

same mistake has been made in dealing with the Canadian North-West the population of which should have been concentrated and mixed, instead of being scattered and all agricultural.

Campaign  
Humour.

The people of the United States take their election politics seriously enough every fourth year, but every presidential contest brings out nevertheless, its own crop of humourisms. Amongst those of the present campaign are the term "Popocrats" applied to the politicians who favour a fusion of the "Populists" with the "Democrats," and are supporting the ticket made up of Bryan and Watson. Those so designated have retaliated by coining the term "Hannacrats" to apply to the straight Republicans, and to those Democrats who are either supporting McKinley and Hobart, or putting forward Palmer and Buckner for the avowed purpose of creating a diversion in their favour. Needless to say that the epithet is also a fling at Mark Hanna, the millionaire manager of the Republican campaign. A Southern journal adds that "the right name for the Hannacrats is Gnashional Democrats." The best specimen of humorous literature which has yet appeared is a satire entitled "The Demonetization of Iron," into which are woven a number of extracts from sixteen to-one speeches and editorials, *mutatis mutandis*. The concluding sentences are put in the mouth of Mr. Hull, of Atlanta, as follows: "I insist that the free coinage of pig-iron will do everything that is claimed for silver and infinitely more. The people will be rich and prosperous. The once poor man can pay his debts with his old stove. Railways can declare dividends on old rails and worn-out rolling stock. The small boy can pick up old nails and horseshoes enough to support his family. In fine, poverty and debt can no longer exist."

A New  
Academy.

Edmond de Goncourt, a wealthy Parisian *littérateur*, has devoted his fortune to the establishment and endowment of a new literary academy, which is intended to rival the old Académie Française. His will designates Alphonse Daudet and seven others as members, and two vacancies are left to be filled up by the Academy in session. Zola is said to have been excluded because he offered himself as a candidate for membership in the Académie Française; one would like to believe that his "Zolaism" had something to do with the omission of his name. Membership in the Goncourt Academy carries with it solid advantage, as each member will receive a yearly income of six thousand francs. The founder has also established a yearly prize of five thousand francs to be awarded by his Academy to the author of the best novel, or of the best collection of short stories, or of the best book of history, aesthetics, or erudition.

A German  
Poetess.

Every movement that is caused by wide-spread and intense human misery is sure, sooner or later, to find poetic expression. Say what we will of the "new" woman crusade in Canada, there is no question of the need for improvement in woman's social position in Germany. Alike as daughter and as wife the peasant woman's life is one of virtual servitude, monotonous toil, and intellectual vacuity. Whole generations may pass for such people without articulate protest, but when dumb and long pent-up wretchedness does find a voice the effect is volcanic. The socialistic propaganda in Germany, intensified by the insane militarism of the ruling classes and the consequent fiscal oppression of the lower, has stirred up

in women a passionate longing for freedom which finds voice in the extraordinary lyrics of Johanna Ambrosius, the wife of a poor peasant in an East Prussian village. Her own lot has been one of commonplace toil and complete absence of intellectuality, but within the past year she has electrified Germany with lyric poems which have been compared with Heine's for truthfulness and simplicity, and contrasted with them in their comparative freedom from morbidness. Though she is in revolt against the social conditions which oppress German women beyond the power of endurance, Johanna Ambrosius is no mere misanthrope or pessimist. She believes in the final victory of goodness and right, and is moved by an intense desire to further it. The fact that her poems have in a few months passed through twenty-seven editions is ample proof of the hold she has already acquired on the German masses.

### The Dignity of Parliament.

THE prerogatives of Parliament are preserved by immemorial custom and protected by positive law; the dignity of Parliament must be maintained by its own members in their personal relations. If, while they call each other "honourable gentlemen," they abuse each other like pickpockets on the floor of the House, they cannot fairly expect the general public to hold either Parliament or its members in high esteem.

It was not unreasonable to hope that the present House of Commons would be in this respect a contrast with the one which came to an end a few months ago by efflux of time. A legislative chamber, like an individual, is apt to become demoralized by age, and to indulge in unseemly displays of temper just because its members have been too long together. A general election ought to clear the air of the Chamber and improve the temper of the members, especially when it results in a change of Ministry. Those who have passed over to the Opposition side should be able for a time to enjoy the resulting freedom from the cares of administration; those who have entered into their reward can well afford to be imperturbably good-natured.

Some recent scenes in the House of Commons produce on the observer's mind the impression that the dignity of Parliament has been impaired rather than enhanced by the recent struggle at the polls. Members on both sides seem to have carried into the Chamber not merely the animosities, but the style of the campaign. This is a serious evil. "Stump" speaking is quite different from Parliamentary debate, and what is barely tolerable on the hustings becomes quite intolerable in a deliberative assembly.

It goes without saying that while the fine old French maxim, *noblesse oblige*, applies to every man whom the people have honoured with membership in a great legislative chamber, it has a special application to the Ministers of the Crown. They should display unflinching courtesy, even when their tempers may be sorely tried. This restraint on themselves is part of the price they pay for the privilege of controlling the legislation and administration of a great community. Fortunately the Premier never offends the maxim of his compatriots. If he was not "to the manner born," he has cultivated it so persistently that it is now second nature. If other leading men on both sides would closely follow his example, the House of Commons might soon rival any legislative chamber in the world for dignity as it does now for practical ability and debating power.