

Even Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto, has felt the situation of sufficient gravity to warrant him in preaching a sermon against any and all annexationists which may, or may be supposed, to exist in this colony. The Archbishop is as decidedly disturbed as the Hon. George Brown, and probably from the same cause—a sense and dread of impending changes. I am not an annexationist, but from the attitude and the expressions of the *Globe* and Archbishop Lynch, and some others, it might well be inferred that there is a strong undercurrent of opinion for annexation, or independence, or something by way of profitable change, even in Ontario. Those who have opportunities for knowing the opinions of men, outside of newspapers, say there is no desire for a change of any kind at present, but most of them say changes are inevitable. When asked to define their opinions, some whisper one thing and some another, and some say "what's the good; let us wait."

"After love of God comes love of country," said Archbishop Lynch. I should have thought he would put love of Church second, but probably that is included under the first head in the Archbishop's mind—and I agree with him. But which country comes first in its claim upon our affection? Is it England, or Great Britain? The Archbishop would hardly like to counsel Irishmen to put love of Great Britain before love of Ireland, or Frenchmen to love England rather than France, or Germans, or the dwellers from the ends of the earth who seek a home in Canada. Then can it be that the Archbishop would teach us to love and hold to, after God, the land he calls his mother-country? But that would be to preach a policy of ruinous disintegration for Canada. We do not want that a half-dozen distinct nationalities shall be maintained in Canada. That would be to divide interests, to perpetuate strife, and to court disaster. By "love of country" the Archbishop must mean love of Canada, for that is the only practical form it can take. We do not seek first of all to promote English interests, or French interests, or Irish interests, but the interests of those who live in Canada. By all means let us cultivate patriotism, and that I take it now is the promotion of the material, mental and moral welfare of the people of Canada. What we need is fusion of the different races, unity of policy, and goodwill among the people.

Canada is not the only country in which there is just now a manifest anxiety as to what the future shall bring in the way of Government. With the single exception of England all Europe is disturbed and anxious. The people of Russia are profoundly dissatisfied with the Imperial and paternal policy of the Czar; they are demanding more freedom in their institutions, a more popular form of Government, and what else they hardly know, except that they are angry and determined that it shall break out somewhere and against some one, and the Czar represents despotism in their eyes. In Germany matters fare no better; nor in Spain; nor in Italy. Each State is torn by forces of disintegration; kings tremble for their heads and their crowns; aristocrats for their titles and their possessions—while those neither kings nor aristocrats feel that they are called upon to shape their own destiny.

On the whole, it may be said that Imperialism is in great peril, if not under sentence of abolition. At the extreme of Imperialism is Republicanism, and upon the two great Republics of the world the eyes of those who now suffer under despotic Government are fixed with earnest, wondering attention. The United States can hardly be said to offer much encouragement for a movement in that direction. The constant irritation kept up in all political circles, by reason of the too frequently recurring Presidential elections—the inadequacy of the system to meet the demands made upon it—as for instance, the riots which occurred awhile ago, and the opportunity it affords for the exercise of most flagrant political frauds—as we have seen in the election of President Hayes, and the action of the late Governor of Maine, will, of necessity, act as a deterrent upon those, in other nations, who dream of copying the example.

The Republic of France, however, is calculated to give hope to those sick of Imperialism. There the idea of Republicanism is being

worked out with every promise of final success. M. Gambetta is gradually, but surely, educating the people into the belief that government by the people, for the people, and through the people, will conduce as much to national and civic splendour as the sway of any sceptred king. It seems as if it had fallen to the lot of France to teach the secret of peace and prosperity to the nations of the earth now, as in the olden times it appeared to be the mission of France to teach them how to make and maintain standing armies.

England gives an example of the happy mean between Imperialism on the one hand and a disorderly Democracy on the other. There the shoe does not pinch either foot. An official bureaucracy, revolving round and round the throne, costly and corrupt, does not exist, as in Russia, Germany and Spain. The Queen ensures liberty to all. The people have the most freedom of all possible republics, along with all the advantages that can attach to a monarchy. The English Constitution is a compromise between Imperialism and Republicanism, and seems to offer, at present, the best possible solution of the difficulty which is vexing all, or nearly all, mankind. Whether this expediency can endure the wear and tear of long time and changing circumstance remains yet to be proved; but now it seems as if a limited monarchy is the best kind of Government known to those who desire to be governed well.

Evidently Mr. Mowat and his colleagues in the Ontario Ministry find it difficult to get up a programme of important measures to lay before the Assembly. It may be that they are casting about for something, but to judge from appearances, the search is unsuccessful so far. As it now stands, the Local Government will drag out the shortest possible term allowed for the indemnity, in doing some work which will be altogether of a municipal character. The Opposition can, as yet, find nothing to oppose, save and except the measure for providing new Parliament buildings. That is to be made the subject for a battle royal between the two parties. Mr. Mowat and his faithful henchmen will dwell upon the inconvenience and inadequacy of the present house for the august Assembly—upon the growth of the Province—its increased wealth, and its great future; while Mr. Meredith and his handful of men will talk against time and tide and the extravagant expenditure of the people's money.

But the debate can hardly be a great one, for the one side is too sure of victory, and the other too sure of defeat for either to experience much of real enthusiasm. A great army can hardly be expected to get up the excitement of battle when it has only to crush a mere regiment; and although the regiment may fight against great odds bravely, it will be with the courage of despair. If we must have government by party in our Provinces, the relative forces of both sides should somewhat approximate, so that criticism may have a chance of making itself heard and felt. Mr. Meredith may criticise, but as everything introduced by the Government will be a foregone conclusion, the criticism will necessarily be lacking in that enthusiasm which is born of a sense of power and hope.

A correspondent from Toronto sends me the following *jeux d'esprit*, culled from the *Globe's* new dictionary:—

- Ignorance*—A substantive formed from the habit of ignoring well-known facts.
- Abuse*—The faculty of decrying usefulness.
- Political Economy*—A new name for annexation, consternation, botheration and insubordination.
- Politic Economy*—No gratuitous advertising of individual names, especially names of rival editors.
- Wit*—A knowledge of the animal creation and the correct correspondence of each genus with the names of unruly human agitators.
- Pun*—The capital punishment of suspension in the captions of editorials.
- Freedom of Speech*—Liberty to speak well of the *Globe*.
- Discussion*—A thing confined to *Globe* editorials.
- Globe*—A revolving body, gritty, ponderous, with huge progressive feet-ures.
- Dictator* (the public's definition)—A man who writes, but is seldom right; a man who speaks till he, or the public, is done.
- Editorial*—A literary production to which truth ought to be more a stranger than fiction.
- Fact*—A substantive formed from faction.