

Mercier threatens to find a new petitioner. This may be allowable in a political case, but it is running near the wind; and outside the political arena an attorney would not be allowed practically to make himself the plaintiff in suits of a speculative character. And there must be some limit to which the practice will be allowed to be carried even in political cases.

BACK from the Rocky Mountains have come the hundred members of the British Association who ventured so far, full of hope for the future of the vast prairie country over which they passed. On his return to Winnipeg, Sir Richard Temple, in a public lecture, stated his impressions of the capabilities of the country of which he had made such examination as is possible on a flying railway visit. From Winnipeg to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, his impression was, "There was hardly a foot of ground that did not seem capable of being converted to human use." He had the assurance of the botanical members of the party that the soil was well suited for agriculture. The pasturage was good, and the grass nutritious and green. The finest of vegetables were grown along the line of railway. Speaking for his fellow excursionists, Sir Richard said they had been profoundly impressed with the excellence of the country. The theory which had been current in England that wheat could not be grown at the altitude of Calgary, two thousand feet above the sea, had been contradicted by the fact; and even at Conmore, three thousand five hundred feet above the sea level, it was found to grow. To the lignite, which is excellent of its kind and abundant in quantity, the lecturer did not assign a high value as fuel; but it could be made excellent fuel by being mixed with bituminous coal. The climate, dreaded in England on account of its severity, was so tempered by the Chinook winds, in the neighbourhood of the mountains, that an Englishman would not experience much change from the temperature of his own country. But a difference he would find; he would find the temperature lower and the air drier. When Sir Richard Temple expressed the opinion that "no landed proprietary should be allowed" in the North-West, he meant a landed proprietary who live on rents and form a class distinct from the tillers of the soil. That the soil should be kept out of the hands of speculators, and that it is unwise to grant large areas in the aid of railway construction, he may be right in thinking; but the danger of large quantities of land remaining in the hands of individuals, in the infancy of settlement, is very small. Where to-day are the vast estates of the heirs of Penn or Lord Baltimore, or of any other of the court favourites who were the recipients of royal charters which gave a right to the soil? If we search from Florida to Nova Scotia, where the possessors of these charters once claimed nearly all the soil, not one of them will be found. In the infancy of the Republic, the United States Government offered the Western lands at auction before any one could buy at private sale. There are instances of individuals becoming possessed of a million acres; but scarcely one of them was able to retain these large possessions during his life-time, and to-day it is doubtful whether the descendants of one of them have received by inheritance an area equal to that of the Bell farm. The danger of the accumulation of land in the hands of large proprietors, if danger there be, is at the other end of the line: it begins with the accumulation of capital, and if we had no North-West, it would soon have begun to show itself in Ontario. Still injury may be done by sales of land to speculators and large grants to railway companies. But the answer to his objection Sir Richard Temple himself supplies. He admits that without the land grant the Canadian Pacific Railway could not have been constructed. And what is true of the main line is likely to be true of the branches.

WHAT political ideas did the sight of the wide expanse of prairie country suggest to the minds of the hundred scientists who travelled over it? M. Desjardins, M.P., who accompanied them and had an excellent opportunity to learn their opinions, submitted to the inevitable interviewer at Montreal, and told what he knew about the political opinions of his fellow travellers. Some of them saw in this vast country, capable in their opinion of becoming the granary of England, reasons in favour of Imperial Federation, if reasons they can be called. "In vain," says M. Desjardins, "I told that this would be unacceptable to Canadians; they insisted on looking at the matter solely from the English point of view, and thinking Federation desirable because it could be made advantageous to England" (*L'Angleterre y trouverait son profit*). M. Desjardins' preference for a diplomatic relation was rejected by those with whom he conversed. Some expressed the opinion that the Canadian representation in the House of Commons would be useful as a counterpoise to the Home Rulers. The reason for desiring the presence of a Canadian representation in the House of Commons is not flattering to Canada, and if the experi-

ment were made there is no certainty that it would succeed. A representation which, in the Canadian House of Commons, unanimously and unasked, offered advice in favour of Home rule in Ireland, could not be relied on as a counterpoise to Home rule in the British House of Commons. M. Desjardins is of opinion that, on the return of the members of the British Association who took a special interest in politics, they will become pronounced advocates of Imperial Federation. In taking that line, they will be quite within the limits of their right; but they will, doubtless, remember that their opinions are their own, and not those of Canada. Here individuals may be found to coincide in these views, which were probably held by only a limited number of our late visitors. England draws food from all countries which can supply it on the best terms, and will continue to do so, without reference to nationality; and the Canadian Pacific, as a means of reaching China and Japan, whatever use it may be to her, can be utilized without Imperial Federation as well as with it. Imperial Federation is in the clouds, and neither Mr. Forster nor Lord Rosebery has ventured to let fly the Franklin kite by which the experiment of bringing it down to the earth may be tried.

CO-EDUCATION in University College may perhaps be described as transition in a state of momentary suspense. The Legislative Assembly has indicated a desire that the experiment of co-education should be tried; but it has not passed any Act to carry its wishes into effect, or made any appropriation by which the necessary accommodation could be provided. It did not go beyond a resolution; and a resolution, while it is a direction to the executive, is not law for any one else. The college authorities would no doubt feel it their duty to act upon any instructions which the Government might give; but beyond communicating the resolution of the Legislature, the Government, knowing the absence of accommodation for female students, has done nothing. In this state of matters, intemperate threats are made that female students will be forced upon the college; threats the attempt to execute which would bring deeper discredit on their author, if possible, than the threats themselves. If we are to have co-education, let us not commence it by a display of physical force, after the fashion of bruiser Heenan or Tom Sayers. A physical force demonstration would not alter the present aspect of the matter; for Professor Wilson is practically powerless to act without instructions from the Government, by which alone the change could be effected.

THE Provincial Exhibition of Ontario for the year 1884 has not been a success. But its friends are congratulating themselves that it has not stooped to court success by an alliance with the circus. This slap at the great local fairs is not altogether unmerited. People will seek after amusement; and there can be no objection to amusements being carried on in a city in which a fair is being held; but it would be better if the great industrial exhibitions were kept distinct from the side shows. The Provincial Exhibition can at least claim to be father of the great exhibitions which, in several cities, are fast eclipsing and superseding it. Rivals of the Provincial they may be, but they are none the less its heirs; and in them the Provincial will live after its individual existence is closed. Some of its friends think that the Legislature should increase the annual grant to the Provincial as a means of trying to revive its relative importance; but it would, perhaps, be better to recognize the fact that it has had its day, and that the purposes for which it was called into existence can now be better served by younger and more vigorous rivals which have already become established on their own merits and without the aid of legislative grants.

NOTHING can be more natural than the desire of the United States Government to extend its trade with South and Central America. As a means of getting a basis on which to discuss proposals for reciprocity treaties with these countries, a commission has been appointed and will at once proceed to Mexico. The President was of opinion that it would be undesirable for Congress to authorize representatives of the United States to take part in a congress of these powers until means had been taken to find out what they were likely to do, and a plan of action had been settled at Washington. The desire of the Government, as stated by Secretary Frelinghuysen, is that the reciprocity treaties to be formed should exclude from the free list whatever would come into competition with American products and manufactures, and that they should secure to the United States the coasting trade of these countries and the free navigation of their rivers and lakes. The United States, in turn, would be willing to reduce the duties on coffee and sugar. An arrangement of this kind might be made mutually advantageous, but care would have to be taken not to sin against "the most favoured nation" clause in pre-existing treaties. The delusion to which Congress gave way, when it