

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

DECEMBER 31, 1883.

1883.

We will begin our review of the political events of the past year, with the affairs of the

CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

There, France has the first claim to our attention. During the year her political history has been greatly affected by the death of two prominent men. Gambetta the great Republican Statesman, died a few hours before the year 1883 began, and in the month of August in the town of Frohsdorf the Comte de Chambord or Henri V, as his adherents called him, passed away, a King who had never reigned. The Count's death has had a similar effect to that of the young Prince Imperial, namely: to efface practically one political party from France. Legitimists and Bonapartists are now quite out of the running. M Jules Ferry, about the month of October, completely broke with the extreme radicals, and called upon the country to rally to his support against them. The monarchial party is now headed by the Comte de Paris, who desires only to be a constitutional King, receiving his crown from the hands of the people. Between the moderate republic of M. Ferry and the limited monarchy projected by the Grandson of Louis Philippe, the difference is very slight. So we may hope that at last after a century of unrest France has made up her mind as to the sort of Government that will content her. But even if this is so, it is doubtful whether she has yet made up her mind as to the sort of Governors she desires, for M. Ferry's is the third administration that France has enjoyed during the past year, Duclere having resigned in January and de Falliere's Ministry having lasted little over a month.

The example of Great Britain shows that a Limited Monarchy can be very aggressive in other countries; the example of France shows that a Republic can be equally meddlesome. The Republic has two little wars on her hands, one in Madagascar, and one in Tonquin. The difficulties in the former place became specially interesting to Englishmen on account of the imprisonment of Mr. Shaw, the Missionary, for whose ill treatment by Admiral Pierre, the French Government honorably apologized and paid damage. Some French successes have been won in Madagascar, but the work there is still unfinished. In Tonquin there is a much more serious difficulty in hand, and although when one of the civilized countries of the West enters upon a conflict with a semi-civilized Oriental State, conquest by the Western armies is a question only of time and money; yet the finances of France are so embarrassed, and the country itself so unsettled, that the final result is doubtful. Then, further, during the twenty years since France had her last war with China, the latter country has greatly improved both the material and the discipline of her army. So that France has not an easy task before her. The destruction in the summer time of Riviere and his forces, showed the French that they had undertaken a serious job, and the very last accounts tell us that after three days hard fighting, the villages around Sontay had been taken by the French; though the citadel was still untouched.

The Czar of Russia managed to get himself crowned in spite of the Nihilists. The ceremonies were of a most imposing kind, and called forth genuine manifestations of the loyalty which is no doubt a real feeling in the hearts of the great mass of the Russian people. But unless by judicious reforms, removing the well-grounded causes of complaint which the Russians have, the Czar proves himself worthy of the great loyalty his people feel, that loyalty will soon and justly be lost to himself and his dynasty. On the whole the year has not been a bright one for Russia, and the New Year opens on an empire vast, ill-organized, discontented and almost bankrupt.

On the banks of the storied Rhine, surrounded by princes, statesmen, and people of Fatherland, the aged German Emperor unveiled a colossal statue erected to commemorate the re-establishment of German Unity which it has been his work to effect. It was a striking scene, and it represented an accomplished fact of which the German Emperor and people may well be proud. No other event of great importance has marked the course of the year for Germany, although it is evident that Bismarck has drawn the bonds of friendship closer between Germany and most countries of Europe except France. The triple alliance, the visit of the King of Spain to the Emperor, and the Crown Prince's visits to Spain and Italy, the relaxation of some of the most offensive laws against religious liberty, and the cordial greeting which the Pope gave the Crown Prince in Rome, all tend to strengthen the position of Germany. Those of the German people who admire Luther, manifested on the return of the fourth century of his birth, an enthusiasm about his memory, which the other portion who do not admire him, viewed with wonder if not with amusement.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In the British Islands, unhappy Ireland has claimed, and does claim, chief and painful attention. But on the whole, the cause of law and order has advanced in that unfortunate country.

At the beginning of the year, a number of criminals were placed in the dock charged with the murder of Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Burke, and after a few days, the notorious Carey, by turning Queen's evidence, saved for a time his own life, and was the means of bringing upon his fellow murderers their well deserved doom. That Carey's was a worthless and infamous life is the opinion on all sides, and since O'Donnell chose to put his own life on the same level as Carey's and to exchange the one for the other, we may accept him at his own valuation, and feel that the world is well rid of both of them. When Farnell and his followers began an agitation in Ulster the Orange party were up in arms; but "British tyranny" interfered and prevented, with a strong military and police force, the two factions from flying at one another's throats, and reproducing the tragedy of the Kilkenny cats.

England has more than once during the year suffered from dynamic attempts, but fortunately, in most cases, there was little damage to life or limb; though several innocent persons were hurt by the explosion in the Underground Railway. But, it is satisfactory to observe that the police have in several cases discovered the cowardly perpetrators of these acts, some of whom a few weeks ago were sentenced to penal servitude for life.

In the list of England's difficulties, next to Ireland comes Egypt. The close of last year saw the English troops in victorious possession of the country, and Tewfik Pasha restored by English arms. To establish firmly the Khedive's government, to organize a sufficient military and police force of natives, to form a working constitution, and to see it fairly at work, to put the finances of the country on a sound basis, and to see Egypt safe against attacks from without, and revolts from within,—this was the programme that the British Government undertook to carry out before withdrawing their troops. It was acknowledged by all the European Powers that to do this was both the right and the duty of England. The Gladstone administration persuaded themselves a little while ago that this work was all done, and notwithstanding many warnings, had actually ordered the withdrawal of the troops. But their dreams were rudely broken. South of Egypt, proper, lies an enormous territory thinly peopled by wandering tribes of Africans and Arabs. Most of the sparse population of these arid deserts are Mahometans, and the enthusiast, El Mehdî gathered a host of followers, and cut to pieces an Egyptian army, officered mostly by English or other Europeans. Fortunately this event occurred before the threatened withdrawal of the troops; so 1884 will begin with the English rule more firmly settled in Egypt than it was in 1883, and that notwithstanding all the reluctance of the Government to continue their occupation.

The last session of Parliament, though prolonged much beyond the usual time, did not result in any very important legislation, but both political parties are preparing for the next campaign. It is generally agreed that the agricultural laborer must be given a vote as well as his fellow of the towns; but how this will be done is a question leaving abundant matter to fight about. The other questions, important as they are to the inhabitants of the British Isles, have little interest for us, so we turn to the matters concerning the United States and our own Dominion and Province.

THE UNITED STATES.

In the beginning of the year, the "Star Route Trials" absorbed the attention of the Nation. The men on trial were acquitted; but the evidence proved that "frauds" to the amount of millions of dollars per annum had been committed, and that high officials and contractors were in collusion respecting "bids" for the transportation of mails. For years there had been an annual deficit in the United States postal department; but, now, notwithstanding a reduction of the rate of postage on single letters from three to two cents, there is a surplus; and though the culprits escaped, the exposure of the frauds has resulted in a saving of nearly \$2,000,000 a year on the Star Route alone.

Another notable event of the year was the inauguration of General Butler, as Governor of Massachusetts. The redoubtable General had often been a candidate for the gubernatorial office—sometimes as a Democrat and sometimes as a Republican; but it was a Democrat that he was finally elected. His Administration was a stirring and vigorous one, but, in the autumn elections, the result of a very warm contest was his defeat and the election of the less notorious and more common-place Mr. Robinson.

At the end of the financial year 1882, the Secretary of the Treasury showed a surplus of revenue amounting to no less than \$150,000,000. Protectionists as well as Free Traders demanded a readjustment of the tariff. A Tariff Commission was appointed to investigate and report. As a result of their enquiry the Commissioners recommended a reduction of duties to the extent of twenty per cent. on the average. But Congress passed a Compromise Bill; and the result has been, as expected,—about \$70,000,000 less revenue.

The 24th of May was celebrated in New York, not as the birthday of the Most Gracious Queen who ever reigned, but by the opening of the great bridge across the East River between New

York and Brooklyn. The bridge is the finest and costliest structure of its kind in the world. When anything remarkable is to be done, our neighbors "go the whole figure." A few days after the celebration of its opening, the bridge was the scene of a fearful disaster. The crowd crossing it were seized by a sudden panic and twelve persons were killed, while many more were injured.

In the latter part of January and the early in February, floods devastated many parts of the Western States and caused a heavy loss of life. In one case, the waters accumulated on a plain poured suddenly down the shaft of a coal mine, and drowned seventy men! There were also, throughout the year, tornadoes and cyclones in the Southern and Western, and even in the Northern and Eastern, sections of the country, causing appalling losses of property and life. These terrible manifestations of perturbed nature were varied by a comparatively large number of mysterious and awful murders, to the perpetrators of which no clue has yet been discovered.

A brighter picture is found in the abundant crops of the year. The cereals did not, on the whole, give so large a yield as in the previous year; there is, however, plenty of grain for home consumption and a very large quantity for export. The root crop was good; and this was the cause of the low prices obtained here last fall for potatoes.

The Greeley Relief Expedition was again a failure. The failure of the previous year was caused by an ice blockade; that of this year by ice and stupidity. The expedition lacked discipline, and indeed almost every quality necessary in the successful prosecution of Arctic enterprises. The selection of a cavalry officer to command it was a capital blunder; and, as in all the numerous cases in which, to use Sidney Smith's simile, round men are put into square holes, necessarily resulted in disaster.

In October and November, the nation was agitated from centre to circumference by the State Elections. The Democrats swept the country in 1882,—they carried New York by a majority of 200,000, they carried Pennsylvania and Ohio, and elected General Butler in Massachusetts. But in 1883 the Republicans returned majorities in both branches of the Legislature of New York, redeemed Pennsylvania, defeated Butler, and claim a substantial increase of strength in the nation as a whole. The selection of a pronounced Free Trader to be Speaker of the House of Representatives is, we hope, significant, not only of a further modification of the tariff, but of a return to Reciprocal Free Trade with Canada in the natural productions of the soil, the mine, the forest and the sea.

OUR OWN COUNTRY.

The line of the Canadian Pacific Railway was carried westward during the year to the Rocky Mountains, one hundred and twenty miles west of Calgary and within three hundred miles of the Pacific section. One thousand seven hundred and fifty miles of the railway are now in operation; and the journey across the great plain from Winnipeg to Calgary, a distance of nine hundred and sixty miles, is made in forty hours! But this is not all. Telegraphic communication is co-extensive with railway communication. Immense workshops have been built and furnished at Montreal and Winnipeg. Each week, we are told, a locomotive fully equipped has been turned out of the workshops at Montreal; and cars and other rolling stock have been manufactured at a marvellous rate. Steamers have been built to ply on the great lakes in connection with the railway. Branch lines have been purchased, and others are under construction, as feeders of the great main line.

It is not strange that the extraordinary exertions they have made, and the wonderful success they have achieved, have exhausted to some extent the immediately available resources of the Company and given rise to a host of powerful opponents. The Company needed money; and they found the price of their stock unduly depreciated by false rumors set afloat by their enemies in the stock exchanges of Montreal and New York. To this cause is attributed their application to the Government for the guarantee which, on the deposit of the security required, they obtained. But though 3 per cent. on its par value of \$100 per share is guaranteed for ten years, the Company's stock now sells at 54½. This low price is certainly not due to a suspicion as to either the ability or integrity of the Directors of the Company, for in these respects the Directors are above suspicion; nor is it due to lack of capital, for capital is plentiful enough; nor to encumbrances on the Company's property, for their road and their lands are both unencumbered; and it must be due, either to the machinations of enemies so powerful as to be able to nullify the effect which the Government guarantee should have produced, or to a well grounded belief on the part of capitalists that the Company's bargain with the Government is not such a splendid one for the Company as opponents of the Government declare that it is. The latest reports state that the stock is being transferred to London, where it meets with more favor than it did in New York.

The "engineers strike" is another difficulty, due to the reduction of their supply of ready money, with which the Company have had to grapple. A year and a half ago, the engineers and brakemen employed by the Company demanded higher wages to make up for the increased cost of living when every necessary of life was being sold at booming

prices. In response to this demand, bonuses of \$12 a month were given to each engineer and \$6 a month to each brakeman. A few weeks ago, the Company reduced these bonuses to \$6 and \$3 respectively on the ground that prices were down and the circumstances under which they were granted no longer existed. Hence the strike. The Company have triumphed. The engineers have returned to work; and as their pay roll shows that they have obtained from the Company \$125 a month on the average, they have little sympathy from the public in their hour of discomfort.

The depression in Winnipeg was the not unexpected sequence of the "boom." While the fever of speculation lasted, men invested all the money they possessed, or could by any means raise, in town lots or big farms on the plains, fondly hoping that in some undefined way they were going to make "their pile." Of course they—or at least a very large proportion of them—have been disappointed, and have been obliged to put up with a measure of hard times. But we hear of few cases of ruin or desolation. The country is immense; those who have rashly speculated feel that prosperity is soon to return; hope in the future is bright. In the meantime those not above making themselves generally useful have obtained employment; and only the veriest idlers are really suffering.

Montreal was, during the autumn, visited quite unexpectedly, by a financial storm. The Exchange Bank had been recklessly, if not criminally, mismanaged by one who was not a trained banker; and it suddenly suspended payment. This caused a sharp investigation into bank accounts; and the agent of all the cotton factories in Canada—a well-meaning but over ambitious man—learned by sad experience the folly of having too many irons in the fire. The cotton factories suffered through his failure to carry the whole of them; though there is no doubt that, all being engaged in making the same kind of goods, they would have come to grief in any case. As a result of the trouble they have learned two practical lessons. (1) that all of them should not have the same selling agent, (2) that all should not work on the same line. Several of the factories have lately been supplied with machinery to enable them to diversify their products.

The financial troubles in Winnipeg and Montreal have not been far-reaching. Throughout the year, the commerce of Canada has been fairly active and prosperous. Several new industries have been established; and, in the opinion of the highest authorities, the business of the country, as a whole, was never on a sounder footing than it is now. The Dominion and Centennial Exhibition, held at St. John in October was a splendid illustration of the strength and vigor of the manufacturing and agricultural interests of our Maritime Provinces.

Except in districts where bye-elections were held, political agitation about Dominion affairs was, during the year, confined pretty closely to the Party Press. There were no great political demonstrations. The country refused to grow discontented or to say that Mr. Blake is a more sagacious leader than Sir John; and the position of Parties in the House of Commons has undergone little, if any, change. The Session of Parliament was not particularly remarkable for the vigor of its discussions or the importance of its measures; and its length was prolonged on account, chiefly, of the general election in Ontario, over which the Ontario members on both sides were very much excited. The main issue of that election was the Boundary Question. That question arose out of a dispute with Manitoba as to the Western boundary of the Province. It had been referred to arbitrators, whose award did not receive the endorsement of Parliament which was necessary to its validity. Mr. Mowat and his followers claimed that the award should be adhered to; Mr. Meredith and his followers maintained that the question should be submitted to the Privy Council of England, or to some independent judicial tribunal. At the polls, a small majority of the electors declared in favor of the party which appealed most directly to their selfish interests. The people said the award should be upheld, and Mr. Mowat gained his point, which was to remain at the head of affairs. His escape from defeat was, however, so narrow that something more had to be done to make his position quite secure. So, by the same right as his great namesake had to enter in and put his soldiers in possession of the English House of Commons, our Canadian Oliver entered in and took possession of the territory in dispute. This was a bold move; and, as Bacon says, boldness, though the child of ignorance and baseness, is everything in a politician. Several bye-elections were gained by this strategic act. But, mark the sequel. No sooner did the bold Oliver find himself secure in the Leadership—the last election was hardly over—than there appeared in the *Globe* the copy of an agreement with Manitoba under which the whole question is submitted to the Privy Council!

In Quebec, Mr. Mounsean has worked as hard for the Leadership as Mr. Mowat. But not with the same undoubted success. Probably, he is wanting in strategy. Certainly, he had not a boundary question to deal with. Rumor says that he will be supplanted by Mr. Masson, an honorable and highly cultured gentleman, but hardly strong enough to maintain the position in the troubled and confused Old Province.

The year marks the close of Lord Lorne's term as Governor-General. The noble Marquis was fortunate in being here while the country was unusually prosperous, and while its resources were being developed and utilized with extraordinary energy and wonderful success. Since his return to England he has done Canada good service by his lectures and addresses. It is significant of the vanity of high position and great popularity, that now that he is away and his successor is here, the word "Lansdowne" has taken the place of the word "Lorne" on the signboard of what used to be the "Lorne Restaurant" in this city.

THE ISLAND.

In the early part of the year, Messrs. Sullivan, Ferguson and Prowse went to Ottawa as a deputation from the Local Government to urge that the Dominion Government should maintain our public wharves or piers, and pay back to the Province the amount expended in their maintenance since the Island entered the Confederation. The deputation was well received, and the justice of the claim was at once recognized and acknowledged. The Dominion Government, however, deemed it necessary to show Parliament, by the evidence of their own officials, that the piers were really used for purposes of trade with the other Provinces and the world at large, as well as to obtain an official report as to their value, before they asked Parliament for a grant in liquidation of the claim. So Civil Engineers were at work here in the spring and summer; and we have the assurance that that the matter is progressing favorably, if not so rapidly as we should like to see it.

The matter of improved means of winter communication has been under the consideration of the postal and railway authorities, and provision has been made for a larger number of ice-boats at the Capes, and for two water-boats to be used in connection with the ice-boat service. In addition to this a branch line of Railway from County Line to Cape Traverse has been graded and three miles of rails have been laid, while piers at the Capes are in course of construction.

The last session of the Legislature was not marked by any legislation more remarkable than the "Bug Act;" and as the bug did not appear this year, those who passed the Act may take credit to themselves with as much justice as credit is usually claimed, for benefits vouchsafed by the politicians. Apart from the wharves, which have been neglected on account of the pending claim against the Dominion Government, the public works of the Province, the roads, bridges, etc., have been well looked after by our energetic Commissioner; while the Educational Department and the Land Office have been so well managed that we hear scarcely a word of complaint concerning either. In fact this year has been, for this Province, one of unusual content and calm. Chief Justice Palmer's remarkable decision, in the McIntyre-Muttart case, that an election ought not to be voided on account of treating because liquor drinking is the custom of the country, caused a ripple of excitement; and the temperance people seem not to have had leisure to work the Scott Act.

At all events, it is certain that the year has been one of industrial activity highly creditable to our people. Several factories, including a soap factory, three starch factories, and three or four cheese factories, were established; and manufacturing has been prosecuted more energetically than ever before on the Island. There are now in operation six cheese factories, the products of which were well received in the Halifax and St. John markets, while quite a large sale was made in London. Our nine starch factories have consumed on an average say 60,000 bushels of potatoes each, equal to 540,000 bushels received from our farmers, and \$75,000 in cash distributed among them. The P. E. Island Pottery continues to make excellent ware for use in the Province; and our machine shops have been busy, not only in supplying home orders, but orders from the neighboring Provinces as well. With the return of good times the *Herald* newspaper has returned to life if not to usefulness. It has not impressed people with the idea that it is a very great power in the land or that it is necessary to the peace and well-being of the Province; and though fairly well written, it lacks an indubitable something that it possessed when its columns were under the control of a gentleman.

Returns at the Custom House show that the imports of King's and Queen's Counties from the first of December, 1882, to first of December, 1883, were worth \$665,190.00—exclusive of all that came from the neighboring Provinces. The exports of King's and Queen's Counties during the same period were valued at \$1,121,823.00.

The imports from Britain and foreign countries into Prince County during the same time, amount in value to \$111,916; and the exports to \$166,249.

Thus the total foreign import of the year, beginning 1st of December, 1882, and ending 30th of November, 1883, was worth \$777,106; and the total foreign export \$1,288,072.

From the daily returns made to THE EXAMINER, it appears that between the 24th of May last, and the 1st of December, there was shipped by the P. E. Island Steam Navigation Steamers alone, produce to the value of \$336,802, which will give some idea of the Inter-Provincial trade. Of the contributions

to this amount, there were 874 horses, besides a large number of cattle and sheep.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank during the year ending 30th June last, amounted to \$620,363; the withdrawals in the same period to \$394,343. During the present year, six months of which have elapsed, the Savings Bank deposits were \$261,000; the withdrawals \$186,000. The balance on hand at the Savings Bank is \$1,434,000.

The records of the County Courts show a reduction in the sneezing business of over a hundred and twenty-five per cent., the fees collected in 1879 being about \$5,000, and in 1883 about \$2,000.

On the whole, we have good cause to be thankful at the close of 1883. We have been visited by neither earthquake nor hurricane, flood nor pestilence. The year has, for us, been one of quiet work and improvement; and though high prices have not been obtained for our abundant products, the records show, beyond a doubt, that as a people we have been blessed with at least a fair share of material prosperity. We sincerely hope that prosperity may continue; and, cordially wish the readers of THE EXAMINER, one and all, a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOLS

WILL RE-OPEN ON Monday, January 7th, at 10 o'clock.

Boys' School.

Subjects Taught:—All English branches thoroughly, Latin, Greek, French, or German, if desired.

Girls' School.

All English branches—French and Latin if required.

Applications may be made to Miss Harris, Pownall Street, Rev. G. W. Hodgson, or to W. B. KING, St. Peter's Clergy House, Ch'town, 29, '83.—daily till Jan 7.

NOTICE.

Wreck Sale Continued.

BRIG. "ALPHETA."

WE are advised by telegraph from Mr. Lemuel M. Poole, Agent Port Hastings, that the Brig. "Alpheta" contains, and about one-half of the damaged portion of cargo were sold on Friday the 26th inst.; and that the

Balance of Damaged Cargo

WOULD BE SOLD AT Port Hastings, C. B.,

—ON— Wednesday, 2nd January, 1884.

PEAKE BROS & CO.

Dec. 29, 1883.—2t.

TERPSICHOE HALL.

ON NEW YEAR'S EVENING a general Quadrille Party will be held at the above Hall, commencing at 8 p. m. No special invitation.

Ch'town, Dec. 29, '83.—2t 24m.

GRAND CARNIVAL!

THE Directors of the Citizens' Skating Rink have pleasure in announcing their

Annual Skating Carnival,

TO TAKE PLACE AT THE RINK,

—ON— Friday, 18th January,

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

REGULATIONS.

All parties intending to take part must enter their names with the Committee not later than Saturday, 17th inst.

Each person in costume must be provided with a legible card bearing name and "character," such card to be handed to the person in waiting, upon entering the Dressing Room.

The Committee reserve the right to reject any objectionable character. Admission—Ticket-holders in costume, free; non-ticket-holders in costume, 50 cents. Spectators to promenade, 25 cents; children, 25 cents. Tickets to be had at Apothecaries Hall.

Ch'town, Dec. 29, 1883.—24w.

EARLE'S GRAND CONCERT

WILL take place in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, on FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4th. Tickets, 25 cents; to be had at Mr. Fletcher's Music Store and at Fraser & Reddin's.

Concert at eight, sharp. No encores. S. N. EARLE.

Ch'town, Dec. 8.—24w

Y. M. C. ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual sale of Papers, Magazines, &c., will take place in the Reading Room on the evening of Wednesday, January 2nd, at 8.30 o'clock.

HENRY SMITH, Secretary.

Dec. 27, 1883.—3t 24w.