

FROM all sides stones are being flung at classical education, which now pays, like other hoary and fallen despots, the penalty of too absolute and too long a reign. The last stone was flung by Mr. Herbert Spencer, who accuses the classics of engendering militarism, the evil principle which in the religion of the Unknown takes the place of the devil. It is perfectly true that the Greeks and Romans were war-like: that they were so is fortunate for civilization, which would otherwise in its infancy have been trodden under foot by the Persian and the Gaul; as now, in its maturity, if Mr. Spencer could succeed in bereaving it of spear and shield, it might be trodden under foot by the barbarism of the Don or of Dahomey. But Napoleon and his marshals were almost as untainted by any knowledge of Greek and Latin as Genghis Khan. American character has certainly not been formed by classics; yet in what country is the worship of military glory more intense? Four men, totally destitute of political qualifications, Jackson, Harrison, Taylor and Grant, have been made Presidents solely as a tribute to their military exploits, which, in the first three cases at all events, were far from rivalling those of Cæsar. After the late war military titles were as much the rage as ever was any barbarous fashion among the tribes whose customs are recorded in Mr. Spencer's *Tables of Sociology*. Pensions, upon a prodigious scale, are being lavished upon soldiers, which would be scornfully denied to men who had grown grey in the civil service of the State. The great crime of classical education is that it is not education in physical science. Anathema to anything but physical science is the cry of the hour. But these tidal waves of opinion, which seem as if they would overflow the intellectual world, find their limits and at length recede. Humanity will emerge again, and the classics, as the best manual of humanity, will regain whatever place may properly belong to them in education. The old mode of teaching the ancient languages, the gerund-grinding and the compulsory Latin verses, will remain under water for ever. In the meantime classical studies are now in most universities made optional, and no one can justly complain if they merely hold their own in a fair field.

A BYSTANDER.

HERE AND THERE.

IN his address to the Ontario Press Association the President, Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, threw out some suggestions which the members would do well to ponder upon. With justifiable pride that gentleman claimed that the press of Canada as a whole is characterized by considerable enterprise, not a little literary ability, and, outside the extreme party organs, with a fairness which enables it to compare favourably with the public organs of any other country. Unfortunately the unscrupulous manner in which many prominent journals conduct their party warfare deprives the press as a whole of half its power, and renders impossible that interchange of thought and social courtesy amongst its representatives which ought to characterize citizens of the great republic of letters. Criticism, opposition, political antagonism, or commercial competition, are desirable and healthy, and when conducted on honourable lines and in gentlemanly terms rather add zest to, than interfere with, the social amenities of co-workers in "the fourth estate." But it is impossible and undesirable to bring together for mutual advancement or individual pleasure men who in cold blood dub each other cut-throats and thieves and shelter themselves under the exigencies of party. Every person who has the welfare and advancement of the public press at heart will be glad to think, with Mr. Robinson, that there are signs of an improvement. It is a reproach to the press that, in this respect, it is following rather than leading public opinion. Intelligent men of all shades of politics are revolting against the diurnal hash of billingsgate and slander that is served up to them with news of the hour, and are either turning to the independent organs or content themselves by reading merely the intelligence columns of offending papers and treat the editorial writing with the contempt it deserves.

AMONGST other results of the fierce newspaper war in Toronto is the arrangement made by the *Mail* to get duplicates of the European telegrams supplied to the *New York Herald*. But whilst recognizing the commendable enterprise shown in the collection of news, we may be pardoned for reminding our contemporary that it labours under the disadvantage of receiving intelligence specially adapted to the tastes of mediocre New Yorkers, and notably the Irish element in that heterogeneous community. This is particularly apparent in the cablegrams published anent the dynamiters, in the undue prominence given to Parnellite movements in the House of Commons, and in the prophecy that O'Brien was to come triumphantly out of all the libel suits brought against him—a prediction which was immediately contradicted by the news that a verdict for \$17,500 had been given against him.

THE Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., Manchester, England, warns young men of the better class who contemplate emigration that Canada presents no opening for clerks as such, and no intemperate or extravagant or lazy young men are wanted. There is an unlimited demand, he informs his fellow-countrymen, for strong, healthy youths and young men willing to commence and stick to farmwork in order to gain sufficient experience before taking up their own land, and he strongly recommends such to come out here and make their own terms with the farmers, rather than pay premiums to agents on the other side. So satisfied is Mr. Newett of the soundness of his advice that he has sent out his eldest son to settle in Ontario.

THERE were twenty-six failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, as compared with fifteen in the preceding week, and with thirty-two, nine and eleven, respectively, the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881. In the United States, they report 241 failures last week, as compared with 225 in the preceding week, and with 155, 105 and 75, respectively, the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881.

COULD not our Canadian tramway companies take a lesson from a sister company in Brighton, England? In that town an experimental car is driven by electricity, and the project is considered in every respect a success. The car runs along the shore every ten minutes, picking up passengers as it goes, and can be stopped, when hailed, as easily as an omnibus. Its motion is sliding and pleasant. Its capacity is apparently unlimited. Beyond this, and the anticipation that it will pay a handsome dividend, is the further and greater advantage that the horses which are now employed in the laborious work of dragging the tram-cars can be put to some less cruel use. To say nothing of the long hours they are made to toil, and the extremes of weather they are exposed to, tram-car horses undergo an amount of daily and hourly punishment not dreamed of by most of those who use tram-cars. Does it ever occur to such people that the strain upon a horse that is called upon to start and stop a car every minute or half minute is tremendous? The break helps, no doubt, to check the car in pulling up, but every start means a dead-weight pull. Who has not pitied some poor car horse struggling over a crossing on a wet day, plunging and nervously feeling for a foothold on the slippery pavement and still more slippery rails? And what a dead letter the bye-law against over-crowding cars is! When occasion demands, people are allowed to crowd these vehicles not only to the imminent danger of their destruction but to a degree that makes it positively cruel to the horses. The substitution of electric, or steam, or compressed air power for draught horses in tram-cars would necessitate the use of wheels all the year round, and by consequence would entail the track being kept clear of snow in winter, but this would be a by no means impossible task in the larger cities, nor would it be so costly an item as the sum now appropriated to veterinary surgeons' fees.

IT is possible that in Canada—perhaps even in Toronto and Montreal—there may be a few persons who might profit from the following remarks of an English contemporary: "A much-needed crusade has been inaugurated in London against the disagreeable habit many male persons have of swinging and twirling umbrellas and canes. It never appears to occur to such persons that the public possesses rights which they are bound to respect. Dudes, with a faint idea that they may be taken for cavalry officers unattached, frequently carry their toothpicks—which is the Anglo-Italian for umbrella—as if they intended to charge an imaginary bull-frog. Corpulent old gentlemen are also great offenders in this respect. They carry a stick as if it were a lance at rest. Twirling sticks or canes is a most objectionable practice, dangerous alike to sight and limb. Ladies frequently threaten the sight of their dearest friends in this way, and a law ought undoubtedly to be passed compelling people, if they will carry dangerous weapons, to lower the point."

THERE is a warning note and a great deal of sound sense in the following extract from the *Chicago Current*, on the Sunday question. However repugnant and intolerant the Puritan Sunday may seem to the advocates of innocent Sunday recreation for working people, it ought ever to be remembered that a loosening of restrictions must be accompanied by wise guarantees that the day of rest be used decently and in order, or it may soon be lost to those who need it most:—

The workingman should keep constantly in mind that he owes his weekly day of rest to a religious principle. Horse-races, circuses, theatrical performances and the like on Sunday, all tend to break down this principle and sentence him to uninterrupted labour. With this in mind he may have his Sunday music in the parks, but he must not have beer-fights with it; he may have his family gathering beside the still