

Canada will ever be led to embrace without reserve the economic absurdity which is really the basis of the protection heresy and the tariff bargaining between peoples—the absurdity that it is conferring some special favour upon a neighbour to permit him to sell you an article you need to better advantage than you can buy it elsewhere.

CONTRARY to the expectations of most onlookers, the Republicans of the United States, assembled by delegation in the Minneapolis Convention, chose their candidate for the Presidential contest on the first ballot. The farce of making the nomination unanimous may be taken for what it is worth. The most astonishing feature of the result is the unceremonious and emphatic way in which Mr. Blaine was thrown overboard. We have heard so much during the last two or three years of Mr. Blaine as the brains of the Harrison Administration, the idol of the Republican party, and the great, uncrowned king of the American people, that his emergence from the contest with scarcely more than one-third as many votes as his chief opponent is a genuine surprise. It is not easy to determine with any certainty the true significance of this vote. Probably it is the result of a combination of causes. Without doubt the influence of Harrison officials counted for much. Office-holders are said to have been largely represented on the delegations, especially on those from the South. If the design of the Convention is to obtain a free and fair expression of the views of the whole Party as to the man whom they would most delight to honour, it is obvious that the end would be much better attained could some means be found to make office-holders appointed by the Administration whose Chief Executive is a candidate for re-nomination, ineligible as delegates. Another influence which we are glad to believe operated powerfully against the ex-Secretary, is the fact that the most unscrupulous wirepullers of the Party, the Quays and Platts and Clarksons and Walcotts, were his leading supporters and managers. But there can, we think, be no doubt that the chief cause of his sudden downfall—for it is nothing less—was the impression to which his unexpected resignation at the eleventh hour, or rather just before the final stroke of the bell, coming as it did after that famous letter in which he had declared, three months before, "I am not a candidate for the Presidency, and my name will not go before the Republican National Convention for the nomination," gave but too much colour, that he sought to play an underhand game, which was little less than treacherous to Mr. Harrison and his supporters. But the ways of American, like those of Canadian politics, are often dark and devious. Already the factionists are warmly denouncing each other for alleged disreputable practices, among which wholesale bribery has first place, and there is reason to fear that the accusations on both sides are but too well founded. But amidst it all it would be some consolation to be able to believe that there still remains in the political sphere a smouldering love of fair play and manliness in those who aspire to the highest positions, which will on occasion burst out into flame and destroy the would-be leader who stoops to any policy which may seem to smack of meanness or treachery.

SO far as Canadian interests and sympathies are involved in the Presidential contest, it matters very little whether Harrison or Blaine is the candidate of the Party. Both represent substantially the same narrow Americanism in trade policy and international politics generally. Many of the planks of the platform, as adopted, are, it is true, worthy of the best traditions of the Republican Party. A free ballot, with adequate regard for the rights of life and limb of employees on railroads, "liberty of thought and conscience, in speech and press," as well as some of the declarations of policy in minor matters, are of such character as may well secure the approval of lovers of freedom and good government everywhere. But in its re-affirmation of the Monroe doctrine, which, whatever it may mean, can hardly be understood otherwise than as an insult and a covert menace to the other self-governing States of the continent, it belies its loud professions of attachment to popular liberty, and enunciates a principle unworthy of a great republic. Passing this, however, as a harmless display of spread-eagleism, designed for popular effect, we cannot fail to perceive that the tariff is, after all, to be the great question at issue in the forthcoming contest. Should the Democratic Party have the courage to take up the gauntlet so defiantly flung at its feet, in regard to this great question, the struggle cannot fail to

be one of intense interest and large educational value, whatever the result. Touching this issue, the Republicans are indebted for their best and strongest line of defence to the man whose name has just been so emphatically cast aside by the Convention. It is evident that by far the strongest plea in support of the McKinley tariff will be that afforded by the success of the reciprocity clauses which were added to it through the foresight and influence of the ex-Secretary. It is very far from unlikely that these clauses, which had no place in the original Bill, but were in effect added to it by Mr. Blaine, may win the election for the Republicans.

IN his speech on being elected to the permanent chairmanship of the Republican Convention, Governor McKinley, the author of the famous Act which will carry his name down to posterity, whether for praise or execration, twice declared that the tariff represented, amongst other things, "the highest possibilities of American citizenship." We know not just what aspects of American character Mr. McKinley may include in the term "citizenship," but if he regards the moral as the highest element in the composite human character, as do most men whose opinions are worth considering, it would be interesting to follow if we could his train of thought. If we were called upon to pronounce upon the points at which protection as a policy is undoubtedly weak, we should be compelled to fix upon its effects and tendencies in the formation of national character as being one of the most conspicuous. We can understand that it may, however mistakenly, be defended in all sincerity as a policy to make men prosperous. It may even be thought to make them patriotic in the narrower sense of the word. But what any thoughtful man can suppose there can be in such a policy to make men noble we are utterly unable to conjecture. It can hardly be denied that its appeal as a policy is to intense national selfishness, and intense selfishness in man or citizen can hardly be deemed an ennobling trait. It shuns fair and even-handed competition, and hence is to that extent a policy of cowardice, but cowardice, even in trade, is not an admirable characteristic of a high grade of citizenship. It tends unmistakably, by limiting intercourse with people of other nations, to limit knowledge of them and thus to narrow the national mind, but narrowness in thought or sympathy is scarcely a trait representing the highest possibilities in citizenship. It is a powerful stimulator of smuggling, and so begets and fosters lawbreaking, with the degrading accompaniments of evasion, trickery, deception and falsehood, neither of which is characteristic of a high type of citizenship. And so, in whatever aspect it is viewed, it is not easy to discover in what way protection as a policy, carried to its extreme as it is in McKinleyism, and having for its avowed end to make other people pay the taxes of American citizens, can be held to represent the highest possibilities of American citizenship, in any large or lofty sense of that comprehensive and well-sounding word. If, however, Governor McKinley's utterances indicate any disposition to transfer the discussion from purely political and financial to moral grounds, this fact is full of promise. We should like to see the question argued on such grounds for a twelve-month.

OUR UNIVERSITIES.

A GRATIFYING fact in the history of the Provincial University is the necessary transference of the annual meeting for the conferring of degrees from the University halls to the City pavilion, in order to make room for the increasing numbers who manifest their interest in this great educational institution by their presence at these meetings. Even the Pavilion was well filled on the 10th inst. with an intelligent and interested audience. The address of Chancellor Blake was no doubt one of the great attractions on that occasion. His able statement and discussion of some of the features of the University's position and work, as it exists to-day, having rallied so nobly after its great disaster and taking on as it were a new lease of life, were, as was to be expected, able and full of interest. The increase in attendance from 381 in 1887-8, to 679 in 1891-2, is a most noteworthy fact, while the increase in the attendance of women from 26 in the first, to 130 in the last named year, is a still more significant one. The report made of the progress of the work of restoration and the present condition of the re-modelled main building, with its greatly enlarged and improved facilities for effective instruction in every department of university work,

is especially gratifying to all friends of the institution. The chief ground for regret is that the available funds of the University do not admit of such increase in the professorial and tutorial staffs as are obviously needed to make these adequate at every point to the greatly increased demands which are now made upon them. And this is, after all, the factor of chief importance in the development of the effective power of an institution of learning. With an ample staff of the ablest teachers the essential condition of a great university is attained, even though serious defects in equipment may have still to be overcome. Without this, no perfection of buildings and no extent or excellence of libraries, laboratories and other appliances can compensate for the want of the main educational power, as it exists in the brain and heart of the living teacher. This is a fact which should not be lost sight of by the friends of the University, and it is to be hoped that the many men of wealth whom it must now number amongst its alumni may soon begin to realize as they have not yet done that the future of the University must, in the nature of the case, depend to a great extent upon the liberality of private benefactors. This is, as the learned President of McGill, we think it was, observed the other day, the best reliance of any institution of learning in these days. It is especially to be hoped that the wealthy ladies of Toronto will not be slow to respond to the appeal of Chancellor Blake, and do themselves honour by promptly supplying the funds needed for the erection of a suitable building for the accommodation of the young women who are enrolling themselves as students in constantly increasing numbers.

That Chancellor Blake should speak with no hesitating accents in regard to any temptation or tendency "to proceed by some crooked or covered way, rather than by the straight and public road," to the speedier accomplishment of ends which may be deemed desirable, was to be expected from the lofty character of the man. That he should fall into what many educators of ability and experience will regard as the error of attaching undue weight to such secondary matters as the mode of conducting a matriculation examination, instead of perceiving that the main point is the manner in which the faculty of an institution does its own proper work, and the faithfulness with which it applies its own proper tests to determine the competency of those who claim admission to its classes to do their own proper work, is only what the greatest minds are liable to do when treating of subjects which they have had no opportunity to make specially their own by study and practice. But is there not a danger that some of those who are discussing the subject are attaching undue importance to methods and percentages in matriculation examinations? Educators of large experience have assured us that they would vastly prefer the certificate of the competent headmaster of a high school, or collegiate institute, that a given student, who has been in his school for months or years, is capable of doing the work that will be required of him in the first year of the University course, to the results of any matriculation examination whatever. Can any one doubt that he would be safer in so doing? We have to confess to a little surprise that Chancellor Blake should have been so ready to assume the correctness of Mr. Seath's postulate that the supplementary examinations in September are a back door to the universities, and that this back door necessarily or actually revolves much more easily than the front doors of the same institutions in July. The Principal of the University which is held guilty of having admitted the largest number by this back door arrangement, has denied publicly that any such difference in the severity of the tests applied at the two examinations exists. His denial should surely count for something, especially as it is easy to conceive of excellent reasons for holding the supplementary examinations, other than the uncomplimentary one which is more than insinuated.

On the whole we have to confess that the tone of Chancellor Blake's allusions throughout to the other institutions was not marked by the breadth and generosity which we should have expected from his known largeness of mind. These institutions are not interlopers in the educational field, nor are they poachers on any monopolistic preserves. They are chartered institutions. Comparisons are invidious, but from what the public know of the men who have gone forth from these institutions, to take their places in the ranks of workers in the public and private life of the Dominion and of other lands, it is not clear that they have shown any very marked inferiority on the average to the alumni of the larger and state-endowed institution. Mr. Seath, in the paper which Mr.