

a permit to "touch and trade" by an American customs official can convert the vessel to which it is granted into a trader for the nonce, we think the matter too absurd to admit of serious discussion. But let us hear what the First Deputy Collector of Customs at Portland has to say. The permit is issued, he says, "for the convenience of the United States customs and for the protection of the vessel against harassment from United States officers, and is purely our own affair, with which foreign governments have nothing to do." Yet in the face of these facts a legion of American politicians and barking editors have raised their voices against the action of the Canadian Government, and in making threats of retaliation!

THE RIDICULOUS ROYAL SOCIETY

The silly farce known as the semi-annual meeting of the Royal Society has once again taken place at Ottawa. The funniest feature about this Society is what is called the literary section of it. The operations of that said section consist in this: Four or five members, with bulky manuscripts as usual, and the first gentleman named proceeds to read his production. There is never a soul present except the four or five proxy essayists; and before he who is reading has ended his dreary piece of drivel, it is likely the rest are asleep. When he concludes they awaken and clap their hands. Poor Father Dawson, once awakening at the wrong time, clapped his hands. The presiding officer had just announced that the session was ended and would meet again at 8 p. m. The society, however, must be a source of infinite gratification to its members; for there they can read in rolling sentences, manuscript which the magazines had rejected. Out of that whole literary section there are not probably more than three or four persons who could get any magazine or journal of literary repute to publish their stuff. And with respect to the three or four exceptions they have altogether a second place as librarians to certain Canadian writers who are not members, and would not make themselves ridiculous by becoming members of the Royal Society. Col. Danison and Sir William Dawson have outside firms; but these are all. Mr. Goldwin Smith, who was elected to the ridiculous combination, has shown his contempt for the thing by never putting in appearance there, or sending a contribution. Yet the constitution of the concern requires that if any member fail to appear, or to send a contribution, during, we believe, four sessions, that his name must be struck from the roll unless he has a good excuse for his absence. Goldwin Smith has never appeared there; has never, as we have said, given a paper; has never sent an excuse; and he is therefore a member contrary to the stipulations of the constitution. They are either actuated by toadyism in thus keeping Mr. Smith there in defiance of the express proviso; or are afraid to bring the laugh against themselves by showing the contempt in which the Government holds any man who sends such a contribution. But that if the society were to be dissolved, the members would be called upon to pay the public money so stupid and so

its judgments might be so valuable that aspirants would strive hard to merit its notice. But could any human being with a spark of literary genius value admission to our approval by the English Literature Section of the Canadian Royal Society. Its members are doubtless very worthy people three or four of them have done work not very far below mediocrity, but, as a body, they seem to mistake dull drivel about the "ologies," and formless rhymed exercises in transposing, for literature. That all gathered in their meetings to go to sleep, except the reader, is the sole circumstance which enables one to surmise that they possess any feelings for literature whatever. Should they at any time acquire really good taste, they will certainly never assemble again.

We regret to say that there is one feature in connection with the medals presented to our brave volunteers that does not commend itself to our judgment; and that is certain correspondence of Lord Lansdowne on the matter. Writing confidentially to Lord Derby on the 19th of May, 1885, in expectation of being asked to consent to the issue of a Canadian medal, His Excellency said, "I have, however, no doubt that if the medal was to be awarded by the Imperial Government the distinction would be much more appreciated by the recipients of the medal, by the Volunteers of the Dominion, and by the people of the country generally." Again, in a despatch of 10th July to Col. Stanley, he said, "It is, however, my dejected impression that the medal would not be valued by the recipients, and had better not be granted, unless it is the gift of the crown."

We are thoroughly in accord with the sentiments of the *Globe* upon this matter. It says: "The sheer residence of Lord Lansdowne in Canada and his slight acquaintance with public sentiment may excuse his very curious belief that the medal would not be valued as commemorating the campaign or as proving participation in the arduous marches and dangers of the service, or as an expression of Canada's appreciation of the qualities of her citizen soldiers who took the field, but merely as a symbol that the British Government had recognized them! How could Lord Lansdowne have got ideas so preposterous into his head? It would appear that he is surrounded by a train of silly flunkies whose opinions he mistakes for those of Canada's people and volunteers." Undoubtedly his Lordship has exactly this class of advisers around him or he never could have made the stupid blunder of committing himself to the expression of opinions whose publication must take away from his Excellency much of the respect and cordial regard that had been felt for him since His demission amongst us. Lord Lansdowne must not allow the silly notion to remain in his head that we live and move and have our being for the sake of the Crown. When our gallant sons took up their arms it was to maintain the supremacy of law in their country, and restore it to peace and order again. Some arose in defense of their homes; but one and all arose in response to the call of duty to fight for their country, for their Canada. They had no particular thought of the Crown when they went out; much less were they fighting for a smile or a condescending nod of approbation from Downing Street. The sooner His Lordship comes to see things in this light the better. The two or three imported flunkies who have his lordship's ear, and the half-dozen domesticated ones, do not represent the people of Canada by any manner of means. It has heretofore always been a duty, and our cheerful duty, to write was not things about Lord Lansdowne.

We cannot help his late stupid blunder with a good deal of regret.

The present session is certain, also, to pass by without anything having been done with respect to the question of Canadian Copyright. Mr. Edgar brought the question up in the House, but a member of the Government informed him that certain negotiations between the Canadian and the Imperial Governments were going on, and that any action by Parliament would not be wise. Of course Mr. Edgar was obliged to desist; and so the matter remains a reproach to the Parliament of Canada.

That respected body known as the Fenians of New England held a meeting lately in Boston to discuss the fishery question. Of course it was pointed out with enthusiastic vividness that the result of the seizure of all these American fishing schooners would be a "bloody war between the Old Country and Canada." The brethren seem to have pledged themselves to have revenge upon the "insulting Saxon," and to lend a hand at elevating Ireland. They seemed to regard Canada in the same category of infamy as England, though they should not have forgotten that a certain blistering demagogue was elevated to the Senate simply because of his violent sympathy for Fenianism, in which order his brother was a leader. If the dynamiters of Canada are wise they will bring forward their man for the notice of the ministry; and when we come to consider that the number of that body is now pretty large the chance is a strong one that a place will be found for him in one of our representative institutions. There is no reason on earth, either, why the burglars of the country, and the fire bugs, and the confidence men should not each present their claims—point out the number of votes in each body—to one of our beautiful Canadian administrations.

It is interesting to note the regard in which certain prominent organs of English opinion hold this confederated Canada of ours. When the noise of the seizure of the American fish pirates reached Great Britain the *Pall Mall Gazette* at once proposed that arbitrators from England and the United States should then come together and dispose of the matter. Certain Imperial statesmen were of the same mind as the *Gazette*. Not a thought was given to Canada whose interests alone were involved. We are pleased to note that the nation at large seems to look at the question in a more reasonable and decent way. England professes the desire to live in peace and love with her colonies. Well, if she desires that peace and love, if she be anxious to preserve the tie, she must no more take such advice as papers of the *Gazette* stripe have to give her. For there is nothing under the wide heaven surer than this: that, as soon as the cord that binds us to the mother land begins to chafe that moment we break the fetters.

We sympathize with the *Mail* Company in their loss and inconvenience by the fire that has once again visited their building. These fires cannot all, surely, be accidents. So frequent have been the fires in this building that citizens have come to look upon the *Mail* tower as a sort of beacon.

The celebrated Dr. Dio Lewis is no more. His body has been incinerated at the Mount Olivet crematory, New York. The Toronto city council have come to a stop with respect to the proposal to erect a crematory here.

Exactly as we surmised, Mr. Goldwin Smith has been "turning up" in the thickest parts of the political fray in England. He has lately come out in print as

Liverpool; and, as we supposed that he would do, he takes occasion to voice accurately sentiments of the Canadian people upon the question of a parliament for Ireland. He speaks in such a tone that the uninformed might regard him in the light of a father of the Canadian people; and when he opens his lips, he gives his audience to understand, Canada has opened her mouth. Now what we protest against is having anybody who is not an exponent of our opinions or sympathies pose as the exponent of both. Mr. Goldwin Smith's views may be right and ours may be wrong; the only thing certain is that he is emphatically out of sympathy with almost every measure and every institution that Canadians held dear.

Despite the sneers that have been showered of late upon the value of our fisheries by the American demagogues, New York palates have a decided penchant for Nova Scotia lobster, which is larger and firmer than those taken upon the United States' coasts.

The contest between the Street-Car Company, of Toronto, and the bus-line operated by the Knights of Labor, continues with increasing vigor. There is now upon the routes an almost full bus service; and the street cars run in usual number and on full time.

The charity with which the editor of a medical journal in Buffalo, the *Vindicator*, refers to a brother medical editor in Philadelphia is so striking that we cannot refrain from quoting a paragraph: "We need hardly say that we refer to the notorious Lum Smith, of Philadelphia, a man whose private record and public character mark him at once as the most detestable and loathsome of black-malling, villainous knaves; a being to be abhorred and shunned by all decent people, a creature so low in the scale of morality that even the touch of his garment is defiling; a vain-glorious, boastful, bombastic, inflated crank of the Guizot kind, who, like his ever-to-be-remembered prototype, professes, in his conceit, that he has a grand 'mission' to perform." We commend this paragraph to the attention of our party contemporaries. We only quote a small portion of the article; and if the *Globe* were to get hold of the remainder it would be a good thing to keep in stock. Since Mr. Griffin's retirement to the classic shades of the Ottawa library they have no need for that class of matter at the *Mail* Office. But although Mr. Griffin was bitter he was never vulgar; and even the man at whom the brilliant phrase was flung, while winding under the blow, often had to admire the finesse with which it was delivered. But it is plain that Mr. Lum Smith must have provoked the Buffalo Escalapius pretty grievously or he would not have brought this torrent of white-hot lava upon his head.

A prosecuting attorney in a Texan court room the other day "ventilated" a negro detective with five bullets, because the black had dared to abuse him.

Mr. Horatio Hale, the well-known authority upon Indian languages and Indian rites, contributes to the current number of the *Popular Science Monthly* a paper entitled "Ethnology of the Blackfoot tribes." The paper is a very thoughtful one; and the author reaches the conclusion that the Blackfoot Indian is the superior of many other tribes. This he attributes to the probable fact that the Blackfoot are a people of mixed race. To those who take an interest in such questions we recommend this thoughtful and valuable paper.