

queer suggestions it affords of Latin and Anglo-Saxon origin. *Mollis, elor*, the ox and the molly cow all present themselves to the mind in the oddest manner. Having no acquaintance with the language of the tribes, it would be rash in me to pursue the subject fully, and possibly these resemblances may easily be explained. I am indeed led to suspect that the Indians have sometimes used French and English words, and hence sometimes Latin derivatives, in coining words within the last few centuries. There are many names of places and objects in the Maritime Provinces which seem to indicate this, and which are calculated to puzzle the most accomplished linguist.

There is a very interesting account by one John Gyles of his captivity among the Micicete Indians on the Upper Saint John from 1689 to 1698. He was seized by a marauding party at Fort Charles, near the Falls of the Pemmaquid, when he was only nine years of age, but, notwithstanding his infancy at the time, he was enabled in after years to relate his adventures very circumstantially. The brutal manner in which he was treated by some, though not all of the savages, especially by the squaws, arouses the warmest sympathy of the reader. Mr. James Hannay produced this narrative with historical notes in 1875, in pamphlet form; but, as the work is rare, it certainly deserves to be republished. The Indians amongst whom poor little Gyles lived were certainly, according to his statement, in a very wretched condition. Rarely feasting, generally starving, without proper shelter or clothing, unable or disinclined to make provision for the future, they had but little present enjoyment, and their anticipations must always have been the opposite of agreeable.

From this as well as from other sources of information it is easy to understand why these people never prospered. They were indeed brave, but theirs was the bravery of the wild animal driven to fierce exertion by necessity, by starvation. Their surrounding conditions have been opposed to their numerical increase, and hence the Indian population seems to have remained almost stationary during the period of which there is any authentic record; and it is doubtful whether more than six or seven hundred warriors could have been brought together at any known time in Acadia.

The establishment of civilization in the country has doubtless been of some benefit to these people, but they find it hard to resist the temptation of fire water, and they have not yet acquired the power of directing their energies into channels suitable for their material advancement.

I. ALLEN JACK.

OTTAWA LETTER.

MR. MCGREEVY'S examination was the beginning of the end in the Privileges and Elections Committee. In the hands of his own counsel it was pretty plain sailing for a while, though the evidences of great caution and reserve were unmistakable. Under the relentless and direct questioning of his accusers this soon changed into stubborn denials of knowledge, strange lapses of memory, and finally positive refusals to answer. For the latter he has been reported to the House to deal with his contumacy as it thinks fit to direct, but whether a majority there will order him to tell who got the money, which he admits he took from the contractors and spent for political purposes, is one question, and whether if so ordered he will tell is another. The extent of the House's power to punish for contempt is very vague, and perhaps not only Mr. McGreevy but also his political friends would prefer, for appearances' sake, that he should be ordered to tell, but that afterwards he should remain in tolerably comfortable imprisonment until the session is over, and with that event the power to punish his silence, unless a special Act of Parliament were passed to authorize further penalties. But if he has stuck to his friends he has told more than enough to kill himself and to expose himself to all the serious consequences of violating the statute which forbids members of Parliaments to receive public money. It was almost pitiable to see him under the ruthless demands for categorical answers as to the truth of his own statements in the House denying the charges as first made by Mr. Tarte. In spite of qualifications and evasive answers he had either to make fatal admissions or denials that in effect were equally fatal to the presumption of innocence.

There was no great surprise in Ottawa when Sir Hector Langevin's resignation was announced in Tuesday morning's *Citizen*, for it had been pretty well understood for some days past that the time had come when he could no longer retain the attitude he had assumed. But it was a very great surprise to some people to find what position he has taken now. Of course it was supposed that when he came to give evidence he would deny most of the charges, explain some of them, and perhaps admit he had received some money for political purposes from McGreevy, but not corruptly, or from the proceeds of contracts. The committee room was jammed, and the crowd lined the corridor to hear his statement, now news to nobody. But a straight, continuous, explicit denial, not only of every charge against him, but of every statement made by the witnesses that was adverse or in any way might raise prejudice against him, was certainly expected by very few of those present. His usual coolness and self-possession stood him in good stead. He faced the vulgar curiosity and incredulity as calmly as if he were on the hustings, and he read his statement for an hour and a quarter in as collected a voice as if speaking in the House on a matter

of administration. It was a striking scene, even in all its commonplaceness, of surrounding and incident. The impression seemed to be that he had denied too much. That remains to be seen after the cross-examination, which begins to-morrow. Many people are expecting another great surprise, believing that Mr. Tarte has kept back proofs in anticipation of Sir Hector's denial. This idea gets little credence, on the ground that Sir Hector would not have put himself in such a position without positive knowledge either that no such evidence ever existed or that it could not be produced.

The minor incidents of the Scandal Committees have been quite overshadowed by these greater matters. Even the discovery of "Bancroft" to be a foreman in the Connollys' employment, but not to be the name of that foreman, and Nicholas Connolly's unblushing admission of the fact that he himself had deposited money to "Bancroft's" credit with one hand and drawn it out with the other, made but a passing sensation. Mr. Heney's "little joke" about ten thousand dollars being the price of a contract which did not get awarded by some strange chance to the contractor who was not willing to pay that sum, but who had expected it, passed merely as one of those strange coincidences that happen in life. And even Mr. Milne's evidence—an Irish gentleman who justified his taking pay from the contractors while he was a Government Inspector over their work, by vehement assertions that he worked night and day for them—soon lost its humorous interest.

The reciprocity question was not allowed to rest as the defeat of Sir Richard Cartwright's amendment left it. The disapproval of commercial union had to be definitely formulated. So the amendment which Mr. Desjardins proposed was brought forward again on the earliest occasion. It also served to express an opportune approval of the Government's policy generally. The majority was only twenty-two on this vote, but the diminution was due to accidental causes. To expect every member to be in his seat for a division on a hot summer night twice within a few days, is more than human nature can be asked, unless a crisis is more imminent than seems probable just now.

That phase of "human devices," which it is alleged was employed to such an extent a few years ago in the granting of "timber limits" to friends and supporters of the Government, gave the House another day's rather hot discussion. But there was nothing new added to the charges made on former occasions by Mr. Charlton and Mr. Barron. The former's famous affidavit against Dr. Hickey, then the member for Dundas, was, of course, flourished in reply to all accusations. That is his enforced retraction of the statements he made therein. On the whole, the debate accomplished very little on either side, leaving, as usual, each party happy in the idea that it had quite proved its own case and flattened out its adversaries, and both in that singular frame of oblivion to what the public really think and believe, which is such an unfortunate characteristic of party feeling generally, and such a marked effect of even a short sojourn in Ottawa. The truth is, that in politics, as in all exciting games, the players forget the very existence of spectators, and the inarticulate voice of the crowd, whether it be heard in applause or disapproval, urges them on to still greater efforts to "play the game" and to win for their side.

On Thursday a little of that business known as "taking up the Estimates" was done. The items relating to Fishery Bounties, the Census, and the Experimental Farms gave members generally a chance to show any special knowledge of these subjects they might happen to have, and Opposition critics a chance in addition to worry the Ministers whose turn it was to be worried. This is not just the time to say anything against minute examination of the expenditure of public moneys; but either Canada is very slowly emerging from the parochial politics' stage or a great deal of time is needlessly occupied in Parliament with details which, under any good government on a large scale, might safely be left to less important officers than Cabinet Ministers, and with improved facilities for thorough criticism.

The Bill to amend the Supreme and Exchequer Courts brought up again the question of the veto power. The principles upon which this should be exercised were in discussion rather more than might have been expected. The important point is that while the decision of the Supreme Court upon any point referred to it will theoretically remain only advice to the Government, it will in reality operate as a final judgment binding the parties and susceptible of an appeal to the Privy Council, whose ultimate decision will put the Government not only in possession of an opinion not likely to be questioned, but of one that is not likely they can venture to act against. And in the very important matter of deciding issues of fact the reference will now be assimilated to the ordinary suit at law; while the expression of opinions and reasons by the judges will afford some good guidance through the maze of difficulties which "constitutional law" is fast becoming under the B. N. A. Act, as it has already become under the Constitution of the United States, although this in some respects is more definite than ours. The bare "yes" or "no" in answer to questions submitted is often as unsatisfactory as the original doubt the questions were meant to resolve, because while in one sense it binds nobody, in another nobody knows how far or why it may be binding in an actual suit.

X.

To be idle is the ultimate object of the busy.—Dr. Johnson.

RECIPROCITY CONSIDERED.

THE Honourable Mr. Blaine's reciprocity clause of the McKinley tariff has brought about negotiations for reciprocity between the United States and Canada, although Canada was not originally included in the general scheme which authorized the President to negotiate and conclude a reciprocal arrangement with continental nations. The negotiations which are arranged to take place next October in Washington may be termed a preliminary canter to test the diplomatic strength of the treaty-makers and to draw out public opinion upon the merits of the free trade tendencies of the respective Governments under the aegis of protection, and will pave the way for a more liberal commercial policy between the two countries and probably with the outside world. There are two distinctive features in the diplomatic approach towards the question: on behalf of the United States the principle is laid down that no treaty is possible unless Canada makes a complete surrender of her commercial policy and gives to the United States the exclusive benefit of her trade in return for their free markets; on behalf of Canada the principle is laid down that no treaty is possible which will discriminate against the markets of Great Britain, markets which give Canadians the best prices for their produce and the best value in return for those prices, a principle emphasized by the recent vote on the budget debate. These facts show the wisdom of Mr. Blaine's policy in approaching the question cautiously and first gleaning all the information that may lead to an intelligent view of the merits of a treaty, when time will be given for the people in both countries to consider the question from every standpoint. The intelligence of Canadians is quite as valuable to American statesmen as the intelligence of the citizens of the great Republic in working out a commercial policy, that will advance commercial liberty on this continent. The National Policy of Canada is a free trade measure in so far as articles that contribute to the industry of the people are admitted free and a revenue is derived through the customs upon articles manufactured—the development of which in Canada contributes to the wealth of the country. It is a revenue not forced from the population by the sternness of the tax gatherer, but voluntarily contributed by them as a result of their prosperity, for the business branch of the Government in seeking to harmonize trade and revenue might be classed as any other business is, it produces its own prosperity. Under the National Policy which was introduced in 1878 the revenue of Canada has increased from twenty-one million in 1878 to thirty-nine million dollars in 1890; and in increasing the revenue to that amount there was no force used, it was a voluntary effort on the part of the people and increased as their ability to purchase increased. Sugar was the only article of prime necessity for the consumption of a family that bore a tax on raw material that was not capable of production in the country, and sugar increased in consumption from twenty pounds per head in 1878 to forty-four pounds per head in 1890, which showed that the labouring classes were so prosperous that not only were they able to more than double their consumption of sugar in ten years but they were able to contribute three and a-half millions to the revenue while increasing that consumption. Sugar as a raw material has now been admitted free, and the only tax of importance upon an article that may be classed as a prime necessity is removed. It remains to be seen what effect its removal will have upon consumption.

Sugar plays an important part in the country's trade, and the Government of the United States has used it as a lever in the reciprocity features of the McKinley tariff with effect, and the West Indies are already beginning to anticipate the squeezing process to which they are liable to be subjected. England has for years seen her refineries go by the board in order to take advantage of the cheap beet root sugar produced on the continent of Europe under the stimulus of the bounty system, and the extraordinary spectacle presented itself that continental nations were submitting themselves to high taxation in order to induce the export of beet-root sugar, which enabled the English people to purchase seventy-five pounds per head, while the nations that supplied the sugar could not purchase more than fifteen or twenty pounds per head for their own use. The replies made by the English Government to the refiners when their business was closed up was that more men were employed in manufacturing the sugar into confectionery than were employed in the refineries, consequently the commercial policy could not be changed to relieve the refiners who were being ruined by the false commercial system of neighbouring nations. The people of Great Britain are, however, becoming more alive to the fact that there is a profit in colonial trade, and the problem has yet to be solved if more British labour would not be employed by developing the productiveness of the West Indian Islands, which are naturally adapted for the production of sugar, than to encourage the growth of false commercial principles in the world and ruining a portion of her own territory thereby, and a leaf out of Mr. Blaine's book on reciprocity is worthy of perusal from a Canadian as well as a British standpoint, where the export bounty system of our neighbours has gained a footing under the McKinley Bill.

In reference to the bounty system, Mr. Carnegie in speaking of the McKinley Bill says: "It contains a new idea, or at least an extension of an idea, which in his opinion is to affect Europe more in the future than any increase of duties under the Bill; and he adds: here is