

almost without exception is pronounced to be falsehood. Here we see the limits of Roman Catholic Liberalism. Evidently it is intended for the exclusive benefit of the learned laity, who secure practical liberty to themselves by restricting the authoritative creed of the Church to her perfectly formal utterances, as though spiritual life and truth were to be regulated by mere forms, and as though a Church could not preach falsehood through her ritual and her pulpit as well as through the decrees of Popes and Councils. However, in his treatment of the Canon, as well as in his treatment of miracles and legends, and in his attitude towards the Syllabus, which he professes to regard as a mere catalogue of errors without dogmatic force, and chiefly valuable from its references, Mr. Lilly shows plainly enough that something new is stirring within the bosom of the Catholic Church. How he may fare at the hands of the present Pope, or the present Congregation of the Index, we will not undertake to say; but we are very sure that Innocent III. would have ordered him to be smitten with the sword, and that Torquemada or Bonner would have burned him alive.

AN attempt will be made, on the suggestion of Sir Charles Tupper, to display the intellectual products of Canada at the forthcoming Colonial and Indian Exhibition. A collection of recent works in English and French can be made without difficulty; but the British public will not be much wiser for looking at the bindings, and if curiosity should lead a few persons to make a closer inspection they will find the French works are conceived in a spirit of exclusive nationality which does not blend with the British—which is isolated and aggressive, though not anti-British in the sense that the French-Canadians of the Papineau era were. In this French-Canadian nationality one strange contradiction will be found. The clergy are constantly telling the people to stand by their nationality as the sheet-anchor of their salvation, but they are themselves the most non-national of clergy. Under the French dominion they could in a subordinate way play the part of national clergy; but when the country came under a foreign power, of which the National Church was Protestant, the only thing possible for the French-Canadian priests to do was to look exclusively to Rome for guidance. They became Ultramontane by the necessity of their position; and the more non-national they are as a body, the more they seem to feel the necessity for developing other characteristics of French nationality. If they cling to their ancient language and laws it is that they may the better enforce the adherence of their flocks to a Church which is singularly devoid of national characteristics. The literature of Quebec is tinged by the all-pervading spirit of the non-national Church, which, for its own purposes, incessantly pretends to favour the circulation of a national spirit, though this in its own sphere it makes impossible. An irregular censorship of the press is exercised by the bishops. Under these conditions literature is placed under restraints which prevent its natural development. In Ontario the habit of writing for the market, producing books of which the book agent can sell the largest number, has had an extremely pernicious effect. Few books produced under such influences can be of much value. When classes, and even individuals, have to be conciliated, Truth is left to look after herself, and Justice, tearing the bandage from her eyes, no longer pretends to hold even the scales in which it is her duty to weigh the moral actions of the world.

#### NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

WHAT has been designated as "the Castor" element in Quebec politics is probably very much stronger than many people—particularly Conservatives—are inclined to believe, and there can be no doubt that as a political force it is gaining considerable strength. It is unquestionably true that its ranks are composed, in the main, of disappointed and very hungry politicians; but behind these there is a moving force, determinedly seeking "to have and to hold" all power, personal, political and religious, in the deadly grasp of Ultramontanism. It is the old fight waged under new and somewhat modified conditions, but at bottom the issues are precisely the same, and Archbishop Taschereau is not wrong in believing that the triumph of the Jesuit or Ultramontane section would be the ultimate death of his Church in the Province of Quebec, and it is evidently on the strength of this conviction that he has opposed or held in check the secret and discreditable intrigues of the Jesuits, as well as their more open and defiant efforts to gain ascendancy in the Province. In the near future we shall likely hear a good deal of the Castor Party. In the meantime, however, their last move is deserving of more than a passing notice because it indicates very clearly a fixed determination to wage the battle along the whole line. In the early part of the present year Mr. Dunn, who held the position of secretary to the Roman Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, died rather suddenly, thus creating a very desirable

vacancy for somebody. The deceased was hardly an hour dead when "the wire-pullers" set to work, and it was hoped that the Government might be induced to exercise an undoubted right and make an appointment irrespective of the wishes of the Roman Catholic Committee; but this was manifestly "too ticklish" a proceeding where Archbishop Taschereau was concerned, and it had to be abandoned at sight, and finally the bold measure was adopted of fighting his Grace in the Committee itself. We stand aghast when we contemplate the audacity of this step, and think how very narrowly it escaped success. It appears that the Archbishop positively declared that no "Castor" should obtain the appointment, and it was therefore practically on this issue that the question was finally decided, and resulted in the nomination of a gentleman who, apart from political interests, was fairly entitled to the position, namely M. Paul De Cazes. Of course, it is still within the power of the Government to override the nomination of the committee; but the curious point about the contest lies in the fact that the Archbishop's candidate was only carried in a full committee by a majority of *one*. When the name of M. De Cazes was proposed it was moved in amendment that a Mr. Gagnon be nominated, and this was defeated, eight voting for the amendment and nine against. Our sympathies are entirely with the Archbishop, but honesty compels us to say that this is nothing short of a moral victory—for "the Castor" Party. To those at a distance the matter may appear very trifling; but it is just on such trifles that great interests frequently hinge in the Province of Quebec, and had the "Castor," or properly speaking, the Ultramontane Party, obtained the victory, a serious blow would have been struck at the educational interests of the Province. The excellent Superintendent of Education, M. Gédéon Ouimet, is almost as cordially hated by the Jesuits as the Archbishop himself, and this attempt to place a Castor in such close proximity to him cannot be otherwise viewed than as another audacious attempt on the part of the Jesuits to obtain control of the education of the Province.

The Canada Pacific Corporation has, at last, obtained possession of the North Shore Railway, and it will be operated in the future in the interests of that company. The City of Quebec has been loud in its demands for "the summer terminus," and now that it has apparently obtained what it asked for, it remains to be seen as to what good purpose it will employ it. There is not, however, much reason to suppose that the volume of summer trade to the port of Quebec will be greatly increased, if increased at all. Of course it will be in the interests of the Canadian Pacific to ship from Quebec rather than Montreal; but that will apply mainly to "through freight" controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and there is no great reason to lead us to think that this will ever amount to anything worth speaking of. Besides, the conditions of the labour market in Quebec are not favourable to the development of traffic; and if Quebec has failed, with all her manifest advantages, to retain a most lucrative timber trade, and that, too, as against a competitor like Montreal, handicapped at all points, it is a sort of "midsummer madness" to suppose her capable of raising her fallen fortunes from articles of commerce, in which competition has reduced the margin of profits so low as to render anything like timber rates an utter impossibility. This would be true, even if Quebec had grain elevators in full blast; but, as yet, she has no provision made for handling grain in quantities either large or small. To those not absolutely blind it must appear, however, manifest that the Canadian Pacific Railway has but an insignificant interest in the prosperity of Quebec, and that what the Company are aiming to attain is an all-the-year-round deep-sea port; wherever they obtain this, they will build their warehouses, grain elevators, and all other appliances for handling freight on a large scale. To build in Quebec, with its Arctic winter, would be to have the invested capital non-productive for seven out of the twelve months in the year. The true policy of the Canadian Pacific Railway points to Toronto as its first great distributing centre. Influences that have ruined Quebec are actively at work in Montreal, and it is just as well for English capitalists to keep themselves free from French interference, and this can only be done by giving both Montreal and Quebec a wide berth. Things will, however, go on just as they have been going, so far as Quebec is concerned, and those who hoped so much from the Canadian Pacific Railway will find themselves sadly disappointed.

It is hoped that the indirect results of the visit of Canon Farrar to this Province will not be inconsiderable in a literary point of view. Our successful merchants have had but little time for anything like literary culture, and it would be safe to affirm that not one of them knew by name, much less had ever read, the works written by the learned Canon of Westminster Abbey. This fact was made painfully manifest to them when they began to stimulate an enthusiasm about his arrival for which they could give no possible reason. Many of them hurried off and purchased copies