

REVIEWS.

trasts most favourably with the heated and acrimonious partizanship of the daily Press. An article on "The Late Session" of the Ontario Parliament, by "a Bystander," is politically fair, historically instructive, and is evidently the production of one who has studied political and constitutional questions in a higher school than we regret to say is afforded by the proceedings of any Colonial Legislature. In his opening remarks, "a Bystander" pleads for the incognito of writers for the Press. Would that all writers for the Canadian Press refrained as punctiliously as he does from "all abuse of the privileges of an anonymous writer." We should like to know why the principle here laid down as most conducive "to the moral influence of the Press" is not adopted by all the writers for *The Canadian Monthly*. It is well for a writer to be known by his style, but not so well for his article to be known by his name being attached to it. The former is a distinction won by the intrinsic merits of the writing, the latter is very likely to cause the writing to be estimated according to our preconceived ideas of the personal character of the writer. "A Bystander" suggests the evils likely to arise in our Provincial Legislatures from the existence of party government not based upon party principles, and his observations on this point are worthy of consideration. The evil already exists in a palpable degree, but the remedy is not so easily pointed out.

The legal interpretation of the Treaty of Washington is given in very clear terms by a Barrister of Ontario. The more this matter is discussed, the more arrogant and grasping does the conduct of the American Government appear. The most ardent philo-Americans will see what waste of good material it is to treat with the public men of Yankeedom as though they were gentlemen.

"The Romance of the Wilderness Missions" and "Old Colonial Currencies" are well written historical sketches relating to "old times," though on very different subjects. We hope to see the first of these subjects continued in some future number.

The departments of poetry and fiction in this number are fairly filled, though the poetry is not equal to the other matter. As we have had occasion to remark before, the Book Reviews form a most valuable part of the contents.

THE RELATION AND DUTY OF THE LAWYER TO THE STATE: Baker & Godwin, New York, 1872.

This forms the subject of a lecture delivered by Henry D. Sedgwick, before the Law School of the University of the City of New York. The theme was no doubt suggested by the scandalous mismanagement of public affairs in that city, although the lecturer profits by the occasion to give his audience the benefit of a wide extent of reading and much thoughtful observation upon the proper functions of a lawyer among the community in which he lives. In our judgment he does not attach sufficient importance to the legal element in English affairs. He speaks as if the whole profession were in a state of subservience to the Lord Chancellor, and as if the people were without appeal from that high functionary, who technically keeps the conscience of the state. But at the present day the Lord Chancellor is controlled, as well by the force of legal as by that of public opinion. The time will be remembered when Lord Chelmsford was constrained to change some appointments he had made by reason of the unpopularity of his nominees. There was again the time when Lord Campbell was taken to task in the House of Lords for his appointment of the *quondam* reporter, Mr. Blackburn, to the judicial office which he has so ably filled. A similar occurrence has taken place with respect to the appointment of Sir Robert Collier to the Judicial Committee within the last few months; which we refer to at length in another place, while the constrained resignation of Lord Westbury proves the force of a public morality that will be looked for in vain among any of the United States. Again, it is often overlooked that the Lord Chancellor cannot claim the highest legal patronage in the realm. The disposal of the Chief Justiceship of the Queen's Bench belongs to the Premier of England, while the Attorney-General, at the time of vacancy, can claim for himself the dignity of Chief in the Common Pleas.

The lawyer has as important a work to do in this country as devolves upon him in the adjoining republic. From the ranks of lawyers our greatest men are drawn; our ablest statesmen; our best parliamentarians, and law-makers. In all public matters the lawyers are relied on as the men to speak, and act, and write. These lawyers hands and heads