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Our subscribers throughout the United States who cannot procure the International Post Office orders at their Post Office, can get instead a Post Office order, payable at Rouse's Point, N.Y., which will prevent much inconvenience both to ourselves and subscribers.

—We invite communications from farmers giving their experience on matters interesting to them as a class, also enquiries which, if we cannot answer ourselves, some of our readers may.

ISSUED LAST WEEK.

Number copies of WEEKLY WITNESS	29,000
" " DAILY WITNESS	77,565
" " MESSENGER	58,000
" " AMATEUR	1,108
Total	166,163

The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1881.

PRIZES.

The demand on our prizes this year is very great. However, we have a good stock of everything on hand except Testaments and "The World in Pictures," which we desire our workers to leave out of their calculations for the present in working for prizes. It is pleasing to know that our prize lists are giving almost universal satisfaction.

CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM.

Our premium picture is meeting with even better appreciation than ever before. Already we have sent away ten thousand copies, and are expecting the arrival of two thousand more every day to complete orders now on hand. We hope to send away at least another ten thousand before the autumn arrives. It is almost unnecessary to print any expressions of opinion concerning this wonderful picture, but one or two may not be considered out of place. Mr. Harris Kirby, of Cape Canis, writes: "I received your picture, and esteem it very highly, as do all who have seen it. It is the best that I ever saw come with any paper. I will try and get as many subscribers as I can, and hope to be able to send some new names soon." Stephen Finch, of Lunenburg, N.S., writes: "The two copies of your premium picture, 'Christ Leaving the Prætorium' for self and subscriber have safely come to hand, for which please accept my best thanks. I am very much delighted with the picture. The figures are numerous and lifelike, and new and interesting features present themselves every time it is looked at."

AN IMMIGRATION SCHEME.

The proposal made some time ago to the Imperial Government at the instance of Sir Alexander Galt, aiming at assisted emigration from Ireland to the North-West, will, if carried into action, give a practical meaning to the relations between colonies and their mother country, and will be a step in the progress of civilization. In all history populations have periodically outgrown the capacities of the countries which they occupied, and generally famine or sword have seemed to be the only cure for such congestion. Civilization has lessened these evils in several ways, by daily providing new means of livelihood for crowded peoples, and by providing the means of transporting food to them in exchange for other products, and by providing means of transporting the surplus of the people to unoccupied lands. This last is the great safety valve of this age, and has proved sufficient where natural affection for home has not been assisted by helpless poverty and an ignorant dread of going abroad. This dread is now condemning millions of Hindoos and Chinese to starvation, and saving America and other countries for more daring people. Many beneficent efforts have been made by private persons to promote emigration of the poorest

from countries, the conditions of which would condemn them to lives of hopeless poverty, if not vagabondage and crime, to others where there is room and incentive to live honestly. But such a national scheme as this would be new in our generation, and from the difference of circumstances should be much more extensive than like enterprises in former times. Of such there have been many. The most interesting of them to us is probably the method by which Canada was at first peopled by the French. This was accomplished under the feudal system, by apportioning the country to lords. These offered every inducement to emigrants, including free passages and free farms, subject to feudal dues, which we presume were not often more than sufficient to reimburse the seigneur for his outlay. With all these advantages the founders of the colony had to contend with such emigrants as they could get, and these were often, both men and women, very different from what they would have selected. When they came here every encouragement was offered to early marriages and consequent large families, bonuses being given to those with good wives, and the residue of the towns of Normandy and Brittany became the parents of a virtuous and rapidly increasing peasantry. One might say that from a Canadian point of view it would be better to people our country as far as possible from populations whose past success warrants the expectation of a happy future. This is true. We have certainly more confidence in Protestant than in Roman Catholic peoples. The former always surpass the latter, but the present is a question of a people in distress overcrowding a wide country open to receive them and a nation with sufficient means to remove them from the one to the other. In the new country they would either be led to emulate their enterprising neighbors or furnish a new proof of the disadvantages under which they labor wherever in the world they may live; probably a little of both. We should like, as we have said before, to see a new Ireland established in the North-West free from all the traditional grievances of the old, with a fair field and every possible advantage, and see what it would grow to. Irish Roman Catholics settled on land make good industrious and loyal citizens in Canada. It is hard to make an Irishman forsake old Ireland for a foreign land, but he would feel differently if he were invited to a new Ireland where there were no landlords.

CARLYLE.

Carlyle was called the son of an Ecclefechan carter, and he was little else. He came out of the last century—came quite out of it—it was his business in life to rid away its rubbish. He was intended for the church. The borders' spears had rusted long ago, and the pulpit and the foray was the goal set before the best youth of the border. And so he went to school at Annan and to college at Edinburgh. Thence he went to be a schoolmaster at Kirkcaldy in Fife under Edward Irving. His youthful friendship with Irving was like that of Tennyson with Hallam, but he was drawn by different qualities. Carlyle worshipped strength and Edward Irving was strength embodied. He who could afterward walk sixty miles to preach and then thunder in the ears of audiences borne along with the whirlwind of his earnestness, away the great pulpit Bible the while as though it had been a Psalm book, was the right companion to imprint on the unformed spirit of a junior a great love for strength. This burly schoolmaster of six feet—of black curly hair—of aquiline eyes—of firm set mouth that could both prophesy and rule, was the elder brother of his love. "Bodily and spiritually," he says, "perhaps there was not a man more full of 'genial energetic life' in all these islands."

"He was the freest, brotherliest, bravest human soul mine ever came in contact with. I call him, on the whole, the best man I have ever (after trial enough) found in this world or now hope to find." Who knows how long Hallam and Tennyson would have moved on together. These two did not, and could not, remain companions. They were the truest of true men, both of them, but Irving's enthusiasm was, as Carlyle said, "sanguine, not atrabilious," he had great power of believing—Carlyle's was the reverse. The one followed his belief "whithersoever through earth—and air—it might lead him," and became, in time, the angel of the "Catholic Apostolic Church." The other moved in an opposite direction and became "the philosopher of clothes." "To Kirkcaldy," says Carlyle, "I went. To gether we talked and wrought and thought; together we strove, by virtue of birch and book, to initiate the urbane into what is called the rudiments of learning; until at length the hand of the Lord was laid upon 'him, and the voice of his God spake to him saying, 'Arise and get thee hence'; and he arose and girded up his loins. And I tarried awhile at Kirkcaldy, endeavoring still to initiate the urbane into the rudiments of learning. I had been destined by my father and my father's minister to be myself a minister of the kirk of Scotland. But now that I had gained man's estate, I was not sure that I believed the doctrines of my father's kirk, and it was needful that I should now settle it. And so I entered my chamber and closed the door, and around me there came a trooping throng of phantoms dire from the abyssal depth of nethermost perdition. Doubt, fear, unbelief, mockery, and scoffing were there; and I wrestled with them in agony of spirit. Thus it was for weeks. Whether I ate I know not; whether I drank I know not; whether I slept I know not. But I know that when I came forth again it was with the direful persuasion that I was the miserable owner of a 'diabolical arrangement called a stomach.' The Hercules who knew not of his stomach wrought himself to death at forty-two, and he who found the devil in his lived on to eighty-four. So their paths went apart, and the soul of Carlyle sought its moorings elsewhere. Of all who had lived since Shakespeare Goethe was the strongest. He was not great morally, he was not great spiritually, but intellectually he sat like Jove on Olympus top, and to him Thomas

Carlyle—half a century later than he in the world—joined himself, for had not Goethe allowed his nature to develop itself untrammelled by 'Philistine' conventionalities and lifted himself out of earthly shame and illusion into the æonian repose of the gods? Carlyle became the strong man's disciple, his interpreter, his friend. Like him he cast off all preconceptions; like him he railed against sham in good round terms—and on the whole more cleanly—as befitted a later and finer grained age. He set forth his Devilizing of Duckpuddle to the work of taking the stage clothes off men, and exposing them in their nakedness. All creeds, customs and surroundings were, according to him, the clothing of men, like the blue coat and baton that make one man into a policeman, the crown and ermine that make another man—the same man would do—into a king, or the cap and bells that send him on the stage as a fool. This book, *Sartor Resartus*—the patcher repatched—the author of it took to London, and lived with it there for years before he could find a publisher. It had to come out first in a magazine. In this experience as in many others he followed his prototype, who was long in getting a hearing, and had as it were to force his earlier works upon the world. *Sartor Resartus* like the translation of Wilhelm Meister, which was earlier, was written in a hop-and-go style as uncouth as the name of its hero, and the author, having attracted public attention in this fantastic garb, hobbled about in it like the *diable boiteux* for the rest of his life. Yet all the stately stepping of other pens is tame and monotonous when such accentuating thumping of these crutches is heard. The charm of Carlyle's style is like that of the troubled rapid as compared with the smooth-flowing stream. A hero worshipper himself he preached hero worship, and when heroes lacked, as indeed, outside of One whom he never denied, it is hard to find any worthy of worship, he set himself to paint them. Never was a more laborious historian than he. No book, no pamphlet, no document, no print, touching on the history of the great Frederick for instance, but he read and carefully noted; yet never was there one who wrote more imaginative history. He was not the servant of his facts; they were his servants. They were marshalled not in truthful proportion, but as they would best serve to color the hero or devil he happened to be painting. His heroes march upon the stage out of air, out of fable, out of flesh and blood men—so long as they could be painted with that moral brawn which is powerful to govern men or thrash them, it mattered little to him where the models were got. Painting pictures in which force plays the only noticeable part, or falling at the out-of-simulacra which veil reality from man was the theme of most of his writing. He fulfilled his mission long ago. He has lived to the years of Goethe, but as his latest writing was not his strongest it is hardly left us to hope that like Goethe he has left some of his best works to see the light after he should have passed into the greater light. Carlyle married a descendant of John Knox, who "cheered him for forty years in all of noble that he did or attempted." He lived with her partly on her estate at Craighputtock, in the moors of Dumfriesshire, and partly at Comely Bank, Edinburgh, until he moved to a little old-fashioned brick house at Chelsea, in London, where he lived fifty years and died. His grave will be beside hers with whom "the light went out of his life," but the nation wishes to enshrine him in her pantheon.

THE HUDSON BAY OUTLET FOR THE NORTH-WEST.

When it was shown that the chief result of the monopoly clause of the Pacific Railway contract would be to place the people of the North-West at the mercy of the Syndicate who would be able to charge all that the traffic would bear, Sir Charles Tupper pointed out that they would have a remedy in their own hands. There was nothing in the contract to prevent them from building a competing line toward the north, and a railway to Fort Nelson on Hudson Bay would give them the nearest seaport for Europe. Now this is rather cold comfort for the people of Ontario and Quebec, out of whose pockets, notwithstanding all the talk about its "not costing one cent," etc., the money for the construction of the road will mostly come. But to the people of the North-West, the remedy would not be as quick a one as at first sight it would seem to be. To all the North-West of Canada, as well as to all the Western and North-Western States, the route via Hudson Bay and the Straits is the shortest by a long way to Europe. The great trouble about it is that it is uncertain how long or rather how short a time navigation of the Gulf and Straits would be possible. An employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, a resident of York Factory, which lies in latitude 57° longitude 92°, between the Nelson and Hayes rivers, near James Bay, has taken the trouble of getting statistics extending over the past fifty-two years, showing the dates of the opening and closing of the Hayes river. It appears from the table which he has constructed that the Hayes river is navigable about as long every year as the St. Lawrence. On the average of the fifty-two years it has been open from May 20th to November 20th, or just six months in every year. It appears from the table too that the climate is undergoing a change, very gradual it is true, but still an appreciable change, the duration of the open season during the last ten years of the period covered by the statistics being on an average five days longer than that of the first ten years. Of course, Hudson Bay itself, with the exception of shores, is open all the year. The great difficulty, however, is the navigation of Hudson's straits. The period during which the straits are open has never been satisfactorily settled. Some seasons it is probably blocked by ice, both very late in the spring and very early in the fall. It is believed, however, that strong steamers could find a passage early in June and late in November. One of the strongest arguments against the feasibility of the route is that the Hudson Bay Company has never regarded it with much favor, though it offered great advantages for their trade.

THE EXODUS.

Official returns are considered to be a valid source of information whereon governments may act. There is no reason why the official returns of a neighboring country should not for practical purposes be as valid as those of our own, and Mr. Blake recently quoted with perfect confidence a statement from the returns of the United States Customs officials so starting as to lead to investigation. It was said that the total number of immigrants to the United States entering that country at Port Huron alone was over ninety-four thousand in one year, whereof seventy-five thousand were from Canada. Mr. Lowe, of the Department of Agriculture, was sent to investigate this statement, and found that it was all guess work of the most extravagant and absurd kind. "The difference between the number of westward bound and eastward bound passengers by Grand Trunk and Great Western crossing the river at that point was for the period in question only between six and seven thousand, and there are probably few emigrants who do not go by one or other of these lines. This figure should represent the bulk of the westward emigration from Canada and all other places to the United States and Manitoba. What proportion of it may be from Canada to the United States may be approximately obtained from the railway books, but we need not enter on particulars. Calculations made by Mr. Lowe, based on other data, show a similar result. The American custom house returns can, therefore, be looked upon only as misrepresentation, and as the figures give for the last month reported give the number of emigrants at eight or ten times as capacity of second-class cars of both railways as now run they look like a wilful misrepresentation made to deceive the world as to the relative prosperity of the two countries. To Mr. Thomas White is due in the first place the exposure of this petty and disgraceful proceeding.

A CONSTITUTIONAL STRUGGLE IN NORWAY.

For some months past an important constitutional struggle has been going on in Norway, between the Storting or popular Parliament on the one hand and the Ministry and King on the other, which looks as though it might possibly end in the establishment of a Republic. A clear understanding of the cause of the struggle cannot be gained without some knowledge of the present relations of the country with its sovereign. When Napoleon was dividing the thrones of Europe among his marshals, the throne of Sweden was awarded to Bernadotte principally, it is said, because Napoleon mistrusted and hated Bernadotte, and wished to get him as far out of the way as possible. Bernadotte, however, was ambitious, and cast an envious eye, it appears, on the throne of France itself. At least so avers Bjornstjerne Bjornson, a well-known Norwegian litterateur, whose name is well-known to Americans by his tales, and who contributes an interesting article on the subject to *Scribner's Monthly* for February.

Bernadotte, according to our author, entered into a bargain with Alexander of Russia against Napoleon, and to pay Sweden for going into the war it was determined that he should be given Norway, which then belonged to Denmark. The league fell through, but Bernadotte seized Norway all the same, and by a treaty with the Storting was acknowledged their king. Norway was not, however, merged in Sweden, but she was granted a constitution of her own, drawn up apparently for the most part by the Storting itself, for it was a very liberal constitution, founded upon that of the United States, that of France of 1791 immediately after the Revolution, and of Spain of 1812. "Our whole constitution," says this Norwegian writer, "is in general the outgrowth of the fundamental principles of the American and French revolutions, which are solemnly embodied in its preamble. These fundamental principles are the gospel of the people's sovereignty." The people have from the beginning of time been a self-ruling people, indeed they are the fathers of all those self-ruling peoples, the English among the rest, who are so fond of, and withal so successful also, in ruling others. The Norwegian constitution, therefore, gave the King very few state prerogatives indeed. Among other ideas adopted from the American constitution was one unfortunate one, and the cause of the present trouble. That idea was that the members of the Executive should not have seats in the Storting. The ruling people of Norway are the country people, or peasantry, who elect more than two-thirds of the whole number of the Storting, and who manage their own municipal matters quite independently of the central Government. The representatives thus elected have found at different times that the members of the Executive, free from their control, and living under the influence of the king and court, are out of accordance with them on state matters. The Storting, therefore, wishing to remedy this state of affairs, proposed an amendment of the constitution making it necessary for all members of the Executive or Government—the king's advisers—to be members of the Storting, just as in our Parliament. The present Executive, however, advised the king to dissent to the amendment, to which the Storting have replied by passing the measure three times by a two-thirds majority, after which, according to the popular view of the constitution, it becomes law without the king's assent. The king disagreed, however, and solemnly vetoed the measure and so the matter stands for the present. The people are now discussing the advisability of declaring a republic, and they are slow, steady-going people, they will do nothing rashly, but it is certain that once they have made up their minds they will move surely and slowly. There are only about two millions of people, and on economical grounds alone the change is regarded as advantageous by many. The Norwegians hold that by throwing off their king they need not necessarily sacrifice the union with Sweden, which they state is not wholly opposed to taking the same step.

NOT WORSE THAN MY NEIGHBORS.

The wicked have a common way of excusing themselves by showing that they are no worse than some one else. To the wicked this line of defence should be left. The *Gazette* quotes the New York *Graphic* to show that the Northern Pacific Railway when completed will cost about seventy-five million dollars, and the Government estimate of the value of the lands granted to secure its construction is nearly one hundred million dollars, leaving a profit of twenty-five million dollars on the construction of the road. Even this small consolation to the wounded consciences of the supporters of the bargain with the Syndicate will be taken away when it is remembered that at the time the grant was made by the Government of the United States the cost of constructing the railway was reckoned at nearly double the amount which it is now likely to cost, and the estimated value of the land grant was then very much less than it is now, so that instead of the land grant paying for the construction of the road at the time it was made, it was estimated that the Company would have to raise from sixty to seventy million dollars from other sources in order to complete their road. How very different is the bargain made with the Canada Pacific Syndicate. The estimated cost of the road to be built by the Syndicate is less than fifty million dollars, for which they are to receive twenty-five million dollars in cash and twenty-five million acres of good selected lands, which, along with exemption from taxation and custom duties, &c., makes the grant to the Syndicate very much more than the actual cost of the road, even if the lands were valued at only one dollar per acre, which every one must allow is altogether too low. If, however, the Government are now of the opinion that the land is worth no more than one dollar per acre, they might secure its speedy settlement by enacting that actual settlers may, after due delay, take up unoccupied lands, which have been granted to the Syndicate, on the payment of two dollars per acre for it together with interest at six per cent. on that amount for the time since it was first granted by the Government. If a provision like this were made for dealing with all unoccupied Syndicate lands, whether held by themselves or sold to other parties, it would lead to a speedy settlement of these lands and also remove a great cause of grievance to other settlers, while at the same time the Syndicate would make large profits, as they would get two dollars per acre for their lands.

DEATH has been unusually busy among our Parliamentary representatives of late. Doctor William Harkin, the Conservative representative in the Ontario Legislature for the County of Prescott, which he has represented since 1878, has just died suddenly, at the age of fifty. Doctor Harkin was of Irish parentage, though a Canadian by birth.

PROBABLY the best way to treat our Canadian Senate is to say nothing about it. It seems to be a body without a soul of its own, every member voting according to the party that put him in. It will never again have a better chance than it has just had of proving its usefulness or uselessness, and it has made its choice.

FIFTEEN MEMBERS of Parliament have asked the Finance Minister to increase the duty on pork two cents per pound. The farmers were to have been greatly blessed by the National Policy, but they do not seem to be quite happy. Why is this industry not properly encouraged? Why should Canadians eat Yankee hogs if they can get Canadian for two cents more a pound, so long as Canadian hogs are not allowed to enter American stomachs?

SPLENDID FELLOWS those Dutchmen. We wish there were some better way of making loyal subjects of them than by conquest, which will not accomplish it in a century. Still we can wish them nothing better than a thrashing for presuming to stand up against the British empire in defence of their complete independence. They ought to understand that a power with enormous interests at stake cannot afford to have its frontier policy interfered with by a few bullying frontier men. Might is right when a little colony would dictate to an empire.

MR. DAWSON'S EFFORTS in favor of old names against the complimentary inventions of surveyors has met with much favor in Parliament. We presume little can be done in this matter by way of regulation, but the effect of public opinion will naturally be great. A few general rules would be of service; abolish no old name that can be preserved; call no place after any other place. When the names of persons are used it should be without vulgar terminations. There is material enough in language to supply rounds new and sweet with which to give a name to every place that needs one.

THE IRISH HOME RULES have not yet recovered from the succession of stunning blows they have received at the hands of the Government, and the Land League appears to have been crushed by the instant and easy undoing of Davitt and the general display of newly awakened vigor on the part of the Government. The success of the malecontents made them over-confident and they have fallen. If Mr. Gladstone's land law is a wise one and is passed by the Lords, as we have no doubt it will, they have probably fallen like Lucifer never to rise again.

THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT have, it is rumored, reversed their policy with regard to Candahar. It is now stated by the London press that the Government intends retaining Candahar as a British dependency under a native ruler, just as they have done during the past two years, when Wall Sher Ali was the nominal ruler. It is probable that these reports are founded rather on popular feeling in view of the recent success of the Russians under General Skobeleff in Tekke-Turkistan, and of the recent revelations of Russian duplicity in Afghanistan, than of any revelation with regard to the intentions of the Government.

THE BOERS have hemmed General Colley in, and so strong is the force in front of him that he dares not fall back upon his reinforcements, but is compelled to hold his present position. The Boers have, it appears, sent a force to meet the reinforcements which have started from Durban, the seaport of Natal, under Brigadier-General Sir Evelyn Wood. General Wood is a very clever, energetic, perhaps somewhat rash, leader, with a thorough knowledge of the whole ground, having commanded the flying column in the Zulul campaign, which had its base of operations in the Transvaal. General Wood is also thoroughly conversant with the Boers and their tactics, and will be none the less useful because he sympathizes with them to some extent in the object for which they are fighting.

THE SECRET CORRESPONDENCE between the Ameer Sher Ali and the Russian authorities, found at Cabul after the capture of that city by the British troops, turns out to be about as bad as it well could be for Russia. It reveals Russian duplicity and trickery very clearly. Russia had entered into a treaty with England, and immediately afterward commenced to foment trouble between Afghanistan and India with the purpose apparently of stirring up a rebellion among the Mohammedans of India, and of thereby distracting England's attention from Russia's operations both in Europe and Asia. These papers confirm the worst that was charged against Russia by the Russophobes, and the English officers—like Captain Burnaby and others who had some personal knowledge of her designs and made them known—were called.

"GREAT IS THE NATIONAL POLICY" was the cry by which the disgraceful Pacific contract was carried in a House made up largely of representative protectionists. The contract was bad, very bad, but they must vote it good lest their great goddess, by whose service they had their wealth, should be dethroned. But the goddess is attacked in her own temple. Dr. Orton, who was one of her chief priests, fears she has disgraced herself in the matter of coal oil. She has given to the refiners what is in danger of being called a hurtful monopoly, and the quality of the coal oil has not been improved by the change made in the law last session. In fact, the great policy is in danger of being spoken against. The best way to deal with this heretic priest is the good old way, namely, to put him out of the synagogue. It will be unholy to touch the great policy.

SMALL-POX has been more or less epidemic on the north shore of the St. Lawrence below the Saguenay for several months past, the Indians being the chief sufferers, and vaccination has been generally submitted to by the people, chiefly it is said owing to the exertions of the different gentlemen connected with the lumber firms of that region. The disease, it appears, has broken out with renewed severity and the Quebec Government having refused to send a doctor to the relief of the unfortunate sufferers, Mr. Beaudet, the provincial member for Chicoutimi, has done so at his own expense. Our impunctuous Government is surely placed in an unenviable position when it is obliged to leave one of the most important and pressing duties of the State to be fulfilled by a private person, even though he be a member of the Provincial Parliament.

MR. PARNELL, not content with reducing the freedom of Parliament to a farce and making free speech impossible at its very shrine, is about to go to the United States to cast discredit on democracy. The majority of either party in the United States would despise itself for encouraging this demagogue in an appeal against a Government which is doing all it can to meet every reasonable demand of the Irish people, even to the extent of interfering with the legal rights of property in a way which no American community could ever submit to, but such is the tyranny of any influence that can control an appreciable number of votes that neither party will dare to be cool to the agitator. Mr. Parnell will soon show that if he cannot rule Parliament he can rule Congress, that is, if the past conduct of that body is repeated in this case.

BY THE DECISION of the Supreme Court Mr. Perreault, who has represented Charlevoix in the Commons in the Conservative interest for nearly three important sessions, and Mr. Larue, who has represented Belleschasse for the same period in the Liberal interest, have both been declared not to have been duly elected to those positions. In the case of Belleschasse the decision of the lower court was sustained, in that of Charlevoix the decision of Judge Routhier was reversed. Few will dispute the righteousness of these decisions, but every one will feel that a legal process which only unseats a falsely-elected member when the Parliament for which the election was held is half over fails to fulfil the ends of justice. It is certainly better than the old system of trial by Parliamentary committee, which almost invariably resulted in a partisan verdict, but surely some more summary method can be devised.

ANYONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING of county elections knows that Mr. Boulbe's amendment to the Scott law requiring that that law should not pass unless the votes of a majority of all the voters in the county shall be registered in its favor, could not fail, if passed, to render the law entirely inoperative. This is the intention of the motion which was sprung upon the House last year and passed, although rejected in the Senate, but which, we hope, will be better seen through this time. The Scott law was a Government measure, and its subject-matter is of sufficient importance for the Government to have a policy upon it. Sir John Macdonald could wipe out this amendment by lifting his finger, and the country will properly hold him responsible if he fails to do so. Many Conservative members feel that it would be a pity for their party if its day of unadvised power should be associated with retrograde legislation in the interest of the liquor traffic.

IF THE REPORT of the Colonial Secretary's despatch to the President of the Orange Free State be a fair statement of that document, it seems better calculated to prove the distastefulness of the Government at the awkward position of Sir George Colley than to afford any practical result. The Boers would be foolish to build on a promise couched in such vague and general terms, even if they were not encouraged by such overtures to push hostilities, seeing that they had already humbled the English Government into seeking the mediation of a third party. It is probable, however, that the offer of peace may be simply a dignified reply to representations on the part of the president in question, or a last offer to the Boers made through the only recognizable channel, before administering the castigation which is the only alternative. The Government would certainly act wisely in using any honorable means to avert hostility and secure the adherence of these frontier neighbors, who will be friends or enemies for ever, according to the way they are now dealt with.

THE DOMINION ALLIANCE are going to push things in the way of vigilance, public indoctrination and influencing legislation. They have been much hampered during the years of scarceness by lack of means, their collections having been ridiculously small as compared with the magnitude of their fight. Their defeat in Stanstead might have been reversed had the means for agitation been more largely at their disposal. They ask for five thousand dollars for operations this year in the Province of Quebec. When the cost of agents, of legal expenses, of printing, etc., are taken into account it is felt that the movement would be crippled if restricted to a less sum. The merchants are to be immediately called on to give their share toward this sum which is to be spent in their interest, and if they could only see how largely the work of the Alliance is in their interest, it would not be five days before the whole sum would be voluntarily subscribed. The present is the time for action in this matter, seeing the active interest just now taken among the French.

THE TUKER TURCOMANS after their long and vigorous resistance to the Russian troops have, according to the Russian commander, General Skobeleff, given up the struggle and are now inclined to settle down peacefully under any terms which the conquerors are disposed to dictate. This does not appear likely if it is meant to convey the idea that the whole people are inclined to submit. It is probable that the people who reside in the district of which Geok Tepe was the centre, are not inclined to keep up a hopeless struggle, but between Geok Tepe and Merv there are two fortresses, which, though not so strong as as that which has been captured, are capable of a protracted defence, and as the Merv Turcomans are by far the most numerous and most powerful it is not probable that they are inclined to accept any very onerous terms at present. Russia has declared that it is not her purpose to proceed beyond Geok Tepe, and that she does not intend holding that stronghold permanently, but her announced intentions have never been borne out by her subsequent actions.

THE FACT that the consumption of lager beer is increasing in the United States is looked upon by a New York paper as a sign that "wise and practicable temperance" is flourishing. "Let beer drinkers," it says, "thus go on increasing, and whiskey drinking proportionally diminishing, and there will be little need of prohibitory temperance legislation." This would be all very good were it not for the fact that those countries in which beer drinking prevails are among the greatest sufferers by the vice of drunkenness, and that the "drink habit" induced by the excessive use of this liquid is of the most brutal type. Whether the beers are heavy as in England or light as on the Continent makes no difference, it is merely a question of time and circumstances when the same effects will be produced by the same cause. The fact has been amply demonstrated that mankind is better off without the use of alcoholic stimulants, in the temperate, torrid or frigid zones, and the only safety consists in total abstinence from these pernicious drinks.

THE DANGER of monopolies is attracting much attention in the United States in view of the recent telegraph consolidation, and both people and press apparently consider that something must be done to limit the power of gigantic combinations formed for the special purpose of "bleeding" the public. A Philadelphia paper in denouncing the oppressive monopoly of the coal-carrying companies of Pennsylvania, which are also the mining companies, for restricting the production of coal and keeping up a purely artificial price, quotes the *Miners' Journal*, an organ of these corporations, as saying that the "extreme cold weather and successive snow-storms, together with the decree of the leading interests that operations shall be restricted to three days in the week, have cut down the production to a very small figure, and those who are not now plentifully supplied with coal are at a disadvantage." Our contemporary characterizes this language as phenomenally brutal, in view of the great suffering entailed upon the poor this exceptionally severe winter owing to high prices of fuel. As coal is heavily protected—and protection is the generator of monopolies—the people have it in their power to end the tyranny whenever they choose to do so.

THE GOVERNMENT can hardly hope to escape condemnation at the next general elections for the course they have seen fit to pursue with regard to the Canada Pacific Railway contract with the syndicate. The quiet confidence of the Liberal press, and the irritated utterances of the Conservative press, together with the warnings of the independent press, all make it manifest that there is just now but one opinion in Canada on the subject. The United States journals, as will be seen by the following paragraph from the New York *Commercial Bulletin*, arrive at the same conclusion from what they know by actual experience in a similar case. The *Bulletin* says:—There are unmistakable indications that the Canadian Government contract with the Pacific Railway Syndicate will be made a commanding issue in the next general election in the

