

refers to the many failures which have attended the planting of evergreens, and shows that these might have been avoided. The chief thing to be kept in view, he says, is to prevent the roots from drying before the planting.

"These trees have a resinous sap, which, once dried, kills the life of the tree. It requires but little exposure to do this. If you bring an evergreen, in apparently good condition to the place where you want to plant it, and leave it exposed to sun and wind while you dig the hole, even that amount of drying will sometimes destroy its chance of strong life, or of any life. These roots are often hair-like in their size, and wind or sun chokes the tubes with solid resin, which no watering will soften or vitalize. Yet they can be, and are, often carried with perfect safety long distances, even round the world, well packed in damp moss. If you so receive them, plant them the instant you take them out of the moss. If you dig them, cover instantly with damp moss or rug or wool if possible, a cloudy still day, and keep them closely covered till the time of planting. It is well to dip them in this mud, as elsewhere advised. With this care there is absolutely no difficulty in planting evergreens."

With respect to the preparation of the soil for the reception of the trees he says:

"A very important matter is the preparation of the ground, and when our plantation is of such narrow proportions as a windbreak this is easily done. A few furrows of the plough in fall or spring, or in spring alone, harrow it properly, and the work is done."

So very clear and practical are the suggestions made by Mr. Phipps respecting the manner, further, of planting, that we offer no apology for this extract:

"The distance at which such evergreen trees should be planted is a matter for consideration. If you take the pine, planting even twenty feet apart would undoubtedly give, after a number of years, an efficient windbreak, for say in twenty years their branches would interlace. But by planting closer we may have a windbreak in a much shorter period. If we plant, say three feet apart we can well, in a few years, take out and plant elsewhere every second tree, and this is preferable to planting them six feet apart at first, for each closely neighboring young tree helps the growth of the other. Where plants are small it would be better to plant them yet closer, and depend on the future for proper thinning. Then you can indefinitely extend your lines of trees, as you will have a number of well grown plants five or six years old with fine large masses of fibrous roots, which, properly dug and planted, will then give you, in a very short time, as many beautiful rows of sheltering evergreens as your farm shall need."

A number of letters from gentlemen who have planted evergreens, and other trees, reciting their experiences, are given, and form an exceedingly valuable feature in the report. Some shallow critics who go bug-buzzing with microscopes, criticized Mr. Phipps' first report because it was not scientific enough for their palates. But Mr. Phipps' object was not to give the people a dose of "jaw breakers," but to tell them in plain English how our forests might be preserved and propagated, and how much we owed to the trees. In the present report, however, Mr. Phipps shows us that he can appreciate the scientific side of his subject as well as the more practical side; and he furnishes a complete list, with the scientific names, of the trees that grow in Canada. His report is a most judicious writer upon the subject, made with exceeding care, and with a literary explaining the terms, brings every reader within the comprehension of what it is speaking of, and our felicitations are given us, and readable re-

at King's College, Windsor, N. S., that an address was delivered by George Stewart, Jr., his subject being "Canadian Literature." One more capable and sympathetic could not have been found for the task than Mr. Stewart, and King's is to be congratulated upon selecting such a subject,—as her New Brunswick sister did three years ago when Mr. (now Professor) Roberts delivered the oration—for discussion within her walls. It might do no harm, but it might produce much good, if Toronto University were once or so in the half century to acknowledge the fact that we have in this country a few names which posterity will preserve from oblivion.

A great deal has been written in the newspapers of late concerning the propriety of the gift of Lady Macdonald to Sir George Stephen a set of diamonds for personal adornment. Our friend the *Globe*, which seems to think that its reputation for veracity can suffer no further loss, valued the diamonds at all the way from \$25,000 to \$50,000; and laboured under the impression that the Premier's wife would take them to the pawnshop. It also discovered that Sir John had made a settlement of C. P. R. bonds to the value of nearly a quarter of a million dollars; and having treated us to all these "facts" and surmises, it found Sir John guilty of a second Pacific Railway Scandal. It now turns out that the diamonds were worth only about \$5,000; and if Lady Macdonald were to take these to the pawnshop they could not bring half that amount. The settlement upon the poor little deformed daughter having been shown to be sheer fabrication, the whole scandal narrowed itself down to \$2,500, the pawnbroker's price for the jewels. Now we submit it in all fairness that if Sir John were to sell his hands in a second railway transaction, he would hardly let Sir George get off for such a modest sum as that. As to the present, Sir George Stephen is a wealthy man, and could well afford to make many \$5,000 presentations. The only question is as to the propriety of a man beholden to the executive for past and future favors, laying the gift of the head of the administration under personal obligation. We think that Sir George made a mistake in presenting the gift, and we think that Lady Macdonald made a blunder in retaining it. Supposing the *Globe* had confined itself to this view of the matter it would have carried all right-thinking persons with it; but it not alone fails in getting the public conscience stirred against the transaction, but it covers itself with disgrace and shame for connecting with the act a dishonorable fabrication of its own.

Mr. Chamberlain has thoroughly studied the question of Canadian Government, and inclines to the view that in our Dominion is to be found the perfect type of a united domestic and federal system for Great Britain and Ireland. He said in a late exhortative speech, "Now they have each their separate autonomy, under the authority of the Dominion Parliament. In that way you might have Provincial Assemblies in Ireland, under the authority of the Imperial Parliament. Then again, in the Dominion Parliament there is complete and continuous representation of every part of the Dominion. They are represented proportionately according to their numbers, and honorably and fully. In the third place, there is absolute and effective supremacy of the Dominion Parliament over the Provincial Legislatures. There is a vote which can be carried, and there is a right of appeal which can be and is

used; and the Provincial Assemblies are subordinate bodies, with distinctly defined rights of legislation expressly given to them by statute. These are great differences, but there is another difference, and no small one—the legislation as to criminal law and procedure. Where does it rest in Canada? Not with the Local Assemblies, but with the Dominion Parliament—(hear, hear)—and the judges of the land, by whom are they appointed and to whom are they responsible? They are appointed by the Governor-General and paid by the Dominion Parliament. (Hear, hear.) In that way the judges of Canada are independent, and are not likely to be affected by local influence which might prevail in smaller and subordinate bodies." In the adoption of the Canadian system, alone, can a solution of the problem be formed."

Mr. Justice Presfoot committed Mr. Henry O'Brien for contempt of court because Mr. O'Brien commented through the public prints upon the action of Mr. Dalton, Master in Chancery, in the Howland quo warranto case. But Mr. Justice O'Connor has just ruled that a Master in Chancery has no authority to decide in a quo warranto or to deal with such a case at all. It hardly looks fair that Mr. Justice Presfoot should escape when Mr. O'Brien has had to suffer through ignorance of the law. If the rule were to be made that a judge who imposes an unjust sentence through ignorance of the law, were made to suffer the same penalty that he pronounced upon his victim, there would be a more careful reading of the law, and spectacles like that to which we have referred would no more appear as a disgrace to the administration of justice. Of course we have assumed that Mr. Justice O'Connor makes a correct ruling; because we presume he read up the law before making such a declaration.

The London Times pronounces Mr. Gladstone's recent manifesto to the electors of Midlothian as "lively," but "historically weak." This seems like something that Mr. Goldwin Smith would write; we should not be much surprised if he really did it. The word "lively" is one for which he has a peculiar liking when the writer whom he seeks to depreciate has undoubted merit. Mr. Matthew Arnold and many of the other big literary guns of London are frequent contributors to the editorial columns of the leading English dailies. Mr. Arnold says that he finds it necessary to do this sort of thing in order to "keep the pot boiling."

The Nova Scotia Secedentists have carried the election by an overwhelming majority. The Reform newspapers make a grand flourish, claiming the victory as one for their party. The subject issue in Nova Scotia was: Shall it be secession, or shall we remain in the Confederation. Now for the Reformers to claim the victory is to assert that the Liberal party in this country favors a policy of smashing up the Confederation. It is hard to believe that the contributors of some of our leading newspapers have any brains whatever.

During the past few days Toronto has been one vast music hall; and the splendid success which attended the various festivals at once suggests this question: Why do not some enterprising man or men, with means, go at work and raise a musical hall or temple? The pavilion of the horticultural gardens is the most appropriate building that we have at present; but for a general congregation of singers, the experience of the past few days shows us it is quite in-

adequate. The stage should be large enough to seat two thousand persons; and there should be room for eight thousand in the body of the building. Toronto's growth is rapid, and there is the promise that such a building would not have to remain long idle. For many purposes besides those of music it would be used; what a chance it would afford the politician in stirring times, to sound his leather lungs. How frequently, too, have hundreds of people been unable to find room in the opera house when some popular drama or opera has been upon the boards. Toronto is larger than most people seem to realize; and it is rapidly attaining greater bulk. We have outgrown some of our buildings as a boy outgrows his trousers.

The city of Vancouver, B. C., has been laid in ashes. The charitable from all parts of Canada are responding to the appeal for help.

The city of Managua, Nicaragua, has been buried by a volcanic eruption; and a number of lives have been lost.

Stratford has celebrated its first civic birthday. It is said to be a very thriving baby.

The grand old man has entered upon his Scotch campaign. He is received everywhere with the utmost enthusiasm. Old Scotia still is true to the G. O. M.

Mr. Blake is busy stirring up his followers. His latest speech-making was at Owen Sound and Cheshy, where he received a cordial reception. The Ministerialists seem to be lying low. "Don't fire till you see the enemy's eye" is the motto of Sir John. And it isn't a bad one.

Mr. Goldwin Smith delivered a lecture at Oxford recently taking for his subject, the "Political History of Canada." The lecture was able and eloquent, but somewhat misleading.

The Drayton Weekly *Vidette* comes to us considerably enlarged and exhibiting important improvements. The quantity of selected matter is large and its character very interesting; the local news is bright; and the editorial utterances strong, fair and manly. The *Vidette* is a credit to Drayton, and we extend our congratulations to its editor and proprietor, Mr. J. T. Mitchell.

Even the seal catch at northern haunts is falling off. The spring "harvest" upon the white fields of the Greenland coast has been a failure.

We begin at last to see the point for which Mr. Chamberlain is setting his sails; for he has accepted the election of president of England's new radical union.

The Government is becoming most paternally-spirited in its management of North-West affairs just now. It has had all the Indians near Edmonton vaccinated.

The *Globe* is authority for an astonishing lead-story. It says that "showers" of toads visited parts of Oxford some time ago, and covered the ground so thickly that the farmers could not drive through them. It also has a most touching story showing the strong paternal instinct that warms the heart of the gander. It says: "A gander belonging to Mr. James Beattie, of Exonville, made a nest, sat on the eggs, and hatched out goslings, which it attends with all the assiduity of a mother." Having delivered itself of this touching piece of intelligence it informs us that a man at Calgary has just shot a crane as heavy as a sheep.