

good reason to believe that many of the leading citizens of Halifax, as well as many persons in other parts of the province, are anticipating legislative action, and, although no formal petition has been presented, the members are, individually and collectively, well aware that the farming-out of the poor should be put a stop to. The representatives of those counties which have established poor farms may imagine that they are relieved of all responsibility in the matter, but this is localizing their representation far beyond its legitimate limits. The members in those counties where poor farms have not been established may question the expediency of interfering with existing institutions; but, all the same, the responsibility of the continuation of white slavery in this province must come home to the legislators who tacitly permit its existence at this late date in the nineteenth century. We trust that before another week has elapsed some member of the legislature will request from the government an expression of opinion, so that the people of Nova Scotia may understand whether the present administration is wedded to conservatism, or whether it unflinchingly desires to adhere to the broader and more enlightened principles of true liberalism.

NOVA SCOTIAN PESSIMISTS.

It is faith in the land of our nativity or adoption that engenders that love of country which true patriotism represents. If individually, or as a community, we are unsuccessful in our enterprises, or less prosperous than individuals or communities in other sections of the globe, we should endeavor as a man or as men to overcome the obstacles which hinder our progress, and not meanly endeavor to cloak our misfortunes beneath an outcry against our country, its laws, or its people. Nova Scotian pessimists have, during past years, done much to injure the fair name of this province; but while we admit that the number of these croakers is large, we believe that throughout all classes there is a strong and abiding faith in a glorious future for old Acadia; but in order that that future shall not be indefinitely postponed, we believe it to be the duty of every loyal Nova Scotian to brand as infamous the men who so far forget themselves as to belittle Nova Scotia and everything Nova Scotian. Surely the land which produced an Inglis, Welsford, or a Williams, a Howe, Johnston, or a Tupper, a Haliburton or a DeMille, not to speak of the many learned divines, judges, lawyers, and doctors who have lived and died in our sea-girt province, is not a land of which a native born Nova Scotian should speak, in a sneering manner. Individually we may not reach the high levels occupied by such men, but defamation of country will certainly not enable us to reach a higher plane than that which we now occupy, nor will it gain for us the respect and esteem of those among whom our lot is cast. The man that cannot succeed in Nova Scotia is not likely to succeed anywhere; if he cannot make apple-growing pay in the Annapolis and Cornwallis valleys, he cannot make it pay in the much-lauded west. If, under similar circumstances, he cannot make a success of general farming in this province, he need not go else where with the hope of doing better. In ninety nine cases out of a hundred success or failure is attributable to men themselves. Men's good fortune is invariably attributed to their own individual endowments, their skill, their pluck, or their enterprise, as the case may be, but their failures are, alas, too frequently attributed in some way to the country. The men who are prosperous, or even fairly so, have faith in Nova Scotia, but the men who covet wealth, or who, through lack of skill and intelligence, fail to succeed in their callings, turn upon the country which gave them birth, curse its institutions, decry its resources, and apparently only seem content when they can place their province in an unfavorable light before the world. For the sake of Nova Scotia we should like to see a wholesale emigration of these pessimists. If the country is not good enough for them, in all conscience let them seek out new and more attractive homes wherever they are to be found; but as they are not likely to follow this advice, we implore them, for the sake of decency and their own self-respect, not to be constantly advertising themselves among their fellow-men as failures. As Nova Scotians we have heard quite enough of these gentlemen's croaking, but in future we trust they will be regarded in their true light, so that when one of them raises his voice against this fair land he will at once be stamped as a failure among men, and, like the ring from a brass coin, it may be taken as an estimate of his true worth.

THE OCCUPATION OF BURMAH.

Though the conquest of Burmah was an easy and almost bloodless task, the settlement of the affairs of the newly-acquired province has proved much more difficult. As pointed out by a writer in the *Fortnightly Review*, the actual conquest was accomplished in a short time by less than 10,000 men, at an expense of less than £150,000; while the pacification of the country has employed over 30,000 men more than a year, and has cost the British more than 1,000 men and over £1,000,000 of money. In order to understand this apparent anomaly, a glance at the circumstances of the country will be necessary. Burmah proper is a district larger than France, with a population of 4,000,000 which had, until the advent of the British, groaned under the tyranny of the cruel Thebaw. To the south, along the sea-coast, lies the province of British Burmah, with its population of two millions and a half. The very weakness of King Thebaw's despotic government was the cause of the subsequent disorders and the difficulties which lay in the way of British occupation. Everything yielded to the attacking army without giving an opportunity of teaching the natives a salutary lesson by proving to them the hopelessness of resistance. Since the disbanding of Thebaw's army, the country has been overrun with plundering dacoits, largely made up of unemployed soldiers. The princes whom the British released from prison at Mandalay showed their gratitude

by setting up claims to the throne and becoming the leaders of these bands of marauders. It was in the district bordering on the old province of British Burmah that the greatest disorder arose. There the people were more fully aware how weak, numerically, the invading force was. Accordingly, the authority of the British in these districts was set at naught, and the consequent lawlessness even spread into the hitherto law-abiding province of British Burmah to the south. Before active operations could be begun to restore this part of the country to order, it was necessary to wait for the end of the rainy season and the arrival of re-inforcements. In the north, on the other hand, the district of Bhamo, near the Chinese frontier, gave the British comparatively little trouble. Early in the present year the rich ruby mines, east of the Irrawady River, were taken possession of by a column of troops, who encountered little opposition.

Burmah promises to be a valuable acquisition, not only on account of the vast, though imperfectly developed, agricultural and mining resources of the country, but for its advantageous position for commercial purposes. The climate is somewhat unhealthy for Europeans, and, for a time at least, will probably be found necessary to keep the country in subjection by force of Indian troops.

THE VALUE OF MUSEUMS.

The Rev. J. G. Wood, in the "Nineteenth Century," has an amusing and altogether too truthful article on "The Dullness of Museums." Founded for the education of the masses, the collections, whether they be botanical, geological, zoological or artistic, are viewed by the majority of sightseers without interest, as only a scientist or art student would be able to comprehend or appreciate the true merits of the collections. The experts who generally have the management of museums forget how ignorant the general public are, and how totally unable to comprehend a scientific arrangement of these subjects, and so, for want of some explanation and the absence of familiar and legible labels on the exhibits, they pass from the museum bewildered, amazed, and more than likely with very erroneous ideas of what they have seen.

The reverend writer gives some amusing instances of this, one of which we will give as an example of the rest. Speaking of the late lamented "Colindere," he says:—"All those who visited the exhibition must have been struck with the groups illustrative of ostrich breeding at the Cape. One group represents the parent birds, their eggs and young. Not far from the group was the admirable series of models of the diamond mine. These, as a lady explained to her offspring, were the holes in which the ostriches laid their eggs. She had actually taken no note of the model of the washing machinery, steam engines, tackle, travelling carriages for the soil, and the swarming human beings which thronged the quarries, and really thought that the models were the actual nests of the ostrich."

The writer treats only of English museums, and his article proves that in this respect we, on this side of the Atlantic, are far in advance of our mother country. The museum at Ottawa, in charge of the Dominion Geological Survey, with the talented Doctor Selwyn at its head, although in rather cramped quarters, is a model in its way and is open to none of the objections raised against the English museums, and least of all to the charge of dullness. With admirable tact Doctor Selwyn has arranged the geological department so that any one who can read will be instructed by a visit to it. The minerals and ores are arranged on neat shelves, protected by glass doors, and are clearly labelled with both the scientific and familiar names, painted on ground glass labels. The different strata of the earth's formation, the fossil specimens and the various building and ornamental stones are all arranged in the same way.

On the shelves are gold ores from all parts of the Dominion, the exhibit from Nova Scotia being noticeably large and rich. Copper, galena, iron, silver, antimony, manganese, in fact all the ores of the Dominion are here represented in all their different forms and from all known localities, as prospectors, with limited knowledge of geology and mineralogy, frequently drop in and receive invaluable instruction regarding the ores they are in search of, and the formations in which they may be found. Adjoining the geological department, there is a valuable collection of Indian relics, one of the most complete in the world. The carvings in black stone by the Indians of Vancouver Island are astonishingly well done, and point to the evident Mongolian origin of the race. On the floor above is the natural history department, which is not by any means complete, but all the specimens are so well labelled that mistakes are impossible. Just to the right of the main entrance there is a display of the various useful woods of the country, and in the whole building there is so much to see and information is so directly imparted by the admirable arrangement of the exhibits, that one could spend days in the museum and not know a dull second. The building is rendered more attractive by being kept scrupulously clean, and in this respect it forms a pleasing contrast to a certain museum, not a thousand miles from home, that we might mention, but "comparisons are odious." Doctor Selwyn is working tooth and nail to secure a proper fireproof building for the museum, and when he succeeds, the Dominion of Canada will have as complete a museum as there is in America.

We have in Halifax the nucleus of a valuable museum, and we have also the well-known scientist, Dr. Honeyman, to make it a great success. He is only backed up financially. As at present located at the top of the Post Office building, it is practically inaccessible, and we venture to assert that there are Halifaxians who are unaware of its existence. A properly arranged exhibit of the great mineral resources of the Province is a necessity, and in no better way could the local government advance the mining cause and its own interests than by voting a liberal sum to a geological museum. A suitable building should at once be provided and Dr. Honeyman placed in charge, with the means to carry out his plans,