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THE TIMES.

Our parliamentarians at Ottawa are passing through a great variety of experiences. A survey of any one week's proceedings is a pleasant and profitable thing. A pretty tableau in Committee Room No. 13—two legislators engaged in earnest remonstrance, enforced by the fist. From henceforth we must look for our representatives from among the men who can fight well. Bunster should have been able to thrash Cheval and keep his own whiskers. The fight in Committee Room No. 13 was quite as creditable as the conduct of many members in the House. They sleep, read papers, write letters, talk to each other, stamp with their feet on the floor, bump the inkstand on the desk, and think themselves legislators and worthy of being paid. Paid they are, worthy or not worthy, and that spoils them. Better abolish the pay; make parliamentary representation an honour, and we should have less rowdyism in the House, because more of gentlemanly sentiment.

Mr. McDougall, of Renfrew, has been casting about for something new, and has found it. He has introduced a bill to secure the attendance of voters at elections of members for the Commons. He would save the candidates for parliamentary pay and honour the expenses they sometimes incur in bringing voters to the poll. That is a happy thought, surely. Fancy being compelled to vote! It is just as reasonable as it would be to pass an Act that each man shall drink, to keep up the revenue; or shall eat a fair share of bread and beef to keep up farming; or shall make up his mind as to which is the better party in politics, or any other absurd thing. We have heard of men being compelled to be moral by Act of Parliament, but never before of their being forced into politics. One step more, Mr. McDougall of Renfrew, bring in a bill to compel the people to join some Church or other.

The Hon. H. G. Joly has put his address before the eyes of the public of the Province of Quebec, and a more clumsy and ill-worded thing we have rarely seen. In the opening sentence it says the Lieut.-Governor "exercised his authority in dismissing the Hon. Mr. DeBoucherville from office," and then, "we assume all its responsibility." What? The act of dismissal? or, of the defunct Government? Then we have, "on the contrary, far from that"; very poor for a Premier's address. Then, "their taxation scheme of this last session which we put a stop to just in time." This makes it that the Lieut.-Governor was acting under the advice of Mr. Joly and his party all the time. Then we have—this "opened the door to taxes of all kinds, which up to this day have fortunately remained unknown to the population of our Province." That is, that taxes of all kinds have remained unknown to the population of this Province. That is news. We still think it would be well for the electors to give Mr. Joly a majority, but the Lieutenant-Governor may yet have to pray, "Save me from my friends."

Between the public schools of Ontario and the denominational schools there can be no possibility of permanent compromise, or union, except on the basis of unreserved acceptance of the non-sectarian system. This obvious fact is indeed the only ground on which the separate schools maintain their existence. The only common interest of the two organizations rests in their joint subordination to the chief officer of the Educational Department. Nevertheless, it is clear that an effort is on foot to effect some species of arrangement which shall secure to the separatist schools the advantages of both methods. For this purpose the supporters of a Roman Catholic school may be found willing to consent that their school shall pass under the control of the Public School Trustees, on the understanding that a fixed proportion of the trustees shall be Romanists, that the teachers shall be restricted

to that communion, and that the Romanist clergy shall have the right to impart religious instruction at all hours. Windsor, Ontario, affords an example of such an attempt to divert the public schools from their distinct and legitimate object of providing the best possible non-sectarian education. But wherever attempted, it can only result in failure.

It is not often that we have to record a victory for liberal thought in theology of such far-reaching consequences as one that has recently been achieved in Scotland. Our readers, who are interested in contemporary theology, must be familiar with the name of Professor Robertson Smith, of Aberdeen, who has been contributing various articles in Bible criticism to the new edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. In these articles Professor Smith has made the readers of the Encyclopædia acquainted with the results of modern criticism in the spirit of that fearless reverence for truth, by which all thorough science is distinguished. But, as might have been anticipated, this spirit roused the wrath of those who have no reverence for any truth that conflicts with traditional dogmas; and the public excitement throughout Scotland became dangerous to the interests of calm inquiry, and even of justice towards the offending critic. It is to be regretted that, for the moment, popular clamour drowned the voice of reason in the General Assembly of the Free Church, to which Professor Smith belongs; and at the meeting in last May he was suspended from his office by a summary act without any form of trial. It seems, however, as if there had been a reaction against this unconstitutional procedure after the passion, by which it was dictated, had cooled down. Professor Smith had been merely suspended; and before he could be deposed, it was necessary that he should be proved guilty of heresy by the process of "libel," as it is called, in accordance with the forms of Scottish Church Law. Our readers, we fear, would find little interest, and perhaps little intelligibility, in the elaborate document, called the libel against Professor Smith: still less interest, and less intelligibility, would be found in following the intricate ecclesiastical procedure, by which the libel is prosecuted. Suffice it to say that on all points of any importance to the prosecution the libel was found not proven. Of course, an appeal to the higher court has been taken by the disappointed prosecutors; but when the case is removed from all the local influences of the Presbytery to the broader judicatures of the Synod and of the General Assembly, it is scarcely to be expected that the liberal action of the Presbytery will be reversed.

The war cloud hangs over Europe dark and thunderous. At any hour it may burst, for the complications seem to increase. Russia is defiant, Turkey playing a double part, Austria uncertain, England determined. If war—what kind of a war will it be? Who can tell? The Turk may join with the Russian; the Turk is quite equal to that; Austria may join England, or, England may have to fight without a single ally. We are not foolish enough to imagine that England has come to the end of her war power. Britain can assert herself, and make her words respected. Sir Garnet Wolseley, one of the most accomplished professional soldiers in the British army, and one of the best living writers on military matters, has just shown in an article contributed by him to the *Nineteenth Century* that England is better prepared for war than ever she was before. The volunteer service has kept the army well before the notice of the nation, so that the old indifference was impossible. The militia has been developed as a system; the officers have been more carefully educated in the practical science of war, and the social status of the ordinary soldier has been raised somewhat. Then England has nothing to fear by way of invasion, so that nearly all her fighting men could be sent to a foreign field. Two army corps (60,000) are now ready for immediate service, and under cover of the fleet could intrench themselves and hold it anywhere. Nearly 400,000 men could soon be massed at any given point. It is not likely that they would carry the campaign far inland, so they could well and effectively enter a protest against a Russian occupation of the Dardanelles. All that is the glory side of it. England is rich; England is brave; England can win glory by means of her army. Fine sounding phrases, all of them. But what is the other side, trade paralysed, wealth wasted, and thousands of homes crushed into the blackness of despair. We are patriotic; we are jealous for the national honour, but this imminence of war is the result of past political folly.