

**An Improved
Atlantic
Service.**

He favored Quebec for the summer terminus of the fast Atlantic line of steamers and Halifax as the winter port. (Applause.) The heavy freighters would go to Montreal and St. John. This service would carry the mails as quick as it is possible to carry them between Canada and Great Britain.—From Sir William Van Horne's speech.

At the banquet tendered to Sir William Van Horne by the prominent citizens of Quebec, it was naturally expected that, in reply to the toast of the evening, Sir William should have something to say regarding the much-talked-of fast line between Canada and the Old World. So many opinions have been obtained, and so many schemes evolved for ensuring the delivery of mails and passengers in quicker time than at present by an all-Canadian Atlantic steamship service, that it was unreasonable to look for any great originality of suggestion even from the astute and gifted gentleman who presides so ably over the business of the Canadian Pacific Railway. However, no citizen of Quebec can have sat a dull, inactive listener to the diplomatic plan whereby Sir William Van Horne divides the patronage of a new fleet of swift steamers between a quartette of ports. That his hosts should applaud the nomination of historic Quebec as the summer terminus of the ocean greyhounds is not surprising, and the said applause, if waited from that banquet table to Halifax, would doubtless find a ready echo in that garrison city by the sea. Yet it opens a disturbing train of thought if the accompanying proposal to permit the freight boats to proceed to Montreal and St. John is to be accepted seriously. If to maintain the ferry service as Sir William would have it, involves the subsidizing of "as fine boats as there are crossing the ocean," it would be altogether to the comfort of Canadian passengers; although it might, as the guest of old Quebec remarked, necessitate "ample capital to provide for the loss which would accrue during the first year or so." We can sympathize with the railway president's dream of a train service from Euston Station to the docks, "the best equipped one in the whole of Europe." We even have a desire to be lulled into belief in the scheme by which "the steamship service would be the fastest and most accurate in existence, and the connection in Canada would be complete in every detail." With these facilities and with this service, Sir William stated that there was not the least doubt that travel would turn from other channels, and be diverted to the St. Lawrence route. Perhaps so. Yet, lest we forget, it may be well to remark, in regard to the incompetency of the present ocean liners, and the necessity for the improved service for which Sir William has been agitating for sixteen years, that Montreal must remain the summer terminus of any line of fast Atlantic steamers, unless the metropolitan city of the Dominion is ready to admit that the hope of im-

proved facilities and a deeper channel is vain and fleeting. Did not the Hon. Mr. Tarte promise an assemblage of Montreal gentlemen, upon just such an occasion as the recent banquet at Quebec, that, on a certain day in June of next summer, the flagship "Renown" would rest at anchor off Mount Royal, the capital of Canada. No. Admirable as the arrangement named would be as a means of pacifying rival claimants for the terminus of a faster line of steamers, and for advancing the interests of a great railway, we decline to believe that Montreal citizens will see the necessity or wisdom of such a change.

*"Let every one of you in particular,
So love his wife even as himself."*

—Eph. v. 33.

**Bishop Potter's
Views.**

Selfishness is a moral disorder for the extirpation and cure of which we cannot surely be too anxious. The evil consequences of selfishness can be seen everywhere. From it arises the indifference which is but too justly attributed to the wealthy, luxurious, and dissipated, to the wants and miseries of their fellow-men. From it proceeds, as a curious consequence, a similar indifference to the wants and sorrows of others on the part of those in a state of extreme distress or misery, the result of having their thoughts and regard turned to themselves exclusively.

While all agree to reprobate the vice of selfishness, it is surely the business of the moral and spiritual physician to strike at the very root and core of the distemper. Admitting all this, it is somewhat surprising to find Bishop Potter, in his special pleading for the saloon as "the poor man's club," justifying the selfishness of the labouring man for his preference of the public house to his home in the following singular sentence of sympathetic toleration:—

"Who can wonder, in view of the hard and toilsome life, and often uncomfortable home, of the laboring man, if after the day's work he leaves his home, with its crying children and untidy wife, for this place where he finds light and warmth and often music?"

We think something is due from Bishop Potter in the way of explanation to laymen ever struggling against selfishness and temptation.

We should be sorry to see the Bishop and Clergy encouraging us to abandon the children because they are crying, or neglecting their mother because in her unremitting care of them she has sacrificed something of the tidiness once so charming to her lover. We are not surprised to read that Bishop Potter's remarks at the meeting of the Church Temperance Society at New York "caused a sensation in the meeting." Perhaps the "light and warmth" of the magnificent Waldorf-Astoria, where the meeting in question was held, led the Bishop to unduly pity the owner of the 'crying children, untidy wife and uncomfortable home.'