

is impossible," said Mr. G. Robertson, "to make a people until they are taught to stand on their own bottom." Mr. Fairweather took the opposite side. The Dominion, he contended, would use force to prevent a Province seceding. Practically, at the close of the meeting, nothing had been changed; the explanations showed differences of individual opinion, but they also showed that discontent, not perhaps unmingled with despair, exists. The official record is one of declared and general discontent.

THE conspiracy case promises to form a perennial source of wrangling and revenue for the lawyers. To the public the wearisome prolongation of the proceedings is the reverse of edifying, and there is not one person in a thousand who would not be glad to see them brought to a close. Everybody whom it is possible to convince is already convinced that a conspiracy did take place to buy over enough members to give the Opposition a majority in the Ontario House of Assembly, and nobody believes that such a proceeding is defensible. It would have been better if the plot had been denounced on the instant of its discovery. The employment of spies, though with the object of making the evidence complete, was a mistake. So little have the men to whom this kind of work has been trusted obtained the confidence of their employers that Governments frequently find it necessary to set a watch on their own spies, and when they have been accomplices the spies have sometimes fared worse. When Jaques Pierre informed the Senate of Venice that a plot had been hatched to murder the Doge, the Senators and the Nobles, the Senate bade him encourage his associates in the crime, to hold fast to their diabolic design; nevertheless, one morning Jaques Pierre and his fellow-conspirators were found hanging in the Square of St. Mark. The effect of certain members of the House acting as spies has been to cause doubts in the public mind, however unjust these doubts may have been, whether some of them did not, at one stage of the negotiations, intend to accept the conditions of service proposed on behalf of the Opposition, a doubt which will survive denial and protest, and may even become stronger with time. In acting a part to which suspicion always attaches, these members exposed their reputation to a peril against which the most irreproachable antecedents would be insufficient to guard. That the act was done thoughtlessly, in a paroxysm of party enthusiasm, is their excuse; but it was not the less a blunder. About the sufficiency of the law under which the prosecution is proceeding there is not a little doubt. Against one of the alleged conspirators the evidence is clear; against others it has failed; if the proceedings go on for ten years the present aspect of the case cannot be substantially altered, and for the sake of obtaining a nominal sentence is it worth while to keep renewing the suspicions which, in many minds, attach to some of the accusers? The real victory of the Government is the conviction in the public mind that a conspiracy seeking its overthrow was set on foot; and having obtained this victory it can afford to be magnanimous and leave the punishment of the conspirators to the detestation of their crime which party spirit may hide but cannot suppress. At the same time political crimes, which are as capable of definition as other crimes, ought to be brought within the purview of the law. A corrupt use of patronage is morally a political crime, and there is no good reason why it should not be so legally declared.

"Is not bribery the corner-stone of Party Government?" was the pertinent question put by Mr. Justice Armour in the conspiracy case last week; and he answered his own question affirmatively by saying: "Men are party men for the spoils; they support the Government of the day for the spoils. If a man 'kicks' and gives an independent vote against the party he loses their patronage, does he not?" This is surely the worst recommendation that Party Government can have. The authority on which the statement is made would cause it to be accepted even if it were not corroborated by every man's own observation.

IN addition to the lignite it is alleged that bituminous and anthracite coal have been found in the vicinity of Medicine Hat. This discovery, if it has really been made, is of surpassing importance to the North-West. There are outcrops of coal on the mainland of British Columbia, waiting to be worked, and an abundance of a hard kind of coal on Vancouver Island. In this respect these regions have an advantage over the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

ROSE CHURCH (Mrs. Peter Lynam) has been released from the asylum at Long Point. But that there were not good reasons for sending her there, or that she was improperly detained, there is no reason for concluding. The report of the medico-legal expert, Dr. Vallée, shows that when sent there she was in a state of maniacal excitement, and Dr. Howard, knowing her antecedents and present condition, did not feel that he would be justifiable

in releasing her unconditionally. And her release now, under the order of the court, has attached to it the condition that she is to be placed in charge of some person worthy of confidence. The committee under whose care she is to be placed was ordered to be appointed at a family council. For the separation from her husband, which the judicial decision contemplates, there appear to be the best of reasons: at the sight of him Mrs. Lynam becomes violently excited, and in the natural affection of a mother she is wanting. She belongs to the class of monomaniacs whose affections are perverted. But she is adjudged not to be dangerous, and no lunatic who is not dangerous can, under the laws of Quebec, be detained in an asylum. Though there were good reasons for the patient's confinement and detention, there does not appear to have been any justification for compelling her to mingle with the violent patients. Dr. Vallée says that she had a preference for this part of the building; but it is not probable that she was allowed to exercise any choice in the selection of her apartments. That a patient should be detained who is not dangerous and whose detention, a demand for her liberation having been made, the law does not authorize, is of itself sufficient to show that there is something mysteriously wrong in the management of the Long Point Asylum; and, in the face of Dr. Tuke's exposure, the Government will be greatly wanting in its duty if it does not cause a searching enquiry into the charges to be made. Because this institution is under the charge of the nuns, some have hastily come to the conclusion that the remedy is to be found in setting up a rival Protestant establishment. But there is nothing in the management of lunatics that makes the presence of a sectarian element necessary or desirable, and the best managed asylums in this country have been under the direct control of the Government. Private asylums there are in the United States against the management of which no serious complaints have been made; but the farming out of persons of unsound mind, even where nuns are the contractors, does not bring satisfactory results. A high mortality seems destined to accompany baby farming everywhere, and as baby farmers the Grey Nuns of Montreal have assuredly not been specially successful. However good the intentions of the nuns may be, the management of a large lunatic asylum is too great a tax on their powers of administration, and it is not surprising that they have proved unequal to the strain.

OUR highly cultivated, but highly anti-British and Fenian, contemporary the *Chicago Current* had the other day an article evidently seasoned to the taste of the Chicago Invincibles. The Irish were described as a people whom "England has been unable to starve or hang into love for the United Kingdom." Dynamitards were designated as men "criminalized by British misrule," so that their crime was all British, while the heroism was all their own. O'Donnell, the murderer, was held up as an object of sympathy, and Americans were told that they must be "lick-spittles" if they ever forgot so dire an injury and insult as the refusal of the English Cabinet to let them interfere with the course of British justice. All this was in a homily on the British "boor" and his ignorance of America. There may surely be some excuse for the British boor who travels in the United States and, finding in a journal evidently written for the educated classes such statements and sentiments as these, carries back to his fellow boor at home a rather indifferent report both of the intelligence and of the moral sympathies of the Americans. It may safely be said that there is not a statesman in Europe of any mark or standing, even if he were as great an Anglophobe as Thiers, who would ever think of uttering the calumnious nonsense about the treatment of Ireland by England which is published by journals of high pretensions in the United States, and probably swallowed with the eager credulity of malice by a certain portion, though happily a diminishing portion, of their readers. The *Current* was an ardent supporter of Blaine, and, if we read it rightly, on the special ground of his supposed willingness to extend the protection of the Republic to "American citizens" operating in Ireland or London. That Mr. Blaine, a man of sense and ability, and a friend of Ingersoll to boot, really sympathized with the Roman Catholic Irish in their hostility to British and Anglo-American civilization is totally incredible. But he was anxious to buy the Irish vote; he succeeded in buying a large proportion of it; and the election of his rival, besides being a most salutary triumph of integrity over brilliant trickery, may have saved the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race from quarrelling with each other for the benefit of a common enemy of both. Protectionism is in part at least the life of American Anglophobia, as it is of a good deal more that is noxious to humanity.

THE author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," is said to have dramatized her long popular novel "A Life for a Life." The play—which is in three acts, with prologue and epilogue—is in the form of a realistic domestic drama.