

THE Province has done much for the University of Toronto and has a right to expect something in return. A home was erected for it, which, though not well suited for actual work, is as beautiful a bit of architecture as anything to be found on this continent. The Legislature made over to the Senate an immense extent of land, most of which it squandered and mismanaged, but which was so valuable that the fragments have provided an endowment equal to the whole of what the Province gives to its hundred and ten High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. The friends of Toronto University have never been required to make sacrifices for education. They have lived at ease, and have needed only to think of the general welfare, and to do something to prove that they are not ungrateful. What is their record?

There was a time when they seemed to be conscious of their trust and to understand the meaning of the fine French maxim of "*Noblesse Oblige.*" But that time has passed. The men who have most weight now in their councils are provincial in tone. They are animated by a petty jealousy of sister Institutions whose sacrifices in the cause of higher education should excite only a noble emulation. They apparently think more of attracting students than of preserving the honor of their degrees or of elevating the standard of University education over the Province. Why they should desire more students than they can handle is a mystery to the scholar. We have pointed out that they now sell the M.A. degree for a price. The one outcome of the Confederation scheme, so far, is that their B.A. no longer represents a liberal education, but a piebald, something unknown to every other University in the world of any reputation. They have refused to take any action to improve the matriculation examination, though in no other way can the whole High School sys-

tem of the Province be so effectually stimulated and elevated. And it is an open secret that they are proposing a scheme for making the LL.B. degree cheap, enabling men to become, if only the Law Society consent, barristers and solicitors in four years, and within the same time obtaining a University degree without any of the Academic culture which the degree formerly represented. On this point we shall have more to say hereafter. In the meantime, pointing to this record of the last three or four years, we ask—more in sorrow than in anger—whether it is worthy of a University for which the Province has done so much?

WHO could have imagined it? Must we believe that at this late day, in the very midst of our boasted Canadian civilization, a deliberate attempt could have been made, without the slightest reasonable occasion, to suppress the ordinary liberty of the press? At first we doubted the report. But soon it was so strongly confirmed that doubt was changed to astonished certainty. When we were forced to believe that a College Faculty had actually undertaken to suppress the slightest criticism of its actions in a College journal, we were inclined to ask with Bret Harte's Truthful James:

"Is our civilization a failure?

Or is the Concasian played out?"

From all that we can learn there seems to have been no ground for a moment tenable, on which the Victoria Faculty could justify its harsh and tyrannical judgment pronounced upon the two editors of the *Acta*. Their only attempted justification lies in the contention that public criticism of the College regulations brings contempt upon the University, and must on no account be permitted among the students. But surely nothing the students could say in their paper could bring such contempt upon the University as the adoption of such a principle by