

The Postmaster General is evidently a reforming Minister, but we scarcely see the object of keeping money order and Savings bank offices open till 11 a.m. on public holidays. There are but five or six days universally recognized, and on at least three of those, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday, no one expects to transact business. Why should the clerks be done out of a portion of these holidays?

The Sarmatian arrived at Halifax on Thursday morning from Liverpool, three days over time, allowing for the usual slow rate of the Allan boats. She is said to have been detained one day at Moville. Deducting this, she managed to dawdle away two additional days on the passage, and yet reports only ordinary winter weather throughout. Is there a desire on the part of the Allan Line to depreciate the Port of Halifax?

The *Globe* and *Mail*, of Toronto, are so sore at the blow struck at disaffection and servility by Mr. Mowatt at the Toronto Board of Trade dinner, that they are unable to disguise the rankling of the wound. Mr. Mowatt stated in plain terms, what is patent to every one who is not a fool or a coward—the fact of the hostility of the United States to Canada. It is no wonder that these papers are exasperated when the Premier of Ontario declines to join them in turning the other cheek to the smiter, and fawning on them that spitefully use them. Mr. Mowatt's christianity is evidently of a different and more manly type.

Those who love Canada and are proud of it, recognize among the enemies to her nationality and autonomy, none more fatuous than Dr. Goldwin Smith—none more insidious than Mr. Erastus Wiman—none more deadly than either, unless the palm be awarded to Mr. Wiman, whose aims have a gloss of practicalness, while the Jack o' Lantern Professor, who does not know whether he is an Englishman, an American, or a Canadian, or any thing but an anti-Irishman, being steadfast only in that point which is wrong, is so puffed up with every varying blast of vain doctrine, and with the conceit of his own vaticinations, that he now scarcely counts as a factor among the elements of disintegration. The mischief done by those meddling and objectionable persons in creating false impressions in the United States of public feeling in Canada, is now however plainly discerned, and speciousness, once seen through, loses its power for evil.

The late Sir Anthony Musgrave was a Governor of such a character that his death caused such grief in Jamaica—where he had not been for five years—that the Assembly of that Island adjourned as soon as they heard the news. His death bed does not seem to have been alleviated by any consideration on the part of the amiable and polite Sir Thos. McClraith, who had managed to get at loggerheads with him, and among other things brought charges of parsimony against him. That Sir Thomas' conduct was pretty bad may be inferred from the fact that, after her husband's death, Lady Musgrave sent for the Premier, and told him that her husband had entirely forgiven him, but that she could not do so, and insisted that he should look through the accounts of the household. The books showed that the Governor had not only spent the whole of his official income, but that the expenses of his position had necessitated very considerable drafts upon the fortune of his wife. It is fortunate when a vulgar bully meets with a spirit which will not put up with bullying.

We have been long accustomed to hear of a personage—probably considered by many a half mythical creation of party spirit—described as "the Ottawa Liar." We have not hitherto paid particular attention to this (among so many) emanation of the "Father of Lies," but he is not a myth, and our notice has been attracted to the last sensational story invented by him for the better misrepresentation of Canada to United States newspapers. On a statement falsely attributed to an officer of the Military College, this mischievous rascal has vamped up a story about the Canadian Militia, embodying the utterly false assertion that "25 per cent of the men who put in their annual drill in Canada spend one half their time in the United States, and, in the event of trouble, would be found as ready to take up arms for that country as for England." The *Chronicle* justly remarks on this scoundrel:—"If the Ottawa Militia can discover the author of this lying and libellous statement they should lose no time in ducking him in a horse-pond." Is it not high time for the respectable press of Canada to make a dead set at falsehood and misrepresentation of every sort and degree?

Mr. Erastus Wiman is deeply agitated by the uncompromising language of Mr. Mowatt in describing the United States as "hostile" to Canada, and joins his organs, the *Toronto Globe* and *Mail*, in bowling the manly outspokenness of the Ontario Premier. What is the use of mincing matters and being mealy-mouthed? It is not the more violent and blatant tail-twisters alone who sign invitations to Mr. Murray to lecture on Canada, and applaud his aggressive utterances to the echo. That requisition was signed by the Governor of Massachusetts, and endorsed by a large number of the more intelligent and influential of the citizens of Boston. Senators and Congressmen, not of the most violent types, join the chorus, and Secretary Whitney demonstrates how the States would conquer Canada, an insult to a foreign power which only Great Britain in her anxiety for the peace of Canada would pass over. Fancy a German Minister sketching out a programme for the conquest of Algeria, or Italy for that of Corsica, or France for the forcible resumption of Alsace and Lorraine, or Count Herbert Bismarck propounding a plan for the acquisition of Australia! No. However desirous the European nations may be of opportunities of aggression, they at least observe some sort of international decency until the opportunity arises.

We are glad to find that the Central American States are inclined to enter a spirited protest against the assumption of the United States to dictate their policy to other independent American countries. It is justly pointed out that the Central American Republics effected their own freedom from European dominion, and are absolutely free and sovereign States. United States patronage as to the Panama canal therefore amounts to an infringement of their national rights. If the French Government should evince a tendency to undue interference, which is provided against, the Colombian Government alone has the right of protesting in the first instance, and it would only be in response to a direct appeal from that Government, that any other country could assume the right of interposition. United States politicians of the Edmunds type will perhaps bye-and-bye be taught that the other countries of America are quite able to look after their own affairs, and have no intention of enlisting Uncle Sam as the general bully.

If it be sometimes hinted that a certain clique of our young Canadian poets and their kin have developed some little tendency towards the functions of a mutual admiration society, the fault is venial. If all the little world of culture of Canada admire them, it is not much wonder if they admire themselves and each other. And though it is the poetical temperament which, first and foremost, moves our regard, there are other points about them quite as important. For instance, they are, without exception, loyal and patriotic. *King's College Record* for December contains an appreciative sketch of Mr. W. Bliss Carman, by Mr. G. Bliss Roberts, and in it occurs the following passage:—"From both parents Mr. Carman has inherited an unmixed strain of Loyalist blood—the cause, though not the reason, of his belief in those patriotic sentiments which have the development of Canadian nationality most at heart, and which hold any idea of annexation to the United States in particular and vigorous detestation." Such is, we believe, the universal feeling of the universities and colleges throughout Canada, and such is the preaching of the clergy of all creeds.

A Liberal contemporary considers that "under wise management the N. W. should by this time have contained at least half a million population"; whereas it credits Manitoba and the Territories with "only about 40,000 more than they contained in 1878." This it considers very lamentable. Supposing (which we do not) that "about 40,000" is a reliable estimate, nothing is said about the population which accrued between 1870 and 1878. The Colony of West Australia had, a year ago, been sixty years getting up a population of 42,000, and South Australia, better known and thought of from the first, and with great resources, had only in fifty years attained 318,000. We do not believe any one knows what population came into the N. W. between 1870 and 1878, but if it were estimated at 20,000 only, and if 40,000 came in in the next ten years, it would not be so bad a showing. But we do not give the slightest credence to these figures, and we believe there will be no reliable data before the census of 1891. We have now only a few years to wait for that, and we shall be very much surprised if the population be not then found to be considerably in excess of reasonable expectation, and certainly in excess of the anticipations of those who seem to have a strange delight in belittling every evidence of national progress.

We observed, not long ago, that the newest colonies were apt to be the most bumptious. Manitoba seems to have sobered down a little, but the rampancy of Queensland is phenomenal. Her Premier, Sir Thos. McClraith, seems to devote himself entirely to the pastime of keeping things in hot water, and to be ably seconded by a Mr. Morehead, who happened to be acting Premier during an indisposition of the actual chief. This gentleman, whose language is characterised by the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as "that of a bully, rather than a Minister," warned the Chief Justice that "if the Bench dared to come in conflict with the will of Parliament, it would not be Parliament which would come off second best." This was apropos of the trial of an election petition, in which the Chief Justice fell foul of the Speaker. The next dignified pastime was the removal of the Commanding Officer of the Colonial Naval Force from his own quarter-deck by a posse of policemen. The officer's term had nearly expired, and he had been granted leave for the remainder of his period, but it would appear that the Queensland Parliamentary rowdies were unable to resist the temptation of some opportunity to distinguish themselves by a vulgar scandal. The Queensland Legislature and the American Congress seem to be tarred with the same brush.

Even in the matter of newspaper falsehood, Canada is far from occupying as low a plane as the United States, but, when we come to graver ethical questions, the superiority of Canadian morals is even yet more conspicuous. Prominent for comparison is that of Divorce. Everybody knows how rare an occurrence is a divorce suit among us, but what is the case in the States? The ratio of divorces to marriage stands in the different states by official reports as follows:—Connecticut one divorce in every eleven marriages; Massachusetts one in 28; California one in 7; Chicago one in 8; Indiana one in 11; Denver one in 4; Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, and Ohio, are described in the authority from which we quote, in reference to an increasing ratio, as having "gone on the same descending scale with all too eager feet." What a picture of the demoralization of unchastity! We do not adopt the tone of religious papers on this matter, but there is much force in the utterance of an American clergyman on the subject:—"We are outlawing divine law by our human law, and at the very point where every interest of the family and every interest of the State should plead for stay of the irreverent and challenging legislation, lost God give us over to a riot of lust, and this fairest heritage left us of Eden become a moral cesspool."