

The year that is just closing will not take its place in history among those which are distinguished by very marked events. It has not seen, as some years of the present quarter of the century have seen, the fall of one empire and the establishment of another. It has not witnessed the outbreak of any great war. Nor is it marked by any discovery or invention of surpassing importance. No great calamity such as were the plagues or famines of former times, has desolated any great portion of the world. Nor, on the other hand, has abounding prosperity yet visited any country. Still, it has been a busy and eventful year, and affords abundant material for the chronicler. We cannot, with the limited space at our disposal, do more than touch upon a few points of interest.

To look abroad first: At the beginning of 1879, Europe was still agitated by the ground swell of the Russo-Turkish war. The storm was over; but the waters were not yet stilled. The great question then, (one indeed, which has not yet been fully answered), was: "How shall the Treaty of Berlin be carried out? or will it be carried out at all?" We can now look back and see what has been done. When Russia seemed inclined to delay the withdrawal of her troops from Turkish territory, one of Lord Salisbury's sharp despatches reminded her of her duty; but after the usual amount of diplomatic fencing, this important provision of the Treaty was honorably fulfilled; and at the time stipulated every Russian soldier had left the Sultan's dominions. The establishment of Bulgaria as an independent, and of Eastern Roumelia as a semi-independent state, had to be accomplished. By the former, Prince Alexander of Battenburg, was chosen as its first ruler. This Prince is a nephew of the Empress of Russia, being a son (by a Morganatic marriage) of her brother Prince Alexander of Hessa. The course of his government has not been running very smoothly. Of course the country has been provided with a spick and span constitution of the most improved pattern, with "Chambers," "Responsible ministers," "Loyal Opposition," &c., and these have been wrangling and dividing, passing votes of want of confidence and resigning, with great diligence during the few months of their national existence. They have already managed to tangle things up almost as successfully as our brethren in Quebec did; and it is pretty hard for an outsider to know where they are.

Aloko Pasha was appointed by the Sultan as the Governor of Eastern Roumelia; and at first it seemed as if he would prove a very resolute and disobedient ruler of a restive and disobedient Province. But he has lately returned from Constantinople "crowned with high honors;" so, we suppose, he has made peace with his Suzerain.

Both Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia have disgraced themselves by cruel treatment of their Musselman population. The atrocities committed last year by the Bashibazouks have been rivalled by the pillagings, burnings, and slaughterings which the Christian Bulgarians have inflicted upon the Turks. It is remarkable that the voices that were so loud in England against the atrocities of which the Bulgarians were the sufferers, have been silent about those in which they were the actors; and we cannot help feeling that the agitation was due much more to political strategy than to genuine pity for the oppressed.

The responsibilities which, by the Treaty of Berlin, England assumed in regard to Asia Minor, were never much liked by the English people. Nor do we think the events of this year have made them much more popular; it is hard to overcome the inertia of stolid indifference. The Turk is pre-eminently philosophical; and, while he is vehemently urged to "reform," smokes on in placid repose, and by no means can he be got to do more than make a promise which, of course, he does not keep. So Asia Minor is governed just as it always was; and England has the uncomfortable feeling that she is a sort of accessory to the Sultan's misgovernment. However, Sir Henry Layard inspected and reported; and Baker Pasha has been commissioned to go and do something—what nobody seems to know. So we must hope for something better in 1880.

The commission for the rectification of the Greek frontier has been sitting constantly and doing nothing. At the last accounts it had come to a deadlock. And will probably have its report ready to present in the Greek Kalends.

So much for the Eastern Question as affected by the Treaty of Berlin. It does

not break the connection to go from that subject to the struggle in Afghanistan, which is well understood to be another phase of the conflict between England and Russia. At the beginning of the year Shere Ali had been put to flight and Jellalabad occupied. Not long after, the death of the Ameer and the advance upon Cabul, seemed to show that the work was done. And after putting Yakook Khan upon the throne, establishing the ill-fated Major Cavagnari as British Resident at Cabul, and, by the Treaty of Gandamak, obtaining a "scientific frontier," the English army withdrew. The tragic events which have since taken place are fresh in the minds of all; and the end has not yet come. But of the final results there can be little doubt. The alarm of the past few days was not well grounded. General Roberts has force enough and supplies enough to make it almost impossible for him to meet any serious reverse; and, probably the end will be that Afghanistan will be added to the dependencies of our Indian Empire. By refusing to allow irresponsible newspaper reporters to accompany the last Afghanistan expedition, the Indian Government has angered the leading newspapers and horrified all worshippers of the press, who have implicit faith in the all-prevailing power of "words" and "special reporters;" but the majority of persons are not much alarmed by an act which, in all probability, the end will justify.

About the month of February, the English papers began to speak of the probability of a Zulu war. The probability soon became a certainty. Not merely without, but contrary to the instructions of the Home Government, Sir Bartle Frere brought on the war. At Isandula, the British arms met with a severe reverse—30 officers and 500 men, mostly of the 24th Regiment, were cut to pieces. When disciplined and well-armed troops fight against naked savages, there is not much glory in a victory; and defeat means disgrace. But, however disgraceful was the bungling incapacity which allowed of the surprise, those who stood and fought and died, almost to a man, did all that the bravest could do; and as so often has happened in our history, the dark hour of defeat was illuminated by an heroic action. The annals of our country give no braver and nobler exploit than that of Lieutenants Mellville and Coghill who, when all was lost at Isandula, took the colors of their regiment, broke through the thousands of the victorious enemy, and, though wounded to the death, rode on and carried the colors safely away from the foe. The colors were found stained with their life blood and wrapped around their dead bodies, and are with the regiment to-day. The English nation is remarkable, not for a history of unbroken success, but for the courage and patience which are never daunted by defeat, and which pushes on to their end in spite of failures. Of the issue of the conflict there could be no doubt. After anxious weeks, Ekowe was relieved, and by the battle of Ginghild the power of Cetewayo was completely broken; and, soon after, that brave warrior was captured. He is now a prisoner at Cape Town; and if, as he sees one and another sign of the wealth and power of his conquerors, he wonders, as the British Prince did, that they who have already so much more than he, should envy him his poor mud kraals, we must hope that the conquest of his country will prove to it as beneficial as was the Roman victory over Caractacus to Britain.

Lord Chelmsford's later successes scarcely redeemed his earlier losses; and he returned to England leaving both civil and military administration to the stronger hand of Sir Garnet Wolsey. The Zulu territory has been divided into some 12 or 13 petty principalities, controlled by a British Resident. No standing army is allowed, and the importation of fire-arms is prohibited. That John Dunn should be one of the Chiefs, seems the most questionable part of the arrangement.

From Asia and Africa we turn again to Europe, where France is the country which first attracts our attention. It is difficult to say whether the year 1879 leaves the Republic stronger than it found it, or weaker. In the early part of the year, MacMahon's resignation called upon the country to make a choice of a President for the third time since 1871; but the quiet way in which Grevy was elected spoke well for the self-restraint of the people. The return of the annexed Communists created much less excitement than was expected; but the election of the infamous Blanqui to the Chambers is an ugly symptom. M. Waddington was a Premier in whom all moderate men had confidence. Our latest news paper accounts told us of his having demanded and received a vote of confidence from the Chamber; but the telegrams since

tell us that he has resigned, and that De-Freycinet has been called upon to form an administration. This means a greater preponderance of the red element. Then there is the great question of the Ferry Laws to be decided. M. Ferry is a true representative of a modern school of liberalism, which shows its liberality by forcing its own views upon all dissenters, wherever it gains a majority; and which, having exhausted all its liberalism upon those who think with it, has none left for its opponents. With us, liberalism of this type has not gone further than forcing us to pay for schools that we do not want. But M. Jules Ferry has improved upon this. He would forbid by law, all who are not directly authorized by the state, to teach—in other words he would forcibly close all religious schools. To get anything at all like this law, we must go back to the Test Act of Charles II's reign, when no one was allowed to teach without a Bishop's license; and all non-conformist teachers were silenced. It is curious that the very same act is branded as shameful bigotry or extolled as a magnificent instance of modern liberalism, according as it was done by a Tory of the Restoration or is done by a Radical of the French Republic. It is said that His Holiness the Pope has proposed a compromise on this point, which will give a *modus vivendi*. Should his labors for peace succeed, the Republic may enter upon a quiet year. If not France is probably at the beginning of another troubled period. We must not leave France without noting that after an absence of seven years the Chambers have returned to Paris. Should the coming year be a troubled one, this move will not be without effect.

We cannot pause to notice the condition of Germany and Russia, although in both there have been important and interesting events during the year. Socialists and Nihilists are busy in both; and in the coming year the struggle against them will be watched with interest. When any party betakes itself to assassination, it condemns itself. If History proves anything, it proves that assassination is a weapon that hurts most those who wield it—that it ruins any cause. We see no reason for thinking that it will have a different effect here.

A bad harvest has troubled English farmers and has made Irish farmers rebellious. The difference is a wide one, and its causes long-standing. We must hope that better harvests in 1880 will improve both countries.

We must now cross the Atlantic; and will first look over the border. Our much-electing cousins have been busy at the ballot boxes as usual. The Republicans seem to be having their innings now, and the Democrats losing. But the ballot box doesn't always decide. The operation of "counting in," leaves room for "human devices," which sometimes defeat the will of the voters' idol. Just as when Tilden was elected by a majority of the Electoral College and of votes, Hayes was counted in. So the State of Maine having the other day returned a large majority of Republican members finds itself, through the "counting in" process, with a Democratic legislature. The unseated Republicans are talking of meeting and claiming to be the legislature. How it will end, only 1880 can tell us.

The most interesting question about the States is,—Have North and South come closer together,—how far are the war scars healed? It is difficult to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. Hayes seems honestly to have done a good deal to relieve the South from the hateful rule of the Northern Carpet-bagger; and the the Southern States are settling down to a more quiet condition. But, on the other hand, the South is tending, more and more, to throw a solid Democratic vote; and if this results in the whole North "going Republican," the outlook is bad. There are few things worse for any country than for its lines of political cleavage to coincide with those of its geographical divisions.

The splendid harvests which have been gathered in the States have done much to remove the long existing business depression. As the prosperity of one country benefits all others with which it trades, this returning prosperity has already been favorable to the iron and hardware trade of Great Britain; and there is a simultaneous improvement in our own lumber trade. After years of depression, loss and bankruptcies in all countries, we may finally hope that the worst is over, and that 1880 will be commercially brighter than its predecessors were for some time past.

Coming home to our own country, Canada, we can notice, with thankfulness, freedom from great disasters, abundant harvests and, for some of our main productions, good prices. Is there returning commercial prosperity? Is the new experiment in our tariff regulations to prove a success? It is hard to get an impartial

statement upon which to base an opinion. If we believe the *Globe* and all the papers that sing in concert with it, trade is worse than ever, bankruptcies are more common, the depression deeper, the prospects darker. If we believe the *Mail*, and those whose voices harmonize with its utterances, all is well; "the voice of the hum is heard in the land;" enterprises are springing up everywhere, manufactures are prosperous, farmers are growing wealthy; consumers and producers are alike blessed by the N. P. It is difficult to reconcile these, so contradictory, statements with a proper belief in the infallibility of newspapers; and one cannot help the unpleasant feeling that some shadow of doubt is cast upon the perfect fairness and truthfulness of party papers. Probably the truth lies between the extremes. Good harvests have caused, generally, through the country, a real increase of wealth, and so give the surest grounds for the hopes of general improvement. The stimulating influences of a Protective Tariff have favorably affected manufacturing localities, and by their action upon the distribution of wealth, have given promise of local advantages.

Next to the Tariff, which was settled early in the year, Quebec affairs attracted most attention in political circles. Their story did not begin in 1879; nor are we sure that 1879 finishes it. But some important events took place during the twelve months. The vote in the Dominion Parliament, the referring the question to England, Sir M. Hicks-Beach's despatch, the dismissal of M. Letellier St. Just, the refusal of supplies by the Legislative Council, the subsequent defeat of the Joly Administration, its resignation, Mr. Chapleau's success in forming a new Administration and in securing the return of its members, have all occurred within the last year. We confess that a review of the whole affair raises serious doubts how far a French population can or will satisfactorily work a constitution on the English model. The French mind is above all things logical and impatient of anything where theory and practice do not exactly agree. Now, the British Parliamentary System by no means satisfies these requirements. It recognizes powers in theory which would be very awkward if put in practice. It states a principle broadly, understanding that in working it out, it must be decided by other principles. But in the whole of this Quebec matter, every power seems to have been pushed to its extreme limit. A Lieutenant Governor has theoretically the power to dismiss a Ministry; so M. Letellier dismisses M. DeBoucherville. A representative once elected is theoretically irresponsible so long as his term continues; so M. Turcotte elected on one side turns right round to the other. The Dominion Parliament has the right to review and censure the conduct of a Lieut. Governor; and the Governor General in Council, the right to dismiss. So the French members force action on both. A Legislative Council has, in theory, the right to stop the supplies; so the Quebec Council does stop them. Reviewing the whole case, we do not think it too much to say that every step taken was, theoretically, perfectly right and justifiable; but, practically, a disastrous mistake, the ill consequences of which will long be felt. We do not believe that however high party feeling ran, such a series of events could have occurred in an English country.

During the early part of the year, the question of the removal of the Civil Service officers was the important one with us in this Island. To their credit be it said, Sir John Macdonald and the majority of his cabinet, resisted all the pressure brought to bear upon them; and in scarcely any, if in any case, has there been the removal of a Dominion official for political causes. At first the victorious party were inclined to complain at what seemed an incomprehensible piece of generosity. But they are already beginning to see the advantage of it, and to understand that, in the natural course of things, a good deal of patronage must fall to the party which is in power, and that an appointment to office will now, probably, be for life.

We wish that we could congratulate the local Government upon having shown equal wisdom in this matter. But, having inherited a vicious system from their predecessors, they have, like Shylock, "bettered the instruction." Until they showed us the contrary, we had not supposed it possible to make things worse than they were. "Turn out every opponent!" was the bitter cry before. But Mr. W. Crabbe was not an opponent, but a long-trying friend. Still he must go to make room for some friend or connection of a member of the Government. There was a petty office at the Poor House, with which no Government had ever before interfered. But nothing in the way of patronage is too small for our local rulers to grasp at, and

the appointment of physician of the Poor House becomes a political one. The only thing left that we can see is for all the paupers who are unsoared in their politics to be discharged. If our rulers will do this, their policy will rival Stratford's 'Thorough' in completeness—though hardly in dignity.

The visit of the Governor General and Princess Louise was one of the most prominent events with us in this Province. In other places they may have had grander receptions; but in loyalty and good-will we believe that ours was second to none.

The North River trials, which occupied so large a portion of the time of the Supreme Court last winter, showed a state of things little creditable to us as a community.

We are glad to note the erection, during the year, of a fish-breeding establishment at Dunk River—the good effects of which will be seen.

Two of our country towns have been severely tried—Alberton by small-pox and Summerside by fire. We had two very severe snow storms last winter; and a gale in November did damage that has not yet been fully remedied.

In March last the Davies Government resigned, and the Sullivan administration was formed.

When Sir Robert Hodgson's term of office ceased, Senator Haviland was appointed, who is now the second native of the Province that has held the office of Lieutenant Governor.

It remains for us to notice the removal by death of prominent persons from among us. To begin at home, we have lost Judge Pope and N. Conroy, Esq. Early in the year one of our leading merchants, Mr. R. Peake, died. Lord Lawrence, a most successful Indian administrator, Sir Rowland Hill, of Post-Office fame; Baron Rothchild, Butt, the Home Ruler, and Mr. Delaine, editor of the *London Times*, are a few of the leading names from the obituary of the year. The sad fate of the Prince Imperial of France, added another dark shade to the story of the Zulu war.

And now, on the eve of 1880, we wish to all our friends and (if we have any) our enemies—

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



TENDERS.

TENDERS will be received by this Department, at Ottawa, up to 31st JANUARY, 1880, for the construction of a small Lighthouse Tower at Tignish, Prince County, Prince Edward Island.

Plans and specifications can be seen, and Forms of Tender procured by intending contractors, at this Department, here, at the Agency of this Department, Charlottetown, or at the office of the Collector of Customs, Tignish.

Tenders to be addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside, "Tender for Tignish Lighthouse."

WM. SMITH,  
Deputy Minister of Marine,  
Ottawa, 20th Dec., 1879—d 31 li



TENDERS.

TENDERS will be received by this Department, at Ottawa, up to 29th JANUARY, 1880, for the construction of a small wooden Lighthouse Tower on St. Peter's Island, Hillsborough Bay, Prince Edward Island.

Plans and Specifications can be seen, and Forms of Tender procured by intending contractors, at this Department, here, and at the Agency of this Department, Charlottetown.

Tenders to be addressed to the undersigned, and to be marked on the outside, "Tender for St. Peter's Island Lighthouse."

WM. SMITH,  
Deputy Minister of Marine,  
Ottawa, 16th December, 1879—d31 li

COAL. COAL.

FOR SALE, at the Gas Works, and Koughan's Scales, a quantity of Round Lingson Coal, at \$3.50 per ton.

This Coal gives a great heat, and being almost free from sulphur, is suitable for either grates or cooking stoves.

Dec. 27, 1879—city papers 6i

CHRISTMAS, 1879,

—AND—

New Year, 1880.

RAISINS, Currants, Citron, Lemon and Orange Peel, Flavoring Essences, Ground Spices, (pure); Preserved Ginger, Orange and Lemon Marmalade, Pearl Sage and Tapioca, Macaroni and Vermicelli, Cress & Blackwell's Mixed Pickles and Sauces, Durham Mustard, (in tin's and bottles), Newman's Port Wine, and Hennessy's Brandy.

WM. R. WATSON,  
pat  
Dec. 24, 1879.—1w