DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

A Bill granting the divorce applied for by Mrs. Amanda Esther Davis was read the first time.

Mr. White (Cardwell) moved that the Bill be read the second time next Wednesday. The House divided on the motion, which was carried by 85 to 61.

Mr. Mulock introduced a Bill to amend the Fishery Act. He stated that the Government, acting on the advice of the Minister of Justice, has determined to grant no permits to fish, either in winter or summer, in Lake Simcoe or other waters set apart for the propagation of fish. Many of the inhabitants living near these waters had petitioned for leave to fish but had been refused, and his Bill was intended to remove the objection raised by the Department of Justice, and to enable the Minister to grant permits to fish in such waters. The Bill was read the first time.

In reply to Mr. Blake, Mr. Pope stated that there was a deficit of over $15,000 in the working of the Intercolonial for January, 1885, and asked also to be allowed to state that for January last year there was a deficit of over $28,000.

Mr. Blake asked if the Government had taken any, and if so what, steps to secure a reference to the Privy Council of the question of the constitutionality of the License Act of 1883, and if so when? And if the Government has communicated to the commissioners or inspectors its action or intention in the matter, and if so when?

Sir John Macdonald—On the decision being certified to the Government it was referred to the Minister of Justice, and he was instructed to prepare a case, and when the Colonial Secretary has been applied to that case may be referred to the Privy Council. The intention of the Government has not been communicated to the commissioners or the inspectors.

In reply to Mr. Burpee, Sir John Macdonald said that steps had been taken with respect to the trade relations between Canada and the British West India Islands. There had been correspondence on the subject, but it would not be in the interest of the public to bring that correspondence down.

SCOTT ACT.

Mr. Jamieson, for Mr. Robertson (Shelbourne), introduced a Bill to amend the Canada Temperance Act of 1878. He said the measure contained seven clauses, as deemed necessary by the Legislative Committee of the Dominion Alliance for the effective working of the Scott Act. The first clause proposed to amend the Act by declaring that it shall not be necessary to produce a copy of the *Official Gazette* in every case of prosecution under the Act. The second clause proposed that when liquor was prescribed by a medical man it should be left to his discretion to prescribe the quantity. Another clause imposed a penalty on any medical man giving a colorable certificate. Finally the Bill proposed to amend the 155th section of the McCarthy Act. It had been decided by the Supreme Court of New Brunswick that the enforcement of the clauses of the Scott Act had been repealed by the Act of 1883, which was not the intention of Parliament at the time, and the object of the section was to provide that no clause of the Scott Act should be repealed by that decision.

Hon. Edward Blake said he understood some time ago that the Dominion Alliance had requested the Government to take the responsibility of proposing these amendments. Owing to the delay which had taken place by the Government not coming to a decision on the point, the introduction of this Bill had been delayed. He trusted the Government would afford every facility for its consideration, and while he did not pledge himself to the measure, he thought it should be understood that, whether innocent or guilty, it ought not to be slaughtered.

Sir Hector Langevin said no one had expressed a desire to slaughter the Bill, and every effort would be made to print it and place it in the hands of the members at as early a date as possible. As the Bill proposed to amend the McCorthy Act as well as the Scott Act, he thought it would be necessary to change the title so that the public might know that it affected both laws.

Mr. Ives said several measures to amend the Scott Act had been introduced to the House, and if the leader of the Opposition were going to make any special effort to obtain a favorable consideration of this Bill, he thought the Government should be urged to facilitate the advance of the other measures which had been introduced more than a month ago. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Edward Blake said he was not making any special effort for this Bill. All he wanted was, inasmuch as a delay had taken place in its introduction, that the printing of the measure might be expedited, so that it could be considered by the House.

The Bill was read a first time.

Sir Hector Langevin moved the House into committee on the resolution authorizing the sale by the Government, to A. H. Walker, of the Dundas and Waterloo road. He stated that the road in question belonged to the Dominion. It was thought that in the public interest it should be sold. It was put up for sale at an upset price of $15,000. The amount realized was $21,000. After the sale the Department of Justice came to the conclusion that the authority of Parliament was necessary to the transaction before it could be completed. For this reason he proposed the resolution.

Hon. Edward Blake suggested that the motion should not be pressed for a day or two, when the papers would be before the House.

Sir Hector Langevin consented, and the matter was allowed to stand.

Anciently, in many parts of France, says a writer, when a sale of land took place it was the custom to have twelve adult witnesses accompanied by twelve little boys, and when the price of the land was paid, and its surrender took place the ears of the boys were pulled and they were severely beaten, so that the pain thus inflicted should leave an impression upon their memory, and if required afterward, they might bear witness to the sale. Later when a criminal was being executed parents whipped their children, so that they might take warning by the example and keep in the path of virtue.

The peach trees are in blossom in Georgia.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

The Bill to amend the Act to Incorporate the Long Point Company, on motion of Mr. Monk, and that to enable the Trustees of St. John's Church, Cornwall, to sell certain lands, etc., on motion of Mr. Gibson (Hamilton), were referred back to committee of the whole for amendment, Mr. Baxter in the chair. The committee rose and reported.

Mr. Graham moved that in view of the Scott Act being in force in several counties in the Province it would be in the interest of the travelling public that temperance houses of entertainment should be licensed in any county where said Act is now or may hereafter come into force. He stated that in view of the difficulty of obtaining entertainment in some Scott Act counties there should be something done to remedy the state of affairs.

Hon. A. S. Hardy thought that in view of the fact that the Scott Act was before the country, it would be inadvisable to press the motion. Taverns were bound to entertain guests even if they did not sell intoxicating liquors, and he did not think the resolution, if carried, would impose any additional burdens to receive guests upon the keepers of taverns.

Among the petitions presented was one by Mr. Morris from Mr. Hugh Blain and a number of prominent citizens of Toronto in reference to the Court House, praying that no steps should be taken to allow the granting of the money without submitting the question to a vote of the citizens.

Mr. Morris presented the report of the committee to whom was referred the changes in the rules of the House.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the 13th report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:

Mr. Ross (Huron)—To authorize payment of money in lieu of Railway Aid Certificates in certain cases.

Mr. Fraser—Respecting the Registering of Chattel Mortgages and Bills of Sale

Hon. O. Mowat, in replying to a question by Mr. White, "Under what authority was the Rev. Father Jeffcote suspended from the office of Chaplain at the Central Prison, and the reason therefor, and why a number of prisoners, who are Roman Catholics, confined in the dark cells of the same prison, were refused permission to attend church service by Mr. Massie," said: There is no official Chaplain—Catholic or Protestant—of the Central Prison. The Government has not suspended the rev. gentleman named in the question. The religious services for Catholics are conducted from time to time by clergymen to whom the duty is for the time being assigned by His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto. The religious services for the Protestant prisoners are under the charge and direction of the Ministerial Association of the city. On the occasion to which the question is understood to refer I am informed that there were three prisoners in confinement in dark cells, one of these only being a Roman Catholic, and the other two being Protestants. There were at the same time other prisoners—Catholic and Protestant—in confinement in their own cells for offences against prison rules. It is the custom of the prison, as of most, and probably all, like prisons on this continent, not to release for church services either Catholic or Protestant prisoners confined in dark cells or their own cells for such offences, but every facility is afforded to clergymen to visit them in their cells at such time for religious instruction. I learn from the Warden that the application of the reverend gentleman named for permission to the Catholics so confined to attend the church service did not reach the Warden until after the service had begun, and, indeed, was nearly over; but if the application had been received in time it would have been contrary to the practice in the case of such prisoners to accede to it.

Mr. French moved for a return showing the names of towns in Ontario separated from counties for municipal purposes, and all correspondence between the Minister of Education during last session and since, and the school authorities and other persons in said towns, in reference to improving the condition of the High Schools or Model Schools in towns so situated.

Hon. G. W. Ross assured the House that he had given the subject of this motion the most careful attention before and since it appeared on the paper. It would be remembered that last session the hon. gentleman called his attention to the same difficulty, and he had since held conferences with Boards of Trustees, Reeves and others as to the state of High Schools in municipalities separate from the counties. For instance he had met a delegation in the town of Stratford when opening the Collegiate Institute there.

After some further discussion by Mr. Carnegie and Mr. French, the latter moved that the order be discharged, which was carried.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when any distinction between the Chancery and the other Divisions of the High Court of Justice should be abolished."

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) said his object had been attained in bringing the subject before the country, and he did not intend to proceed with it.

THE LATEST SENSATION.

Alleged Discovery of Original Writings of the Saviour.

A Chicago despatch says: A physician here recently discovered in the house of a patient an ancient Testament, which an excellent Greek authority pronounces to be of much earlier origin than any of the few Testaments written in the apostolic age, copies of which are still preserved in some European capitals. Its covers are of rotten and honey-combed wood, its leaves of ancient parchment, worn and stained, written with ink of different colors, which in many places is entirely faded. It is believed to be the first written reports of Christ's sermons, and to be a copy of the original letters of St. Paul to the churches. St. Paul addresses Titus as "My child Titty," and Timothy as "My child Timothy." It is said that comparisons with the present editions show that the translators have made some very plain things difficult to understand, and that the Lord's Prayer has lost much of its force and beauty by being wrongly and unnaturally translated.

THE AFGHAN QUARREL.

England and Russia's Extensive War Preparations.

LUMSDEN REPORTED AT HERAT.

Strong and Enthusiastic War Feeling in India—Afghans Fortifying—Rumored Encounter Between Outposts.

A last (Sunday) night's London cable says: Charles Marvin, the traveller, says that when he was in St. Petersburg in 1882 Gen. Grodekoff, the chief of staff to the late Russian commander, Gen. Skobeloff, gave him for inspection a map showing all the points of occupation desirable in a military sense to the Russians in case of an advance toward India. This map, Gen. Grodekoff told him, was drawn by Gen. Skobeloff himself, and he remembers that it had marked out plainly as valuable strategical points every one now occupied by the Russians or claimed by them as outside the proper Afghan boundary. Mr. Marvin also says that an erroneous impression prevails concerning Herat. It is valued not alone because of its military strength.

The Government has suspended for a year the discharges of soldiers eligible for the reserve force, and also transfers from the army in India to the reserves. The Calcutta Government is about to send a battery of mountain guns, and a battery of heavy artillery, and five thousand Snider rifles with 250 rounds of ammunition for each as a gift to the Ameer of Afghanistan.

Lessar, the Russian member of the Afghan Boundary Commission, stated today that Russia desired the frontier boundary line starting at Heri Rud, thence east to Chamain Baid, thence northeast to a point a few miles south of Penjdeh, and thence in a line direct northeast of Khoja Saleh. Russia, he said, had never admitted the frontier line due north from Sarakhs to Khoja Saleh was the correct one. The Russians had only advanced in order to protect the Turcomans, who were quitting their town in fear of an Afghan invasion. England had obtained information in regard to the Russian movements long before he knew of them, because Sir Peter Lumsden was located nearer to the telegraph station. Lessar declared Russia has no designs on Herat, and had no fear of a collision between Russians and Afghans, even should the Russian advance forces make an attack. Such a misunderstanding as the present one, Lessar thought, ought not to form a *casus belli*, and would not unless one country greatly desired war. He thought the Russian troops were probably concentrating in the Caucasus, and when the preliminary negotiations were completed General Komaroff would join Sir Peter Lumsden in fixing a frontier.

On the recommendation of the Viceroy of India large grants have been accorded from the Indian treasury to Abdurraham, Ameer of Afghanistan, for the purpose of the complete repair of the forts in his territory, and particularly those at Herat. These works of repair will be done under the supervision of English engineers, and the additional guns needed by the fortifications of Afghanistan are to be supplied from Woolwich.

The *News* says the warlike preparations in India have evoked great enthusiasm.

The *Times* expresses the belief that Gen. Komaroff has gone from Askabad to the disputed territory, and says if Russia is allowed to gain territory by trickery we shall have war a little later only, with the Ameer disgusted with our folly and Russia strengthened by valuable positions gained. Advices from Gulrax state affairs are brighter.

Continental diplomats are discussing a French and Russian alliance against England.

Two swift British cruisers have been ordered to proceed at once to the Pacific Ocean to watch Russian vessels.

A report is current that the British Admiralty has offered a tempting sum to Dom Pedro for the Brazilian ironclad Esmeralda.

The Russian forces occupying Merv consist of a battalion of infantry, a regiment of dragoons and some Cossacks. At Askabad there are 8,000 troops. A Russian brigade and convoy of military stores are *en route* from the Caucasus to Askabad. The Afghans here believe the alliance between England and Turkey would alienate the Turkomans from Russian authority.

An Askabad letter, dated February 24th, says troops and stores are going forward daily *en route* for Merv. The soldiers are previously blessed by priests, who tell them to fight manfully against the Czar's enemies. Civilians and military men openly discuss the likelihood of a declaration of war against England. Great excitement prevailed. It is stated 16,000 troops have been ordered to Merv. Work on the railway from Kizilarvart to Merv is being pushed with the utmost rapidity. Great difficulty is experienced in inducing the workmen to go to Merv, as they fear they will be killed by British or Afghans. A letter from Sarakhs, dated March 2nd, stated that five battalions of Russian infantry and three batteries of artillery are *en route* from Bokhara to Merv, and that a small party of Cossacks recently attempted to traverse the Zulfikar defile, but were prevented by force.

The French newspapers describe Gladstone's announcement of the agreement with Russia as "England eating humble pie."

Ashamed to Pass the Plate.

A Buffalo despatch says: There are some interesting developments in the case of Francis H. Fletcher, who committed suicide by shooting last night. The last words of Frank Fletcher were spoken to Mr. Thompson a moment before the tragedy. He said: "I intended to go to church this evening, but I have no money to put in the contribution box. I am proud-spirited and don't like to meet any friends on the street when I have no money in my pocket." He then went to his room and committed suicide. It is understood that Fletcher was heir to a considerable property, but he could not get it till he was 27 years of age.

The business of the Brooklyn bridge is rapidly increasing, showing a gain of 35 per cent. last year over that of 1883. Last month the bridge turned in over $50,000.

A TRAITOR PASHA.

Zebehr, Gordon's Right Hand Man, Banished to Cyprus for Treason.

An Alexandria cable says: Zebehr Pasha, whom Gen. Gordon implicitly trusted and wished to make Governor of Khartoum, has been arrested on a charge of being implicated in treasonable conspiracies against the Khedive. His residence was searched and many documents proving that Zebehr was in a secret league with the Mahdi were found. The prisoner has been confined aboard a British frigate, which is under sailing orders. He will be imprisoned on the Island of Cyprus. Zebehr has been practically a prisoner for the past two years. His wealth, mainly acquired in the slave trade, was confiscated and he was allowed a quarterly stipend on condition he should not leave Alexandria without the Khedive's consent. General Gordon pleaded that Zebehr should be restored to power in the Soudan, and said the ex-slave king was the only man who had enough nerve and prestige to keep the Arabs in subjection. General Gordon had encountered Zebehr during his former service in Egypt and had incidentally hanged one of Zebehr's sons, who had been left as a hostage, and whose life became forfeited through an act of treachery on Zebehr's part. When General Gordon was sent to Khartoum last year, both he and Zebehr seemed to have ignored the past, and it was another of Zebehr's sons who safely escorted General Gordon from Korosi to Abu Hamed. It has been discovered that Zebehr has been in continual correspondence with the Mahdi both before and since the capture of Khartoum. Several other arrests, including some prominent notables, are expected.

NIAGARA'S LATEST SENSATION.

How a Young Forger Painted the Town Red—Officer Wynn Makes an Important Capture.

A last (Wednesday) night's Niagara Falls despatch says: Five years ago this month a young man arrived here from the West, registering at the American Hotel as T. D. Lyons, of New Orleans. Being a very affable young man, and rather free with his money, of which he seemed to have any amount at his disposal, soon a very friendly intimacy was made between him and the leading young men on both sides of the river, and his visit was prolonged for five weeks. During that time he "painted the town red," and left it, carrying with him the good wishes of those whose acquaintance he had formed. In the middle of February last he returned, and renewed his acquaintance with his old friends, celebrating his arrival by giving a wine dinner costing $7 a plate, for which elaborate invitations and bill of fare were issued to the *elite* of the town. Some fifty partook of his generosity, including many of the fair sex, who one and all declared him to be a thorough good fellow. Since then he has on several occasions drained the town dry of champagne for the "bhoys," spending from $75 to $100 an evening, and buying costly presents for his favorite female friends. Three hackmen were steadily in his employ, driving his lady acquaintances around to the different points of interest, and he seemed to be the lion of the town, about whom all the people were talking, and for whom many of the fair sex were "setting their caps." He represented himself to have an income of $200 per day, and made everything go accordingly. But while all this was going on Officer Wynn, of the Ontario Police, was quietly communicating with the various police organizations in the States regarding him, and yesterday received a letter from Watts & Curtin's Detective Agency, Buffalo, enclosing a description of a man wanted by them for a forgery of $10,000, committed in New Orleans. Word was immediately sent that their man was here, and Mr. Watts arrived at noon to-day. After a consultation with Chief McDougald, Officer Wynn arrested Lyons and brought him to the police office. When accused of the offence, he admitted he was the right man, and not wishing to remain here to trouble our authorities with extradition proceedings, he consented to return, and was taken over the river to the American side and handed over to Mr. Watts by Officer Wynn. His real name is Frank D. Warren. The officer succeeded in finding over $7,000 deposited in various places, all of which he admits is the proceeds of the forgery. This is another of the important captures effected here by Officer Wynn. One thousand dollars was the reward offered for his capture.

Divorce as a Business.

A Philadelphia despatch says: Remarkable divorce proceedings have been brought to light here. John J. Miller in 1849 married Elizabeth S. Rogers. Ten years after their marriage they were divorced, and Mrs. Miller married Robert E. Randall, brother of Samuel J. Randall. She shortly afterwards procured a second divorce without publicity, and re-married her first husband. Mrs. Miller went to the divorce court again, and it is alleged by collusive negotiations between husband and wife, in which the latter received $3,000, another divorce was procured in March, 1884. Mrs. Viola Bonavita, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miller by their first marriage, has brought action to set aside the last divorce on the ground of fraud. Miller has since married a Miss Brotherton.

Warning to Canadian Jingoes.

A New York despatch says: A prominent Irish organ published an editorial yesterday, warning Canadians against offers of aid to England. The article concludes as follows: "Let the brawling asses who wish to manifest their 'loyalty' pay their passage to England and offer themselves as sacrifices in England's holy war upon the Soudan nationalists individually if they will. Not a single regiment nor a dollar of money must leave Canadian shores to assist England. This is the platform the real friends of Canada will stand upon and defend. Departure from it means the horrors of war brought directly to her doors, and not one word of sympathy will be heard on this side of the line for her."

A new book is entitled, "How I Made Money at Home." Readers are advised to have nothing to do with it. Three men were arrested a few days ago for making money at home.

ABOUT WALKING.

Recommendations Concerning the Gait, the Dress, the Place and Other Matters.

Every healthy person, man or woman, should be a good walker, able at any time to walk six to twelve miles a day at least, and double that when gradually brought up to it. The points to be attended to are, to see that the walk be brisk and vigorous, not of a loitering or dangling kind; that there be some object in the walk besides it being a routine constitutional—i. e., not like the staid promenade of the orthodox ladies' school—and if possible in pleasant company; that there be no tight clothing, whether for the feet or body, which will constrain or impede the natural movements of the limbs or trunk; and that the walk be taken as far as possible in the fresh country air. In regard to the latter particular, although the towns are increasing so rapidly as to make it almost a journey to get out of them on foot, still we have so many suburban tramways and railway lines that in a few minutes we can find ourselves in the country, where the air is fresh and pure. Whenever an opportunity presents itself for a little climbing in the course of a walk, it should be taken advantage of. We gain variety of muscular action, as well as increase the exertion, and we get into the realms of purer air and fresher breeze at the same time. What may be considered as the weak point in walking as a mode of exercise is the comparatively small play which it gives to the muscles of the shoulders and chest, while it is still less for those of the arm. This should be compensated for by the use of light dumb-bells or Indian clubs, or some other form of exercise which brings in play the arms and shoulders. One of the forms of exercise which requires the action of the muscles of the arms and shoulders, as well as those of the trunk and legs, is swimming. This, however, for many reasons, cannot be used as a means of exercise except by a few, and at certain seasons of the year; but where possible it should always be practiced. The great pity is that boys and girls do not learn it, as a rule, while at school. Every large town should be well provided with swimming baths, and if it could be made compulsory for scholars at a certain age, say 12, to learn to swim, it would be a great advantage to all, and also be the means of saving many lives.—*Herald of Health.*

Bacteria in Wooden Pavements.

Quite a scare, says the *Federal Australian*, seems to have been occasioned in Sydney by the discovery that the wooden blocks with which some of the thoroughfares are paved are swarming with those microscopic forms of life known as bacteria; and the conclusion has been somewhat precipitately arrived at that epidemic diseases may be originated and propagated by these agencies. But apprehensions of this kind are the product of fear rather than of reason, for bacteria and cognate organisms are not so much the cause as the consequence of certain maladies. They are, as a local writer pointed out in the pages of the *Victorian Review* a few years ago, "Nature's scavengers," for the removal or destruction of morbid tissue. The human intestines teem with them, and the moment death takes place they commence their sanitary work. This was admirably explained and elucidated by the late Mrs. Somerville in one of her popular tratises on science; and quite recently Professor Ray Lankester has repeated the same well-established truth. "We are all of us at all times," he observes, "swarming with bacteria, micrococci, bacilli, vibrions and spirilla. The mouth of every man, woman and child contains thousands of these organisms of various shapes and kinds. It is here that they were first of all discovered, just two hundred years ago, by Leuwenhoek, the Dutch microscopist, who described them in the 'Philosophical Transactions' of our Royal Society. Not only the mouth of man, but every moist part of the surface of the body, and, above all, the intestines, precisely in those persons who are perfectly healthy, swarms with various kinds of bacteria." The fact need occasion us no more uneasiness than the other fact that every corpuscle in our blood is a separate being, a living unit, leading an individual life, and swimming up and down, with a certain amount of freedom, in the tides and currents of our vital fluid. But, unfortunately, there is nothing of which the average man or woman knows so little as of the structure and functions of his or her own frame.

Sport in Catching Sharks.

The sharks which abound on the east coast of Madagascar, and make such extensive depredations upon the cattle in course of shipment, are occasionally captured by the people. The young men sometimes go on a shark-hunting expedition. Having discovered a shark they dive under it, and before it has time to turn on its back, use the long sharp knife they carry. It is affirmed among the Malagasy that some of their people can go into the water on discovering a shark and, with nothing in hand but a piece of stick about a foot in length, armed with an iron point at each end, can accomplish its destruction. Watching till one of the monsters, with its two or three rows of teeth, is just about to attack him with its wide-extended jaws, the native with his iron-pointed stick seizes his opportunity, and inserts his hand into the mouth of the creature and transfixes its jaws by implanting the stick cross-wise in its mouth. The more the shark tries by snapping to disengage the weapon, the more deeply it enters, and in painful fury it seeks the bottom. But it fails to obtain relief and at last dies. Its body is washed ashore, and the inhabitants divide its carcase for food.

His Fine Sensibilities Offended.

Fair Teacher (mission night school)—Now, Johnny, how do you spell dumb?

Street Urchin—D-u-m.

Fair Teacher—What else?

Street Urchin—Dunno.

Fair Teacher—O yes, you do. You forget the silent b.

Street Urchin—Come, now. No "Pinafore," please.—*Philadelphia Call.*

Life is too short for its possessors to wear long faces.

Good spirits are often taken for good nature; yet nothing differs so much; insensibility being generally the source of the former, and sensibility of the latter.