

them synonymous with misery and despair. They have found life too hard. There is a Turkish proverb which says : "It is better to be sitting than standing ; lying down than sitting ; dead than asleep." What can be more melancholy than the verses of Omer Khayam, or those of the Devas quoted by Sir John Lubbock ?

We sojourn here for one short day or two,
And all the gain we get is grief and woe ;
And then, leaving life's problems all unsolved,
And harassed by regrets, we have to go.

We are the voices of the wandering wind
Which moans for rest, and rest can never find.
Lo ! as the wind is, so is mortal life—
A moan, a sigh, a sob, a storm, a strife !

Socialism, communism, collectivism, every attempt to solve the problems of life for the individual in any other way than by facing them resolutely and surmounting them, has proven a failure. When this fact is recognized and we set ourselves to make every man his own way by his own efforts, character is strengthened and developed, our powers are multiplied and re-inforced, new faculties spring up within us, and we are conscious of an accession of vigour that fits us for any emergency. This is the sole method that brings success, the only path to a high plane of civilization, the one direction in which we may look with hope for an increase in general happiness.

We shall have made but poor use of the work of M. Demolins if we derive no other benefit from it than the gratification of national vanity. Have we reached such a state of perfection that we have nothing to learn, nothing to correct ? Let those who think so look about them and they will see much to convince them that the habit of dependence is not confined to the continent of Europe. There are many indications of the growth of that spirit among ourselves. The most noticeable of these is the struggle for office. Witness the clamour that has been heard throughout Canada for a twelvemonth past. On the last change of Government, supporters of the party in power in many constituencies formed committees to consider what officials could be removed

to make places for friends. The pressure on Ministers and members became so great as to be almost unbearable, and in several cities—Ottawa, for instance—the latter appointed hours at which they might be seen by applicants for employment. Dismissals and superannuations have been made on a large scale, and still the complaint is heard that the Government has not been active enough in replacing political opponents with political allies. This eagerness to enter the civil service is not confined to any one party. It is a feature of Canadian life to be observed and noted.

In the Province of Ontario there are many things that M. Demolins would probably criticise if he should come here to investigate. Offices have been multiplied to such an extent that whereas there were only six hundred a quarter of a century ago, there are now said to be three thousand. Along with this great increase in the number of officials there has been a centralisation of power in Toronto, effected by withdrawing many of the privileges formerly possessed by the municipalities and transferring them to the provincial Administration. In every direction means have been taken to extend the influence of the Government over various classes of the population. The Education Department and the liquor license act are notable illustrations of this. The consequence has been not only an encroachment by the central authorities upon the functions of municipalities, and the consequent impairment of the independent life and usefulness of these bodies, but a restriction of the freedom of the electorate and a blow at disinterested public opinion, which should be the supreme arbiter of the destinies of parties. The centralisation of power, the extension of patronage and its employment as a reward for political support, and the multiplication of offices, all tend towards one result—to foster a disposition to look to the Government for assistance.

Let us take a recent example of centralisation to be found in the statute book of the province ; one not specially harmful nor particularly important, but