

cannot attract. Coffee and reading rooms, with eventually musical evenings, are under consideration in connection with it.

Our brethren of the Jewish faith are at present celebrating their Paschal meal, which now partakes more of a hallowed family feast than a national commemoration of the exodus from Egypt. On account of the uncertainty prevailing in former times about fixing the full moon, Jews, out of the Holy Land, keep the feast on the two first evenings. They are known as *exiles*, and, although orthodox, the regulations of the lamb for each house, the travelling garb and other features have been abrogated, and other symbolical tokens have taken their place. The order of prayers and chants has received many additions, and even mediæval and German songs have crept in which are supposed to bear upon the past and future of the chosen people. Their service is nevertheless distinctive in the extreme. The men and boys below, privileged to dispense with the custom of uncovering their heads, robed in copes of borders and fringes of variegated colours and lengths, perform the religion, at least in exterior, for their wives and sisters above, who stand when their lords stand and sit when they sit, but otherwise have no part or lot with them. The ark is richly draped in white brocade, and is most reverently approached for the reading of the Law and the Prophets. These, in an imposing scroll, wrapped in spotless white, and surmounted by decorations of silver bells, are kissed and tenderly carried to the reading-desk for perusal. But the music! Alas! If "sweet singers in Israel" once existed, they must have become extinct. The metallic, harsh, grating accents haunt one for days, and the *pas bien accordé* for days and days.

For music in its concentrated adaptability to religious needs and pious devotion during our Holy Week we must pass on to our Catholic co-patriots; and for pomp and pageant and priestly procession we must pass even from modern Rome to her successor and eclipser in Canada. From Palm Sunday to Easter morning His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. ought to feel more at home in Quebec or Montreal than in the Eternal City itself. The palms are blessed and distributed, the Misereres are sung, the Tenebræ is witnessed, the Oils are blessed, the Bells are silenced, the Feet are washed, the Supper is served, penitents are pardoned, indulgences are granted, absolutions are performed, the altars are stripped, *new fire* is struck, the Paschal candle is consecrated and Easter bells burst forth in Canada from a religious fervour and penitential vigour which must be the hope of the church. Neither France, Spain nor Italy shall be the future home of the holy prisoner of the Vatican. Quebec is preparing herself for that.

A very pretty and welcome "Easter Evening" was planned by the officers of the Young Women's Christian Association for the special enjoyment of solitary young maidens on Friday night. Easter hymns, a paper on Easter ceremonies and observances, an address by one of the city clergy, and an abundance of good things in cakes and creams formed an introduction to the event of the evening, an Easter tableau. VILLE MARIE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OBJECTIONS TO ANNEXATION.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—After having occupied a considerable amount of your space by my articles on Imperial Federation I hardly like to continue perpetually to trespass on you; but the letter you published in your issue of the 12th inst. from Mr. Raney, in answer to some of my statements, seems to call for a reply.

Whatever may be Mr. Raney's ideas about discretion and sound judgment, I am clearly of the opinion that free trade between Canada and England would be infinitely more beneficial for Canada than political fusion with the United States. Mr. Raney seems to imagine that *because* England admits Canadian goods free, and *because* Canada puts a heavy duty on English goods, that *therefore* the trade relations between England and Canada are the best for Canada that could be devised. Indeed he triumphantly asks: "Could any arrangement with England be more advantageous to Canada?" It is just in this particular that he is utterly wrong. He views the matter, of course, from the narrow Protectionist standpoint; and is incapable of seeing that the heavy Canadian duties that restrict the import of British goods, by just so much restrict the export of Canadian goods. Trade between nations is in reality barter; and if Canada refuses to take, or restricts the taking of, English goods, England is just by so much prevented from taking Canadian goods. Commercial Union with the States would not benefit Canada in the manner that would Commercial Union with England, for the very simple reason that we in this country have in surplus and desire to export just the same sort of produce that the States desire to export. All this I went into very fully in my second article, and gave statistics proving what I said; and proving, too, what all sound trade theories assert, that high tariffs invariably injure and restrict a country's foreign trade, and prevent the acquisition of wealth. To this, no doubt, Mr. Raney would reply with the protectionist fallacies about "keeping the money in the country," and so forth.

On trade questions, however, one would not expect to hear wisdom from the other side of the line. But I scarcely expected that any man "with a reputation for

discretion and sound judgment to lose" would make the assertion that, "When the senate—only one branch of Congress—differs in politics from the President, the latter's hands are effectually tied." I am tempted to borrow a forcible, though scarcely courteous, phrase of Mr. Raney's and exclaim "this is pure nonsense!" We saw during at least part of Mr. Cleveland's *regimé* a Senate that differed from him in politics. There was for some time a Senatorial "dead-lock" when the Senate refused to ratify the President's acts: but the President's hands were by no means "tied"; there was no resignation of the cabinet as under similar circumstances would have been the case under the British system; the "dead-lock" was absorbed by hidden means, and the President lasted out the full term of his office. What would have happened had the Senate stood firm, Heaven (and perhaps Mr. Raney) only knows. Does Mr. Raney know that the President has a veto power which can only be overcome by a two-thirds vote of each house; or does he imagine that we in Canada can be induced to believe that "his hands are effectually tied" when the Senate differs from him in politics? The point that I made in my article was that the election of one man—the President—entails upon the country the government according to the political creed that he professes for the succeeding four years, and this irrespective of the condition of parties in Congress. And as the members of his cabinet are appointed by himself, have no seat in Congress and are therefore not elected by the people, this arrangement necessarily draws to the Presidential election all the virulence and corruption of party warfare. Indeed, in the Hayes-Tilden fight, the victory was adjudged to Mr. Hayes mainly on returns from some of the Southern States, that were more than suspected of being fraudulent, and on an appeal to the Courts, the famous decision was given that the Courts could not "go behind the returns," but must accept those sent in as being correct, thus virtually placing the election of the President in the hands of corrupt and dishonest officials. Mr. Raney may think this very desirable; but others have a different opinion.

But in the article that I wrote I said that I would be content to rest the comparison of the British and American political systems on the test: Which had evolved the better judicial system; and under which were criminals more surely punished, and crime more thoroughly repressed. And I proceeded to point out, and supported by extracts and quotations from purely American sources that the administration of Justice in the States was shamefully lax and corrupt, and the punishment of crime insufficient in the extreme. And I asserted that the frequency of "lynching" in the States was an unmistakable evidence both of the rottenness of the Judicial system, and of the distrust of the people for their own courts. Lynching is the necessary corollary to a weak and corrupt Judiciary. All this Mr. Raney considers the wildest exaggeration: he seems to think that "lynching" is quite uncommon in the States, and not to be ashamed of when it does occur. At the time I wrote I had not at hand figures from American sources to corroborate what I stated: indeed I hardly thought it necessary to produce figures on such a subject, as the facts are so well known to all who have any knowledge of the States. But I have been able to meet with figures that will perhaps convince even Mr. Raney that what I said was not only not exaggerated, but scarcely strong enough.

In the *Century Magazine* for April 1884 at page 944 there is an article by the editor entitled "Mob or Magistrate" that deals with the subject. He shows that during the year 1883 there were 1517 murders reported in the United States, with barely 93 legal executions. "The same year that witnessed ninety-three legal executions," the editor goes on to say, "witnessed one-hundred and eighteen lynchings. The lawless executions outnumbered the lawful ones by twenty-five per cent."

"No very profound philosophy is required to explain the relation of these facts. The inefficiency of the machinery of Justice has led to the introduction of these barbarous methods. . . . But it is not so much defective legislation as inefficient administration that produces lawlessness. The laws against murder are strong enough; but when people know that not one in a dozen of the wilful murderers receives the just recompense of his deeds, and that technicalities and quibbles are constantly allowed to shelter the worst criminals, they themselves become desperate; and breaking through the just and salutary restraints of law, they deal vengeance right and left in a bloody and turbulent fashion. . . . Nevertheless the failure of criminal justice, which makes room for mobs and lynching, is a greater disgrace than the savagery of the mobs. The fact that thirteen out of fourteen murderers escape the gallows is the one dawning fact that blackens the record of our criminal jurisprudence. No American ought to indulge in any boasting about his native land, while the evidence remains that the laws made for the protection of human life are thus shamefully trampled under foot. No occupant of the bench, and no member of the bar ought to rest until those monstrous abuses, which result in the utter defeat of Justice, are thoroughly corrected. . . . The small number of murderers hanged by the sheriffs, and the greater number hanged by the mobs should be evidence enough that the administration of our criminal courts in many quarters is fatally defective and needs reforming. The only classes of persons interested in maintaining the present state of things are the criminals and the criminal lawyers; and it is not for their exclusive benefit that society is organized. The contrast between the swift, firm and sure methods of English and continental courts in dealing with great criminals, and the

tardy feeble and abortive methods of our own, should sting our national pride to some energetic measures of reform."

After these extracts comment of mine is almost superfluous. Everything that I said is fully corroborated by these figures and quotations. One-hundred and eighteen lynchings in one year: an average of more than two per week. And yet Mr. Raney accuses me of exaggeration when I speak of the frequent occurrence of lynching. And while this is the condition of affairs across the line lynching is unknown in Canada, and unknown throughout the whole vast extent of the British Empire. If the American people had sufficient manliness to rise above the wretched party politics that degrade their country, they would not rest until such shame and disgrace were purged away. Mr. Raney may believe that "the American Constitution is the greatest charter of liberties ever written by the hand of man;" but better far for a country's happiness, than all the bombast ever penned, an upright judge and a sure and incorruptible administration of justice. If Americans could attain to these they would measurably advance their country in the scale of civilization.

As I pointed out in the article I wrote on this subject, I believe that the chief reason for the weak administration of justice in the States, is to be found in the election—not of judges only—but of sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, and others who have to do with judicial affairs. By this elective system judicial appointments are dragged into the foul arena of political and party warfare. And my reason for going into this matter is, that in the event of annexation being brought forward as a practical issue, we, in this country, should consider well before changing the good political system we enjoy for the bad that would be offered in its stead.

GRANVILLE C. CUNNINGHAM.

Toronto, April 16th, 1889.

THE PINES' VIGIL.

THE faithful pines keep
Their watch by the dead,
While other trees sleep,
The faithful pines keep
Close watch, wail, and weep,
O'er Nature's white bed,
The faithful pines keep
Their watch by the dead.

WILLIAM M'GILL.

A PROMISE.

ALL day, against my window blurred and dim,
The rain had dripped with ceaseless monotone,
And leaning mists that hurrying winds had blown
From over the mountain's distant purple rim
Made twilight pale within the leafless woods;
There, in those bleak and dreary solitudes,
No bloom made fair the branches dull and gray,
Nor bud shone on the withered vines that shed
Their broken stems along the winding way.
"The Spring will come no more, no more," I said,
"Unto my life made sad with loss and pain!"
When, lo! across the clouds of sweeping rain
The sunlight broke, and thro' the splendour wild
Up from the faded turf the first blue violet smiled.

ADELAIDE D. ROLLSTON.

THE HISTORY OF PROFESSOR PAUL.

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III.

WHEN Professor Paul resumed the recital of his story on the following evening, he said:

"It is not necessary, my friend, that I should speak to you concerning my trip to London, except to say that I was successful in the sale of my sketches, nor yet did any events worthy of mention occur during the first week or so of my return to the village. I avoided as much as possible being with Winnie, at first for my own sake and latterly for hers."

"She had grown very quiet since my return, and whenever I happened to be thrown in her company, I could not help noticing that she seemed to have lost all her brightness and those pretty little winning ways, which had before made her so attractive."

"I felt almost like one who has committed a crime."

"I could not help believing that this change was on account of her aversion to my presence, and I decided, though not without many a severe struggle, to avoid her even more carefully during the remainder of my stay, and at the earliest opportunity, after the rest of my sketches were finished, to leave again for Paris."

"As Winnie was at home every afternoon I always spent that time in the fields engaged with my painting, and upon my return, as soon as the evening meal was over, I at once retired to my studio and occupied myself in preparing my materials for the next day. And so the days passed by, and at length my sketch was completed, and to-morrow I would bid good-bye to village life, and Winnie."

"I told my aunt at the dinner table of my intention, and then went out into the fields to visit my old haunts for the last time. When I returned home they were waiting tea for me, and as soon as it was over, I went at once to my studio to complete what packing still remained to be done."