

hi Advance.

MAY 7, 1885.

Visit to Ireland.

... a short time ago, the Prince of Wales to probable results that did not hope so soon we then threw out on essed from a source to its early fulfilment. address at Carrick- of last month, when England, the Prince touching and sensible among other things, Viceroyalty and, of a separate l. In their stead ation of a Cabinet State, similar to ng established for rm with the Home ngland. changes would be the e of the Queen, or the Royal family, and results that would come if a closer relationship be- eople and their sovereign, the for which, we believe, exist beneath all the froth of disloyalty. The Irish are in- sely loyal at heart, but the outlet for the expression of their yalty has never been opened in true channels. Their aspirations in this regard have been thwarted and traversed in all directions by untoward circumstances and events, and have found voice in unnatural courses, and for unworthy objects. Instead of being directed aright they have been diverted in devious ways and have been destructive as a flood, when they might have been kindly as a river. The discussions of the causes which have led to these unfavorable consequences have been thrashed out till they are practically unprofitable except for lessons in experience and should be left for Irishmen, themselves, in their own country, where alone they can be understood. We, on this side of the Atlantic, have, more or less, lost both the faculty and function for taking part in them to our advantage or the benefit of Ireland. We may sympathize with, and encourage what is honest, but we should hold our tongues in criticism or debate about that of the intrinsic merits of which, we are generally profoundly ignorant, where we are not biased.

The Viceroyalty in Ireland has stood in the way of Royalty itself, and has failed to fulfil the purpose which it was intended to accomplish eighty-five years ago. When legislative union was then effected—rightly or wrongly it is of little importance now—it was unwise, simply as a sop or bribe to national feelings, apart from the Empire, to leave a relic of a distinction, which it was really intended to obliterate. Being unwise the policy has deservedly failed and, in a measure, engendered disgust, as unrealities always do. Those who look back on the act of union as a disaster, may be reminded that the Irish legislature as constituted in 1799 would never have passed the measures of reform and conciliation enacted in London. Dublin would have been slow to reform itself, and slower still to relinquish powers that withheld the privileges which the Imperial Parliament granted. Thus, a civil war in Ireland may have been averted by an event which has been too loosely examined, aside from the bitterness it engendered, and which has concealed the germ unwittingly planted for peace in the future.

The shadow of Royalty in Ireland is too close to the substance in Great Britain to be effective, and is associated, no matter how wise and worthy the career may be, with the reverse of the as the people have of a monarch and art. He is looked upon by the mass the unthinking as a chief of the Dublin Castle as a detective and the executive as the ad- on of star chamber and in- justice. Its existence is a reminder of other times, not ns, round which there is ce, and a text and peg to on, in which truth and ed that no historian o unravel them. Irish nwritten page, hence ts traditions which generation to gen- ed by imagination assion. It is in the still, and not yet cooled d into philosophic form. from our view, if it were rishmen, like the English, could sit down together eir country's epic and praise and brave achievements and the bad on both sides in the of the past. The hero, would hero, the knave a knave and a fool. Antiquity would jus- rong, party no crime and re- uld be lamented as having n up to faction what was or mankind.

ook with confidence for better than the statute books can show at the Prince of Wales has sug- ested is carried into effect. He, ev- dently, has not made his trip to Ire- land a perfunctory parade, but may have touched a national nerve that has been too long paralyzed or over-stimulated by the abuse of political narcotics. Similia similibus curantur, under royal administration, may at least be tried with safety. It cannot kill if it does not cure.

The Rogersville Distress.

Late advices from Rogersville show that the statements we have already made concerning the distress and destitution prevailing there are fully sustained, and that a very large proportion of the settlers are not only in urgent need of food and clothing, but have to be provided with seed—oats and potatoes—for the springing, if even a worse condition of s next season is to be averted. r information respecting the cir- cumstances of these people and the s which have led to the existing of affairs among them makes it a to direct public attention to the hat they have been systematically d by a class of speculators whose ions among them ought to be cur-

tailed in the future. The settlement is contiguous to the Intercolonial Railway and has, therefore, the advantage of easy communication with places both in and outside of the County, yet it has been a kind of terra incognita to nearly everybody save a few politicians and traders. The people are Acadians, the majority of them having very little knowledge of the outside world and although their present condition unmistakably calls for all the assistance which can be rendered to them, they, of themselves, shrink from making their wants known. Like many others, even in the towns, who suffer for the scantiest necessities of life, they strive to hide their destitution. This, at least, indicates a spirit of self-reliance which is to their credit. That they are mainly industrious, too, we believe, while the soil of their settlement is as good for agricultural purposes as any in the country. People, under these circumstances, will naturally want to know what has brought about the existing condition of affairs. The answer is two-fold. The frost is said to have killed last season's oat and buckwheat crops to a very large extent, but the same thing happened elsewhere in both Kent and this County, without bringing such destitution upon the people. In fact, the settlers of Rogersville who have stuck to the business of farming almost exclusively are the best off. Indeed many of these are in comparatively good circumstances, while those who have engaged in bark-peeling or the partial or total neglect of farming are among the most destitute. The second cause—and the true one—assigned for the distress is in connection with this bark-peeling business. The facts in our possession warrant the statement that many of those who have controlled large bark operations in Rogersville have cruelly imposed upon the poor settlers. They have required from them a larger quantity of bark to the cord than the law allows, have made contracts with them by which they were obliged to purchase, by their labor, the necessities of life at more than double their market value, and have cheated them by making them believe they had to pay Government stampage on bark cut from their own grants. To add to the hardship of the situation some five thousand cords of bark are stacked in the settlement, as the owners are not prepared to remove it to the Extract Factories, and the people, who depended on the employment the removal and loading on the cars would afford them, are disappointed. We understand that Rev. Mr. Richard is doing all in his power to help the people to obtain both food for their present needs and seed for spring sowing, and that Messrs. Gillespie, Burchill and Wheten, M. P. P.'s of the counties interested, with Solicitor General Ritchie personally visited the settlement on Saturday with Father Richard, for the purpose of doing all in their power to the same end. A local relief committee has been formed and there is, therefore, reason to hope that the distress will be materially lessened.

A Significant Letter.

United States Secretary Bayard sent a very honest and spirited letter to the Hibernian Society of Philadelphia, declining their invitation to their St. Patrick's Day banquet. We have seen no notice of it in any of our American or Canadian exchanges, the reason being, perhaps, the significant fact that the letter was not read, among others, at the banquet. It is unfortunate that Irish Societies, generally, in the States find such letters disagreeable to them, while it is gratifying to all who wish to see the dignity of the Republic upheld and desire the preservation of the cordial relationships existing between that great nation and the mother country to know that a man in Secretary Bayard's high position possesses the good sense and courage which his letter exhibits—First of all, he pleads as his excuse for non-attendance the pressure of public business and goes on to describe his public duties. He says that "they speak for themselves and to none with more force than to American citizens of Irish blood or birth, who are honestly endeavoring to secure liberty by sustaining a government of law, and who realize the constant attention that is useful in the midst of anarchical demonstrations which we witness in other lands, and the echoes of which we can de- tect even here in our own free country, where base and silly individuals seek to stain the name of Ireland by associating efforts for just government with senseless and wicked crimes." In other words, says the Secretary, "I am unable to dine with you, gentlemen, because I am too much engaged in watching the operations of the scoundrels who are bringing disgrace on your cause and mine." He adds, of course with due courtesy, that there is no class of citizens from whom aid in maintaining law and order in the country can be more confidently expected "than such as compose your respected and benevolent society" and expresses the hope that "those who worthily celebrate the day of St. Patrick will not forget that he drove out of Ireland the reptiles that creep and sting."

An Enterprise to be Encouraged.

The announcement of the North Atlantic Steamship Company which appears in another column is an encouraging feature of the business outlook for the opening season. The Company is composed of business men of London, Miramichi, St. John and other places, whose enterprise deserves all the support our people can possibly afford. The pioneer steamer is a large and good one and we are glad to hear that her first outward cargo is largely made up of rails for the Northern and Western Railway. The establishment of this line presents an opportunity for the direct shipment to England of North Shore products, which have heretofore not had such facilities and, in view of the position of treaty matters with the United States, it might be well for our shippers to combine in an effort to secure a new fresh fish market for themselves on the other side of the Atlantic. The agents are, we know, desirous of making the line a permanent one, which will develop the business of the country. Our lobster-packers will,

to doubt, furnish a large amount of freight, while lumber will also do its part. It is, however, most desirable that the home-going cargoes should be as varied as possible for, as we all know, there is no profit in the deal carrying trade for such steamers as the Clifton. This is an age of steam, as our local mills, railways and steamboats attest, and if we would keep pace with the rest of the world we must take advantage of the best appliances which science and capital place at our disposal.

Improving his Opportunity.

Among the latest despatches from Clark's Crossing is the following,— "News that Riel was entreaching himself at Batouche and preparing for a stubborn battle induced Gen. Middleton to the decision to advance. Several scouts whom he sent out report that the rebels are actively collecting provisions wherever any can be found, and that large numbers were seen near Batouche yesterday evening. Gen. Middleton's scouts do not appear to be able to get at the number of Dumont's force. The rebel scouts are wonderfully alert." The fact that Riel would entrench himself and in every other way strengthen his position might have been taken for granted by the General, who, it was reported, hesitated to advance after the Fish Creek affair, because he was not adequately provided with supplies. It did not appear that he was better off in the latter respect when he decided to advance, and if he could then do so, it would appear that he was previously in no worse position. It is evident that the telegrams tell us either too much or too little.

The Russo-Afghan Trouble.

The news on the above subject seems to be somewhat more reassuring, although Russia has not receded an inch from her position. It is clear that she wilfully violated her arrangement in reference to the statu quo position of troops on the Afghan border and believes England unable to punish her therefor.

The Rebellion.

Our full telegraphic news from the Northwest shows that General Middleton is obliged to call a halt. It was believed that he would move at once on Batouche, but we are now told supplies are short and that the forces may have to retire nearer to their base of supplies. The General is evidently very cautious.

The Franchise Bill Debate.

A telegram of Saturday to the St. John Globe says,— The House has again exceeded all former records for long sitting in the history of Canadian Parliaments, having now been in continual session for upwards of forty hours. The debate continues on the franchise bill, and on the same subsection of the second clause which was taken up almost at the opening of the sitting, namely, that which enumerates the treaty Indians among the other classes of persons who are to enjoy the franchise. The opposition, while favorable to giving a vote to self-supporting Indians, are obstructing this provision to extend it to those who have no property and are still wards of the Government, because they contend that such Indians cannot give an independent vote. The debate, therefore, has been confined to the subject of the Indian and his capacity to exercise the franchise intelligently, with an occasional vacation of an hour or two devoted to the discussion some point of order. One thing this fight has brought out very prominently and that is the large amount of debating power possessed by the rank and file of the opposition and their thorough union on this question. Indeed this is the only opportunity the opposition have had in any important debate of showing what they can do when left to themselves without the presence or interference of their leader, and they have certainly not shown to disadvantage. Usually in debate it has been Blake's custom to lead off and to watch all subsequent stages discussing points closely. It is his fault that when he prepares a speech on any subject he goes into it so exhaustively and it is of such great length that there is little left for his followers to say on the subject. Good order is now prevailing without difficulty, the government side having evidently been instructed to discontinue the unseemly noises which prevailed in the previous debates. Sir Hector Langevin, who has led the house nearly all the time, is a model of patience and courtesy, and while firm in the determination not to give in he seldom allows his temper to become ruffled. Proposals were made several times across the floor for an adjournment on condition that a certain number of clauses would be allowed to pass undebated but the opposition stubbornly refused to consent to any but the clause under discussion passing and that only after debate. It is known that nearly all the Government supporters favored an adjournment on the terms proposed by the opposition but Sir John refused to accede. It is probable the debate will continue till midnight and the Government intend that if no arrangement has been made to restrict further debate, they will propose to introduce the closure next week.

Too Bad.

Referring to one of the public square meetings held by the half-breed sympathizers in Montreal, and the resolutions moved from the same source in, the Quebec Legislature, the Chronicle says,— "Speech after speech was made, setting forth in fiery French the wrongs of the Metis, the justice of their rebellion and the tyranny and injustice of the government. Cheers were given for Riel. The conduct of the colonel of the 65th [Ouimet] in refusing to lead his regiment to the front was applauded. One or two speakers, who wildly deprecated this applauding of rebels in arms, were shouted down and roughly hustled from the platform. One young gentleman denounced the idea that the rebellion was not justifiable. Sir John, he said, had no right to take the French Canadians to fight their compatriots in the West; they should unite in saying that they would not go. He believed that this was a war of race, and this had been shown by the fact that an Ontario man agreed to offer a price for Riel's head. He could tell them, however, that if Riel's head was to suffer they would require others in recompense, and the crowd applauded him. Are these specimens of our loyal French Canadian fellow subjects? Confederation was the child of the race-conflict between the English and French races in old Canada. It would seem as though the old conflict was to be renewed a couple of thousand miles further to the west. Sir John has been trifling with all the materials of an

explosion. With his experience and knowledge of the relations of the two races in Canada no care and attention to the demands and feelings of the French in the North-West could have been too great. Instead, he has been negligent and heedless to a degree inexcusable in a man new to Canadian affairs. He has sown the wind in the North-West, and now all Canada has to reap the whirlwind."

Why Col. Ouimet left his Battalion.

[Toronto Globe.] Much interest has been taken in Col. Ouimet's extraordinary movements. His sudden return from Calgary to Ottawa and Montreal must, it was generally felt, have had a cause in which the public were interested. No one imagined that the Colonel desired to shirk any duty however unpleasant or any danger however great, but the causes which would justify his leaving his regiment when an advance against an enemy was hourly expected must be very grave. To a reporter of La Presse, who interviewed him at Montreal, he said he could not then explain why he had returned, further than to say that affairs of great importance—public as well as private, demanded his presence. The public affairs he settled in an hour's conference with the Minister of Militia at Ottawa. He left Calgary with the approval of Gen. Strange. To a reporter of the Montreal Star, who saw him in Toronto, he was more communicative. When Gen. Strange began to arrange for the defence of the railroad and for moving part of the force to Edmonton said Col. Ouimet:— "He found himself hampered in many ways from insufficient equipments, and it became evident that it would be some time before he could start for Edmonton. Even if he managed everything else satisfactorily, he was in need of scouts, in need of horses, of saddles, of provisions, of everything, and of course we were very far west and it took time to attend to us. I was not so sorry for the delay, for the reason that the time could be used to drill my men."

He wanted to give the men some shooting practice at Calgary, but they had only 100 rounds a man. It was the same with other things. "We were being delayed, and I offered to do anything in my power to hurry up matters, and as it was out of the question for us to make a forward move at the time, I finally started for Winnipeg, with General Strange's sanction, to try to help things along, and with the understanding that if I thought it advisable I should go on to Ottawa."

Had the General ordered an advance, he said, they would have moved forward cheerfully "even knowing it to be suicidal."

What an insight this gives into the manner in which the affairs of this campaign have been mismanaged! The reporter informs us that:—

"Col. Ouimet, who looked harassed and fatigued, incidentally remarked that his experience of the past three weeks, particularly the journey across the north of Lake Superior, had used him up worse physically than any previous experience in his life."

The Franchise Bill.

Sir John Macdonald's Franchise Bill is essentially a centralizing measure calculated to curtail the power and weaken the influence of the Provinces. The constitution provides that the Provinces shall be duly represented in both Houses of Parliament. It should have left to the Provinces the power to determine who would elect their representatives. But some of those who took the largest part in framing the constitution were not Federalists, and hoping that a Legislative Union might be brought about, they introduced into the constitution much that they supposed would make it more easy to accomplish what they desired. So strong was the feeling, even amongst the Tories, that the Provinces should regulate the franchise that Sir John, although he introduced a Franchise Bill in 1867-8 and many times since, could never venture to force it through the House of Commons until "party exigencies" became so strong as to overshadow all other considerations. This Bill will also take all control of the electoral lists out of the hands of the people.

The Half-Breed Claims.

On 21st inst. Sir John laid before Parliament the first instalment of official documents in connection with the half-breed claims, the delay in adjusting which has precipitated the whole Northwest into a state of rebellion. It appears that during March the Government became alarmed at the outbreak in the Northwest and appointed the commission we have all heard of to investigate the half-breed claims. The adjustment of these claims was to be governed by the following order in Council:—

First—To each half breed head of a family resident in the Northwest territories outside of the limits of bona fide possession, he is at the present time in bona fide and undisputed occupation by virtue of residence upon and cultivation thereof, to the extent of 160 acres, and if he occupies less the difference is to be made up to him by the issue of scrip redeemable in land at the rate of \$1 per acre; and in the case of each half breed head of a family residing in the Northwest territories previous to July 15, 1870, who is not at present in bona fide possession or occupation of any land scrip shall be issued to the full amount of \$160.

Second—Each child of a half-breed head of a family resident in the Northwest territories previous to July 15, 1870, and born before that date, shall be allowed the extent of 240 acres and scrip to the full amount, or deficiency redeemable in land.

On 5th April the Commissioners telegraphed the Minister of the Interior that the half-breeds, with whom they had commenced negotiations, were not satisfied to have the settlement of their grievances based upon the foregoing regulation, and on the 17th the Government passed the following order in Council:—

First—That the small water frontage of each half-breed who is at present in bona fide possession by virtue of residence and cultivation be sold to them at \$1 per acre, the area of which shall in no case exceed forty acres, and payment therefor to be made within two years. Second—That in satisfaction for their half-breed claims as actual settlers upon those small water frontages, which it is proposed to sell to them, they be permitted to select their lands from the homestead and pre-emption entry as nearly as possible in the vicinity of their holdings one quarter section of 160 acres, more or less, the patent for which, however, shall not issue until payment has been made in full for the land of which they are now in occupation, as aforesaid. Third—In the case of children of half-breed heads of families in the Northwest Territories prior to July 15, 1870, and from prior to that date, instead of the issue of \$240, may be granted a certificate entitling them to select 240 acres of land from any lands open for homesteading and pre-emption only.

The fact that the government had been fully warned of the critical condition of the Northwest repeatedly, as is shown in official correspondence and only after the first shot had been fired made any attempt to settle the difficulty, is a severe blow at the administration.