

grantee that they will not. England should send more soldiers to Herat, to Candahar, to Jellalabad—should possess herself of the Khyber Pass,—or she should go out of the country altogether. Lord Ripon was appointed Viceroy of India on Gladstone's Government going into power. This is the same Lord Ripon who was Grand Master of the English Freemasons, who turned Catholic some years ago, and resigned the Grand Mastership of the Masons to the Prince of Wales. The Earl is now ill of jungle fever and it is thought he will have to leave India. Nothing but a change of air can cure this fever. Earl Dufferin will probably be Lord Ripon's successor should the latter reign.

THE AFRICAN WARS.

Zululand has been quiet the past year, and King Cetewayo has been in England since learning European civilization. Barnum has offered immense sums for him as a contribution to his curiosities. Last summer Empress Eugenie went to the Zulu wilds to see the spot where her beloved son fell. Towards the autumn the Basutos began to thirst for conquest and troubled the Cape authorities. But they have been whipped several times, and feeling the smart are ready now to come to terms. But another fighting spot has broken out,—this time it is the Boers of the Transvaal against British authority in their province. They have been successful so far against the few Colonial forces, but Imperial troops will soon be sent and the rebels crushed out.

TURKEY.

Turkey stands much the same from one year to another. She is pledged, and only pledged to social reforms, and these Mr. Gladstone attempted early in the summer through Mr. Goschen to have carried out. By the Berlin treaty, Turkey was to cede Dulcigno a port on the Adriatic to Montenegro. The Albanians held the port, and Turkey pretended she could not coerce the occupants into cession. It was to effect this little matter that the worlds great armada went up the Adriatic, sailed up and down before the town of Dulcigno, and went away again the laughing stock of Europe. In the end Dulcigno was given up, and the Montenegrins entered it with a howl. The Greek frontier is just as inscientific as ever still.

FRANCE.

France has not forgotten the day when her fallen Emperor signed Bismarck's terms in the cotton weavers cottage. She is biding her time, building up her dismantled forts, paying off her debts, casting more modern guns, and quietly but surely sharpening her weapons of war. Germany though sturdy and strong is yet somewhat appalled at France's silence; and when a question between the powers comes up, France and Germany have eyes for nothing or anybody, but one another. Alsace and Lorraine upon the border for the last hundred years had been France's boasted best accession—depend upon it the Teuton will not hold these without a struggle. Bismarck cannot always live—nor can the army always have Von Moltke to draw the battle in the tent. Germany and France have to fight—than this there is nothing more sure. For the past year the conduct of the French Government has been a disgrace to the French nation. Infidels control in the cabinet, and their fondest hope is to expel Christ from France. To this end they have forbidden religious orders to teach in the public schools; have entered monasteries and convents like burglars by night and expelled the inmates. Of course France is yet a republic under President Grevy—Jules Ferry the Infidel, is leader of the Government, and M. Constans another Infidel is Minister of Education. Their Government had a narrow escape in October, but they managed to steady themselves for a time. Their downfall however is not far—for Catholic France cannot forget that her pious priests are exiled all over the earth.

GERMANY.

The result of the year in Germany was the marriage of the Princess Frederica of Hanover to a humble Baron. Emperor Wilhelm was shocked, but Queen Victoria proved herself a happy match maker, had the affair managed in the Royal Chapel of Windsor. Germany is now arrayed against the resident Jews—and the Catholics are not molested for the nonce. Germany has a protective policy like Canada.

[To be concluded in next.]

The North Star.

CHATHAM, N. B., JANUARY 5, 1881.

J. E. COLLINS, Editor.

The County has now mourned Five Days for Deserter Snowball.

A PROPHECY HATH NO HONOR, ETC.

What an appreciative City Halifax surely must be to have sent over to St. John for Mr. Anglin to raise a disturbance in Nova Scotia about the Contract. Now in St. John the City in which Mr. Anglin lives, the people are so inappreciative they have persistently refused to elect Mr. Anglin, and would not dream of asking him to make a speech against the Contract or any other measure.

He is so thoroughly satisfied of his uselessness in Ottawa that he has deserted and gone to England.

THE SPIRIT OF LATEST DES-PATCHES.

At a Land meeting lately in Yonge a new feature was 2,000 mounted farmers.

Most of the Transvaal has now passed out of British hands.

Greece is introducing arms on the mainland from Corfu and other places—contrary to treaty.

It is now thought it will be announced in the Queen's speech that proceedings against the Land League will be abandoned.

4,000 Turcomans recently raided Baurna and captured 500 camels. The Russians pursued and retook 250 camels near Gook Tepe, where a severe combat occurred. The garrison made a sortie and captured two camels, which the Russians afterwards recaptured and then returned to Rani. A Turcoman general was wounded.

A FABLE.

Long ago when the lower animals possessed the power of speech, and the gift of a certain kind of reason, in a distant corner of the earth, there dwelt in one country the Ass, the Dog, the Fox, and the Wolf, and various other animals as well, which formed one community. The Ass bethought him how great a thing it would be if he could become the popular animal of the tribes, and to this end he always spoke on things pertaining to the state, and told the Lion and the Dog, and the Wolf and the Fox what they ought to do. In time the various animals began to live in becoming order, and each subjected himself to the general laws. The Ass still continued to lecture the rest, but his great soul hungered and thirsted after popularity. He wished to be the favorite with the Fox, with the Wolf, with the Lion. And when a vicious wolf sallied forth though against the laws, and tore the bleating ewe, the righteous Ass said, The wolf is just; he did no harm—and then he again preached morality. And when the Fox stole out at night and cut the goose's throat, and all the other beasts heard about it, the wise Ass said it was good—the fox did no harm—and then turned away to give another moral lecture. The wolf thanked him and said, You are my friend, and the fox said, Well gone noble Ass, and so said every other evil doer—and the popularity of the Ass was very great. At length the various beasts saw that their laws were dis-regarded more and more every day, that they were fast returning to their early state, and the popular moralizing Ass, though lecturing on morals and the keeping of the law, constantly violated both himself, and was always defending the breakers. They therefore consulted together, and decided to expel the Ass, as a deceiver to himself and them, and as a fool. Even the wicked animals whom he had defended scorned him, and after cutting off one of his ears, they drove him forth. Can our readers see any likeness?

This is the FIFTH DAY.

ST JOHN AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Local Government met down in New Brunswick (we mean St. John) the other day for the despatch of local business. The Government have held two or three meetings in St. John this summer, something not done before since Hon Mr. Lindsay of Woodstock was Surveyor General, and carried the Departmental papers, and enough provisions for two days, down in a red cotton handkerchief. To do St. John's work a special council would require a perpetual sitting, and still York Point or Partridge Island would be complaining. The Government ought to issue a special commission to Hon Robert Marshall giving him plenary powers to deal with all St. John matters, from an ordinary petition up to a slaughter house grievance.

There is a good deal of interest felt by busy bodies, whom it does not at all concern, as to when, if ever, the Government will fill the vacant seats in the Legislative Council. There is one thing pretty certain, and that is they will not be filled just at present, though it is more than likely that they will be filled in part next summer. We know the Government is pledged to the abolition of the upper chamber, but the potency of Governments, like the power of every other body, has its limits, and our Government could only go to the fullest extent they were able. They brought the measure up in the Lower House, but when it reached the gullet, the old ladies fell upon and choked it. The Government could do no more; they might indeed have resigned and gone before the country on the question, but an election with whatever results would not change the temper of the upper chamber, and the new ministry would find itself just where the old set out. The Government must therefore bide events, and the growth of a feeling up stairs as well as down in favour of abolition, should indeed the desire wear well with years, and the uselessness of an upper chamber be as

apparent twenty years hence or now. It is absurd, all things considered, to say the Government needn't fill the seats which now lie vacant, for that would be as unconstitutional and as much without their jurisdiction as for the Legislature to refuse to send their bills up stairs for the assent of the chamber. The chamber was established by the act of Union, and it can only be disestablished by supreme legislation, or by Provincial legislation which means the concurrence of both branches. It is folly therefore to talk about letting the upper branch "die out" but it is only talked of by those who know no better. For our part we should be delighted to see it swept away tomorrow, but that is an atom only in the scale. The Government must therefore appoint, but they should appoint only such men as pledge their word to the abolition of the chamber when the time for action comes; and no honorable man would repudiate his word of honor. It looks queer to ask a man to be *felo de se*; and to ask a gentleman like Hon. T. R. Jones to extinguish himself when the good of his country demands his suppression, would seem perfectly monstrous; but if it be the country's interest that the expensive old tree should go, let no man cry out with unbecoming pity, "O woodman spare it."

There are four vacancies now in the Legislative Council we believe, and some people foolishly hint at a fifth. They indulge the foolish fancy that Ex-Hon. W. M. Kelly, having left the Province disfranchises himself, and that his seat will be therefore empty. They are very foolish indeed if they think Mr. Kelly will allow himself to be snuffed out so easily; because that gentleman for the good of his country has been in many a tight place, and always squeezed through successfully. Why rather than that they should disqualify him because of being a non-resident, and that seems to be the grounds urged by those who want to get him out, he would build a camp somewhere this side of the line, and sleep two or three nights out of the year in it. This would continue his legal qualification.

SIGNIFICANT.

It was not a little significant that Mr. Blake refused to hear Sir Charles Tupper confronting him the other evening while he spoke against the contract with the Synchite. His friends thus urged him: Mr. Blake, the enemy will say we are weak if we refuse to face them; we think you ought to invite Sir Charles to the platform. You have facts that no one can confute—and these in the enemy's face will tell with tenfold force before the country. But Mr. Blake still objected, said he wanted the entire meeting to himself and he would not be interrupted. He spoke, not indeed a new speech, but the same thing over again which he gave the Commons. It was the usual two-edged sword that cut right and left, but dealt deeper wounds to his own party than to Sir John's. The Minister of Railways was in the audience and he had his note book in his hand. When Mr. Blake reached his loftiest flights, and made his strongest points, Sir Charles smiled. The next evening it was different, for Sir Charles had the platform, and Mr. Blake's speech was his theme. Sir Charles in debate is always a giant, confronting an opponent, especially when an opponents argument leaks, he is irresistible. In this case he simply annihilated Mr. Blake's whole argument, and so conclusively did his speech carry conviction to the mass of people in the hall, that when he said "Let any man who would oppose this contract hold up his hand," only three hands were put up.

AY, INDEED.

The people of this County will question the sincerity of Jabez Snowball's published howling against the contract when they ask themselves,—Where now is Snowball? If he think the contract such an odious thing, he will stay in Ottawa and oppose it; he will tell the House his objections to it. That is the place to fight iniquitous measures. "But he!" they say, "he is not in Ottawa now. While every other Liberal Representative in the Dominion is in Ottawa opposing the contract, our Mr. Jabez is in England attending to his own business. Out on him; he has deceived us. What does the ignorant rant of his newspaper signify? We can have that all the year round, but Parliament meets only once a year. It is there we want him! Yes—but doesn't it serve Northumberland just right to be today the only county in Canada unrepresented at Ottawa, and at the most important time in the history of this country. Suppose every Liberal acted the deserter and fled away in the thick of the battle as our deserter had done: what then?—but then a speech made up from deal, invoices would be no good against the contract, and Jabez has fled away thoroughly appreciating his own uselessness.

Hon Mr. Macdougall has spoken on the Pacific contract but his objections are merely matters of detail; though rather than that the contract should not carry he would forego these. Mr. Macdougall is the Conservative over whose defection the Reformers made such a flourish of trumpets.

We know he is no loss to the county, but that is not the point; his place when the Parliament is sitting, is Ottawa.

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Parish Returns and County Accounts.

All Parish Officers who have not yet made their returns and all persons having claims against the County are hereby required to render the same to my office forthwith. Dated at Newcastle, December 21st, 1880.

SAMUEL THOMSON, Sec. -TREASURER, co. northumberland.

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