENDS. From the Edinburgh Edition. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company.

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LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE author of the "Buntling Ball," whose name has not yet been announced, is preparing for early publication "an opera without music," entitled "The New King Arthur." It promises to be something quite novel in the literary world. The publishers (Funk and Wagnalls, New York) promise the book by November 1st.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND COMPANY have published a handy annotated edition of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" in their "Select Plays" series. It is edited by Mr. W. Aldis Wright, whose preface and copious notes must prove of the greatest value to students and others desirous of making an analytical survey of the play.

THE volume of James Russell Lowell's poems—the duodecimo edition of 1869—from which Thomas Hughes reads his selections in his lectures, was a present from the author, and is well-thumbed and worn. The fly-leaf bears the lines in Mr. Lowell's hand, "To Thomas Hughes, with all possible everything, from the author."

WE hear that Messrs. Wyman will publish immediately a new work which will contain some curious stories of modern theatrical life. The author, a well-known London actor, has come forward to tell the truth about the stage. The title of the book is at present a secret, but we are told that many of the "revelations" about the theatrical profession will be somewhat startling.—*Society.*

"CANADA FIRST," which was discontinued two years ago, after having run eighteen months, is now revived. As before it is published in Montreal, with the following as its platform: "The National Policy, the backbone of the country, that builds up our manufactories and gives employment to our people. No Government assistance to immigrants to fill up our prisons and poor-houses, and take the bread out of the mouths of our underpaid workingmen. Canadian interests above all other interests."

REV. H. R. HAWEIS will spend part of this autumn and winter in Canada and the United States. He will deliver two sermons at Cornell University. He will then, between October 18th and the end of the month, visit Canon Ellegood at Montreal; and he intends to lecture at Montreal and Quebec previous to his departure for Boston and Philadelphia, where he will deliver six lectures on "Music and Morals." On December 8th he will deliver a discourse before the Nineteenth Century Club, New York, and about December 17th he will return to England.

"ORGANIC SCIENTIFIC PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENTIFIC THEISM" is the title of a work by Francis E. Abbot, Ph.D., in press, and soon to be issued by Little, Brown and Company, Boston. This volume, we understand, had its origin in two articles, published in 1864 in the *North American Review,* on "The Philosophy of Space and Time" and "The Conditioned and Unconditioned," and in the lecture given last summer before the Concord School of Philosophy on the question, "Is Pantheism the Legitimate Outcome of Modern Science?" The object of the work is to show the revolutionary influence of modern science on modern philosophy and the logical results in the sphere of religious belief.—*Index.*

AN article that will gratify almost universal curiosity is promised in the November *Harper's*—"The New York Stock Exchange." It will present a sketch of the growth of the Exchange from its organization by twenty-four brokers, who met under a buttonwood-tree in Wall Street in 1792, to its present membership of eleven hundred, with a building worth $1,800,000. The writer, Dr. R. Wheatley, describes at length the organization of the Exchange, explains its legitimate business function, and sets forth plainly how its facilities are sometimes made use of to fleece the public; tells the story of one of Jay Gould's great manipulations of the market, and gives the slang of the street—a portion which is in itself an interesting contribution to the curiosities of language.

THE *Princeton Review* is to be revived as the *New Princeton Review.* William M. Sloane, Princeton's Professor of History, will edit it. The new review is to resemble it lamented namesake in dignity but not in dulness. Topics of the day are to be discussed in a philosophical yet readable way, while tedious and solemn disquisitions will be tabooed. Leaving to others the discussion of strictly theological questions, the new review will ye strive as a principal aim to promote morality and religion. It will be sought to record and emphasize what is best in American nationality, politics and institutions. A new and important feature will be an editorial department in which the world's work will be summarized and criticised as fully as may be possible within the limits of a score of articles a page or more in length. The first number of the new review will appear on January 1st

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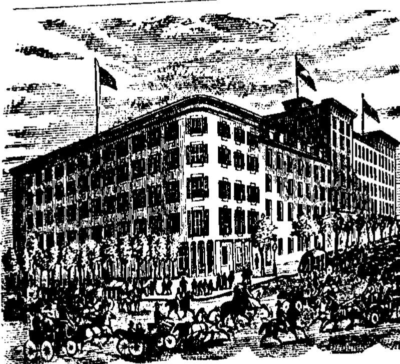

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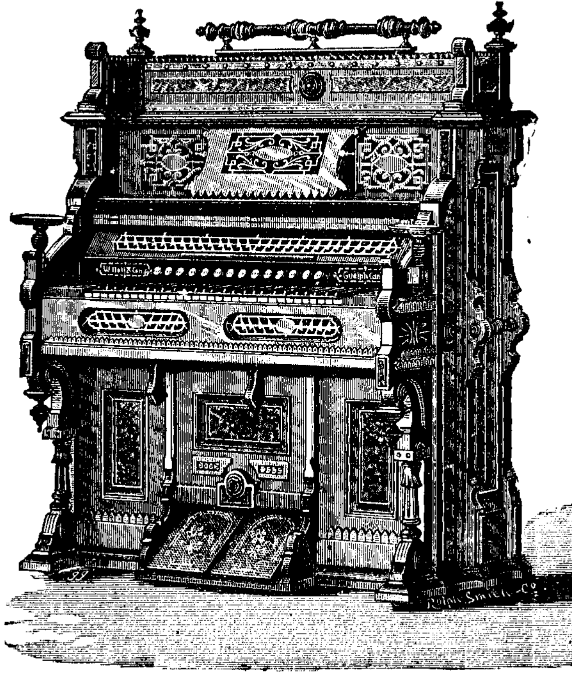

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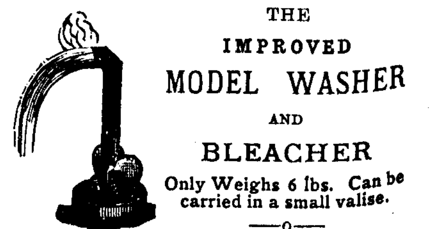

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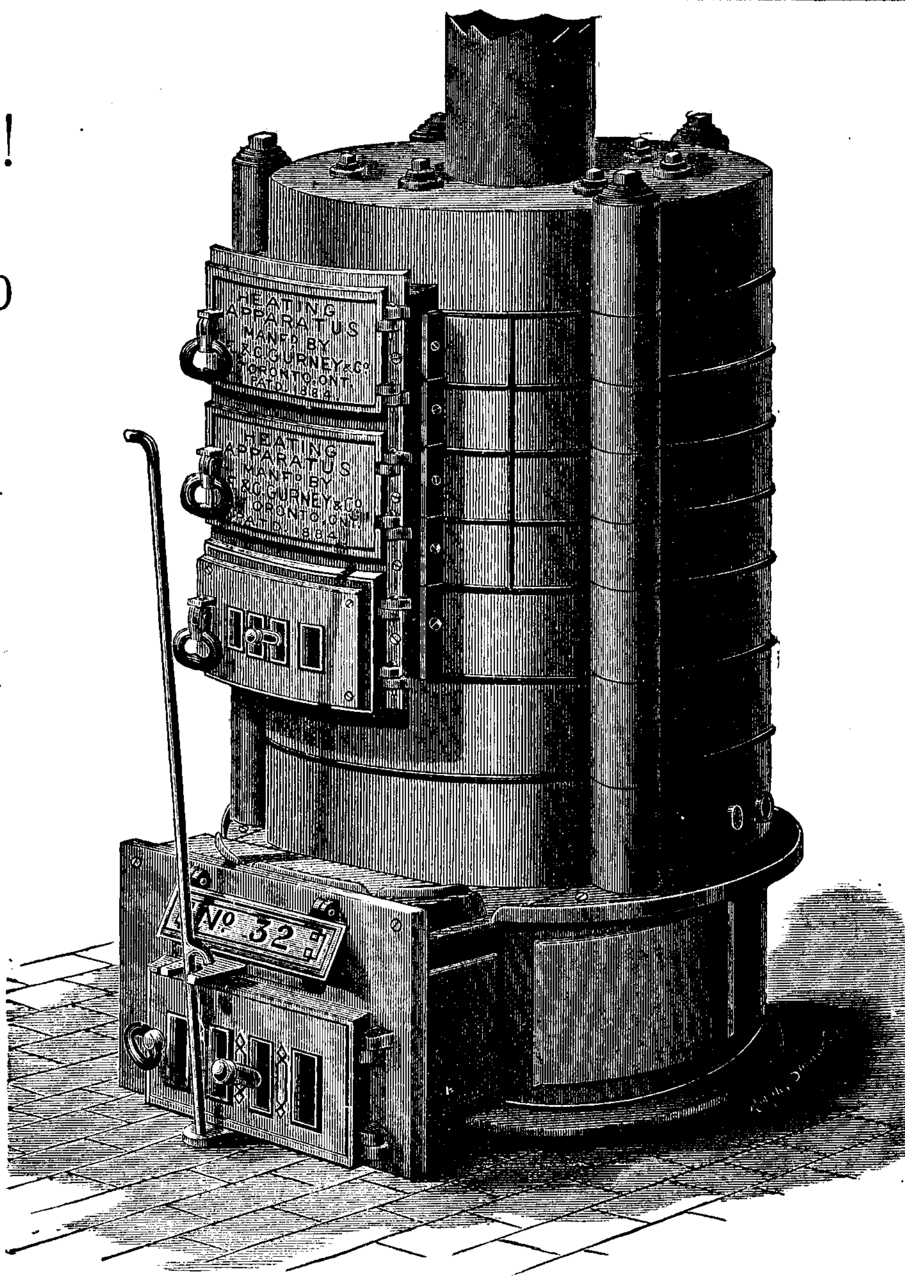

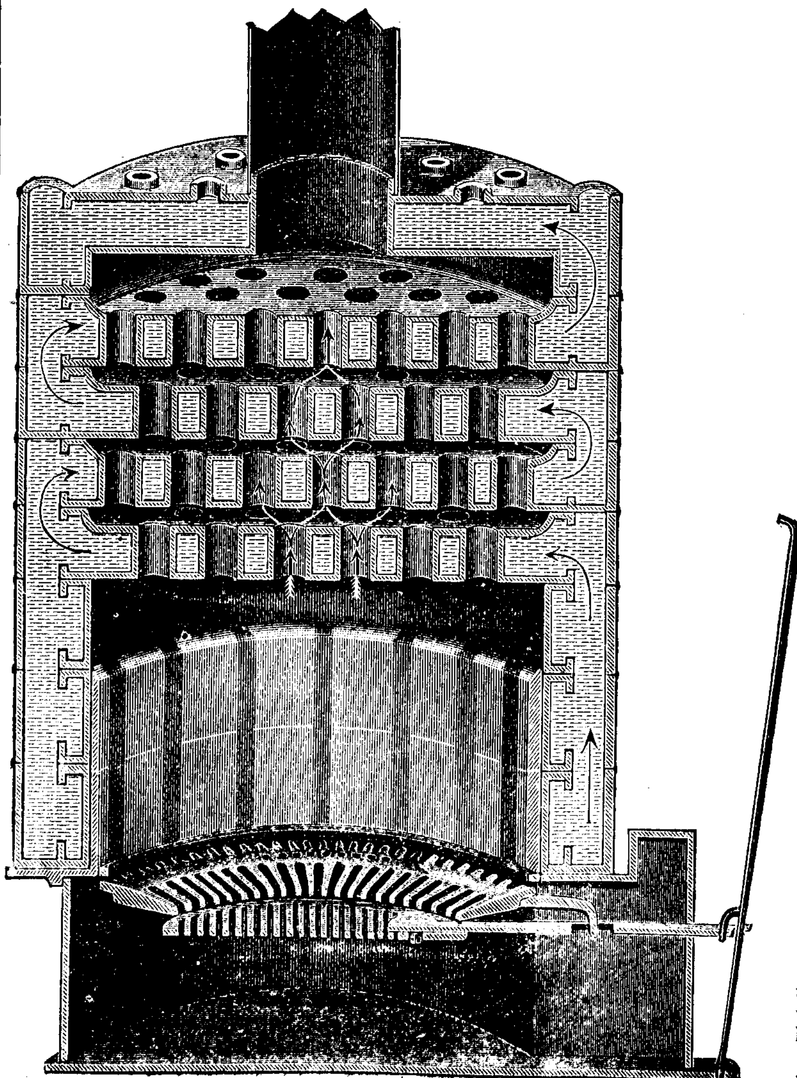

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