

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

By An Observer.

GREAT BRITAIN.

EVERY Conservative Administration which, since the Reform Bill of 1832, has appealed in Great Britain to the country, has been defeated; so the Beaconsfield Government has met the same fate as did all its predecessors during that period. The causes which have led to the overwhelming defeat of the Conservative party in England will, of course, be given very differently by different persons. Their friends will acknowledge that their financial administration was weak, and that the virtues of their home administration were mostly negative. It was on their foreign policy that they rested,—pointing to the purchase of the Suez Canal shares, to the substitution of the Treaty of Berlin for that of San Stefano, to the carrying out of the former Treaty, to the preservation, by a bold movement of the fleet, of Constantinople from the grasp of Russia, and to the acquisition of Cyprus, as proofs of their vigor and judgment. But the Zulu war was a millstone round their neck. Begun against their own wishes and directions, they, rightly enough, were held responsible for it; and although much more might be said in favor of the Afghan-istan war, the utmost they have claimed for it was that it was an unavoidable evil. A policy is always the more open to attack the more vigorous it is. The vigorous home policy of the Gladstone Government caused its defeat in 1874, just as a vigorous foreign policy caused the overthrow we have just witnessed. It also told much against the Conservatives that they were tremendously over-matched by the speaking power of their opponents. Beaconsfield and Salisbury, by far their ablest speakers, could not "go on the stump"; and they had none but second-rate debaters to oppose to such men as Gladstone, Bright, Lowe, and Vernon Harcourt. The conflicts between D'Israeli and Gladstone gave a keen zest to the election of 1874. But it was too one-sided, this time, to awaken the interest that a fair fight always causes.

The New York Herald indulged its readers, as usual, in some hysterical telegrams anent the formation of the new Government. But so far as facts have yet been made known, the course of events has been perfectly constitutional and natural. The outgoing Minister advises that the Leader of the Opposition be sent for. Her Majesty, acting on this advice, entrusts to Lord Hartington the duty of forming an Administration. That in so doing she should have expressed a desire as to who should be the Premier, is perfectly natural and thoroughly constitutional. If she requested the Marquis of Hartington to try a second or third time to form a Government, she has only done what she has often done before. But when Lord Hartington found himself unable to comply with Her Majesty's commands, it then became his duty to advise the Queen for whom to send; and the forty years experience that Her Majesty has had would not fail her in this case. So she at once called upon Mr. Gladstone to take the position which his party wished him to occupy.

Dr. Kennealy, the staunch advocate of the Claimant, died during the month, as did Lord Hampden, better known as Sir John Pakington.

EUROPE.

There can be little doubt that the English elections will have their effect upon present European complications, though probably a less effect than may be supposed. While Europe is an "armed camp," while intrigues and counter intrigues are going on, alliances and counter alliances being formed, it will make a great difference if England is supposed to keep wholly out of European broils. But it must be remembered that the late Conservative Government did not go to war to prevent Russia from attacking Turkey; and the late Liberal Administration was all ready to go to war to protect Belgium.

In the year 1879, the expenditure on the land and sea forces of all the European countries, (including Great Britain) was eight hundred (800) millions of dollars. In 1885 it was five hundred and eighty-five (585) millions. So great an increase in so short a time, speaks with appalling force of mutual jealousies and distrusts. It seems almost impossible that a great war can be long averted. It may be a significant symptom that Bismarck is trying hard for a reconciliation with the Vatican. The Catholics of the Rhine and South Germany shed their blood as freely for the foundation of the German Empire as did the Protestants of the North. It was a sorry return made to them that their priests were banished, their bishops thrown into prison, and their religious liberty hampered by the persecuting laws. If Germany were engaged in a life and death struggle they could hardly be expected to show

much enthusiasm; and the dead weight of their sullen inaction might turn the scales at the critical moment. It may be because he sees such a struggle in the near future that the Imperial Chancellor is showing himself a little more gracious to the Catholics of the Empire.

The State of Turkey seems getting worse and worse. The wonder is how the State holds together as long as it does. It can hardly be but that the present British Government will have to decide upon what England will do when the complete disintegration occurs.

It is not likely that much more will be heard of Nihilism in Russia. That movement was always known to be very limited, though its members were bold to madness. But a more dangerous movement than Nihilism is the deep discontent of the great majority of the people with their lot—joined to the child-like belief that Government can, and should, do everything for them, which is a characteristic of the Socialism of the day.

France has declared war against the Jesuits, and begun to put in force against them laws hitherto believed to be obsolete. The order is that the Society is to dissolve within three months, and leave all establishments which it occupies on French territory. It is worth noting how often this has been done before: In 1754 Louis XV., by a Royal decree, banished this Society. In 1762 the Parliament of Paris ordered all Jesuits to "Put off for ever the name, dress and vows of the Order." In 1764 a decree of suppression was issued. Another in 1777 by Louis XVI. It looks as though Kings and Parliaments found it hard to get the Society suppressed. In later times, in 1790, 1792, and 1802, all religious orders were abolished. The conclusion is that if the Jesuits lived and flourished in France after so many orders and decrees against them, one more won't do them much harm. They have now in France fifty-six establishments, with about one thousand five hundred members and ten thousand pupils.

UNITED STATES.

One of the last acts of the Marquis Salisbury, as Foreign Secretary, was to refuse to acknowledge the claim of the United States against the British Government, for the damages done by the Newfoundland fishermen. The principle laid down by Lord Salisbury is, that the Treaty gave the Americans no greater rights than British subjects had at the time of its being made. He acknowledges that no local regulations made subsequent to the Treaty could affect the Treaty rights of the Americans, but points out that the regulations violated by the American fishermen were in force when the Treaty was made. It is not a very large affair, though it will probably give occupation to the diplomatists for some time. Probably the advent to power in England of the Government which arranged the Alabama claims so satisfactorily to the United States, will encourage that country to continue to press its claims. In about three years more, the twelve years during which the Washington Treaty gave the Americans the right to fish in our waters, and for which right they paid five and a half (5½) millions, will have run out, and the whole question of the fisheries will come up again.

The people of San Francisco have sent Kearney to jail. This act, done on the Continent of Europe, would have been denounced all through the States, as such an interference with the liberty of free discussion as could only be seen in an "effete monarchy." But California is the most democratic of States; and all history tells us that democratic States are among the first to repress by force opinions they don't like. However, Kearney deserves what he has got, and can claim no sympathy from any one. But the case is worth observing to show that it is not well to charge every Government with tyranny that locks up a brawling and dangerous demagogue.

Grant and the Third Term are still the agitating questions about the Presidential elections. But the wires cross one another in so many ways, and their pullers are so sudden and dexterous in their movements, that an outsider can only wait to see the result. The Conventions, however, will soon be held, and then we shall know the candidate.

Most of the Finance Ministers of the world must just now envy the United States' Congress, whose anxiety is what to do with a surplus of ten millions.

CANADA.

The debate on the Pacific Railway policy of the Government, has been the great parliamentary event of the month. Independently of the merits of the question, Canadians may feel proud of the very high standard of debating ability—or rather of oratory—that has been displayed. The speeches of Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Blake would do credit to any parliament, and would win for their authors a foremost place in any deliberative assembly in the

world. They are both remarkable for a firm grasp of the subject, lucid reasoning, clear arrangement, and well chosen language. Both rise far above the level of mere rhetoric to the higher ground where the orator is thinking much more of his subject and of persuading his audience, than of verbal prettiness, though each, in places, rises naturally to real eloquence. Mr. Blake's speech, perhaps, excels that of his rival, in being more perfect in form, more clear cut, and, in its most polished places, more eloquent. The Minister of Railways, on the other hand, seems to have more of a strenuous force all through than has the other. If Mr. Blake is the more polished, Sir Charles Tupper is the more impassioned, though the passion is kept well in restraint. The speech of Mr. White was also a very effective one, and may fairly rank with the best. Mr. Mackenzie showed, as usual, his mastery of details and his readiness in debate; but he was fighting under disadvantages, and seemed to feel it.

Turning from the speeches themselves to the matter contained in them, we are able to get a perfectly clear view of the ground now taken by the two parties. They do not stand very far apart, though, when they come to calculations, they are hopelessly, almost ludicrously, away from each other.

To build the railway right through to the Pacific, but to make the lands of the North West pay for its construction, this is what the Government hope to do. On the desirableness of so doing, both agree. They differ as to the possibility.

To push rapidly over the connecting link between Lake Superior and Manitoba, and then to press on further into the North West Prairies, keeping rather in advance of emigration and settlement—both parties agree that this can and should be done.

The Government propose further to construct 125 miles in British Columbia, opening that part of the country from the seaboard to the interior, and getting so much of the more difficult part of the work here done, but not yet crossing the Rocky Mountains. Here Mr. Blake meets them point blank, and asks the House to resolve that the construction of any part of the road in British Columbia is premature.

The Minister of Railways calculates the cost of the road from Lake Superior to the Pacific at sixty-four (64) millions, and that when Lake Superior shall be connected with the railways of Ontario, the total cost will be eighty-two (82) millions. "I am happy," he says, "to be able to say that the completion of our great national through line of railway from Ottawa to the waters of the Pacific—I may say from Halifax on the Atlantic to the waters of the Pacific—will be attended with much less difficulty and expense than we have been led to suppose at the present time." The Government expect that the sale of the North West lands will provide funds for the work, calculating to receive from that source seventy (70) millions in ten years. However, they do not purpose to rush headlessly into contracts for all this amount. Every contract now given may be stopped at any time, should the Government find their receipts under their calculations; and the only parts now put under contract to which even the Opposition object, are the 125 miles in British Columbia. Of course there is really more behind. Mr. Blake hopes, no doubt, for an indefinite postponement—a virtual abandonment by this generation of the Railway to the Pacific.

When we come to Mr. Blake's estimates, they differ widely from those of the Government. Mr. Blake calculates the cost of the road at one hundred and twenty millions. The amount from land sales he considers will not be more than enough to pay for the cost of administration and the interest of railway expenditure for ten years—reducing the Premier's seventy millions down to—nothing. So do great men differ. Mr. Blake's point about the increase of our population being estimated from that in the United States was a good one, and strongly put; but in stating the amounts of land taken up in the States, he seems to have left quite out of his calculations the enormous extent disposed of to settlers by the railway companies.

Mr. McKenzie certainly went back on his record. His advertisements for tenders for the construction of a section in British Columbia were out at the time of the general election. The whole drift of his policy had been to make surveys, to fix upon a route, and when this was done, to build in British Columbia. Even last session he spoke of his intention of building that section; and no one can say that the circumstances of the country have changed so greatly in twelve months as to allow Mr. McKenzie to vote with any consistency for Mr. Blake's resolution. In fact, there was seen at Ottawa the curious phenomenon of a follower, and a by every means obedient follower, of Mr. McKenzie, forcing that gentleman to condemn his own actions and

words for the past six years. The question of the leadership of the Liberal Party was settled by that vote; and Mr. McKenzie's resignation, which has since been announced, was a necessary consequence.

The Railway debate has occupied so much space in these notes, that there is no time to no more than very briefly touch upon any other matters.

The Finance Minister has explained his plan about the note circulation of the banks and Government. It is not a "soft-money" scheme, and it may probably be found that the credit of the country will keep its notes at par. But the road is a dangerous one to travel any distance upon; and it is to be hoped that there will be no attempt to go much along it.

The decision of the Supreme Court, affirming the constitutionality of the Canada Temperance Act, will give a full opportunity for a test of the practicability of Prohibition.

The veteran Judge Marshall, of Nova Scotia, whose literary activity kept his name well before the public up to the last, died at the age of 94.

OUR OWN PROVINCE.

Leaving out private bills, there were just sixteen Acts passed by the Local Legislature at the session just concluded. Probably, no more were needed. But one cannot help asking if it is not drawing a cork with a steam engine to have such an expensive apparatus to do such a small amount of work. The day is probably not far distant when P. E. Island, together with the other Maritime Provinces, will be struck with the absurdity of three Lieutenant Governors, three Executives and six legislative bodies, dividing among themselves the work of governing and legislating for a population not more than that of some large cities.

The somewhat unusual sight of a Bill disallowed by the Lieut.-Governor was seen at the close of the session. The Government are to be congratulated upon their having the spirit and courage to advise his course, and thus to prevent legal recognition being given to a society such as the Orange Order. But one certainly does wonder what view the Commissioner of Public Works takes of the responsibility of an administration and of its members. Mr. Campbell introduced the Orange Bill, carried it through the House, and yet remains a member of a Government which is responsible for its disallowance. It is doubtful if any public man, since the introduction of responsible Government, allowed himself to be for four and twenty hours in the position Mr. Campbell occupies to-day. By every rule of constitutional government and ministerial responsibility, Mr. Campbell's resignation should have been in the Premier's hands on Monday evening.

The address of the Legislature to the Queen, on the subject of the Fisheries, is an able document, and puts fairly the claims of the Province; but it is not likely that it will prove sufficiently strong to bring the British Government to depart from its well-understood policy of non-interference with self-governing Colonies. With all its copiousness there is, however, one omission. Though calling attention to the pressure of the present tariff upon this Province, it omits to state that the Province, at the general election, returned five of its six members to support the principle embodied in the now obnoxious tariff. It is rather ungrateful to give that slap at the Ottawa Government, which had so lately assured the Attorney-General of its "sympathy" for his efforts. One can imagine the twinkle in Sir John's eye as he gave the assurance of "sympathy," throwing in "support," possibly for the sake of the alliteration.

The long delayed appointment to the Collectorship of Customs in Charlottetown has at last been made, and it seems to be one of those admirable strokes of policy which reconcile the most conflicting claims, and satisfy the most widely opposed interests. The great Conservative party, whose faith in the benefits of being on the winning side was growing very weak, receive the strongest assurance that electioneering activity is still to be the highest qualification for the most responsible offices. The new Collector's long, and but lately severed, connection with the Liberal party seems, as it were to make this appointment give a shadowy recognition to the dwellers in the cool shades of the Opposition, and even to admit them to a glimpse of the Elysium from which they are shut out. They may look at it as a slight, but delicate act of courtesy to themselves. The liquor interest will justly feel flattered at the elevation of a zealous member of their ranks to one of the highest posts in the Province. And the temperance people can congratulate themselves upon the closing of one of the Pownal street rum-shops.

In about a fortnight's time we shall have Civic elections, under the amended city law. It remains to be seen whether the

prospect of increased taxation, and of taxation in its most obnoxious form, viz., of an income tax, will arouse the citizens from their usual lethargy about city affairs. Of this we may be sure: no change in the mode of taxation, no shifting of the day of elections, no alteration of the franchise, will, in the least, avail to give us a good city government, unless the citizens generally take much more interest in the city affairs than they hitherto have done, or than in it is to be feared they will do. The exemption from the income tax of the salaries of Government officials was a very delicate touch of selfishness. Exemptions from taxation are all invidious and wrong. There is no reason why Government officials and clergymen, whose salary is over the limit, should not be taxed like other men.

MARKET HALL.

Lindley Opera and Comedy Co.

THIS EVENING,
By Special Desire of Temperance Friends,
TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM,
And an Artful Dodger.
Tickets at Drug Stores.
April 30, 1880.

Acadia Nut Coal.

HOURLY EXPECTED, a cargo of Acadia Nut Coal, which will be sold cheap from vessel. Orders can be left at the Scales on Lord's Wharf.
W. C. HOBKIRK.
April 29, 1880—3i eod

O I C

W. A. NORTON, practical House Painter, er. Whitening, Tinting, and Paper Hanging done with despatch and at moderate charges. Residence and Shop, Fitzroy street, opposite Peter Halloran's.
Ch'town, April 29, 1880—1m

To Let. To Let.

TO LET, that NEW BRICK HOUSE situated on Pownal Street, now occupied by Fenton T. Newbery, Esq. Possession given in May next. Also, Cottage, with land attached, situated on Malpeque Road, about one mile from the city. Possession given immediately.
THOS. W. DODD.
March 3, 1880—pat oaw

FLOUR, (very superior),
TEA, (very superior),
MOLASSES,
SUGAR,
TOBACCO,
KEROSENE OIL,
BAKING SODA,
WASHING SODA,
BISCUIT,
RAISINS, &c., &c., &c.
And all staple Groceries at our usual low prices and favorable terms.
CARVELL BROS.
April 27, '80—2aw

Wants, Lost, Found, &c.

WANTED—A Carriage Blacksmith. Only first-class workman need apply.—HEWSON, McDONALD & SEAMAN. [ap 30]

TO LET—A nearly new HOUSE on Euston Street, containing 9 rooms. Apply to CHARLES MCGREGOR, Esq., or E. W. TAYLOR. [ap 30]

TWO HOUSES TO LET—One containing 6 rooms, the other 5 rooms; situated on Spring Park Road and Long Street. Rent moderate. Apply on the premises to JAMES McLEOD. [ap 30]

BOARDS—The subscriber having good accommodations, will be glad to have a few permanent Gentlemen boarders. Please apply on the premises, Upper Hillsborough St.—MRS. RICH'D. WEEKS. [ap 29]

WANTED—At Hospital for the Insane, a Cook and female attendant, to whom good wages will be given. Must come recommended. Apply at Hospital. [ap 28]

WANTED—An elderly woman to nurse two children. Apply at the EXAMINER office. [ap 28, 4i]

WANTED—A situation in a mercantile establishment; has experience in the Grocery line. Salary not so much an object as employment. Temperance man. Address A. B., Charlottetown Post Office. [ap 27, 2f]

WANTED—A MAN with Team to buy Eggs. Must have good recommendations.—R. K. BRACE. [ap 24]

WANTED—A Situation as CUTTER, in a Tailoring Establishment, by one who has had several years experience in the business. Address Post Office Glass Box 48, Charlottetown, P. E. I.—[ap 22—St John Tel and Mon Times 6]

WANTED—A YOUNG MAN, suitably qualified, to learn DENTISTRY. Apply to DR. STRICKLAND. [ap 21, 2f]

MERCHANTS AND TRADESMEN wishing accounts adjusted can avail themselves of the services of an experienced Accountant, by addressing "ACCOUNTANT," this office. [ap 21]

TO LET—Good Pasturage for seven Cows, within a convenient distance of the city. Apply at this office. [ap 2]