

half heathen mixture of Turk and Tatar. He surprised me, however, by very distinctly showing his sympathy for me. 'Oh, from Canada, eh?' he exclaimed, 'A verr corrupt country, eh? Steal all ze public mooney, eh? Get into Parliament by buy ze votes, eh? Efferybody steal from efferybody else, eh? I haf read of him in ze London Times. I takke ze London Times.' This was pretty rich, coming from a Roumanian, where Russian intrigue, Turkish corruption, Austrian venality and Grecian crookedness are supposed to have brought political wickedness down to a fine art. Yet at this moment it is the general European opinion of Canadian politics."

However humiliating it may seem to be that Roumanians should pity us because of our political corruption, it cannot be much of a surprise to those who have marked how the sins of the respective parties have been exaggerated and held up to execration by the opposing organs, how the Grits have painted the Tories, and the Tories the Grits, as monsters of iniquity. When the necessary allowance is made for party feeling and falsehood, both Tory and Grit will appear, while not all that they ought to be, no worse than the politicians of other countries, and perhaps considerably better. Of all the things that live the most contemptible to us is the man that is more a partisan than a patriot.

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THE methods adopted by the *Canadian Queen*, *The Canadian Agriculturist*, *The Ladies' Home Magazine*, *The Ladies' Pictorial Weekly* and other papers to increase their circulation may not be fraudulent, but if lotteries are fraudulent, we do not see how they can escape the imputation. A man must be a logical hair-splitter, must have the gift of casuistry in a Jesuitical measure, to be able to discriminate between the prize competitions affected by those journals and the lotteries against which war is being waged in the province of Quebec. The principle and immoral influence are the same. You may call them *literary* or *biblical* competitions, but the proportions are about one ounce of literary exercise to a thousand pounds of sheer gambling. At least that is our opinion.

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We have had on our table for some time, and intended to notice before, the 21st Report of the Halifax School for the Blind. The superintendent is Mr. C. F. Fraser, the genial and scholarly editor of the *Critic*, by whose invitation we visited the institution during a brief stay in Halifax, last February. Mr. Fraser and his excellent wife take an enthusiastic interest in those under their charge, and the rapid progress made by many of the

pupils at the institution is very remarkable. When our Saviour was on earth, he opened the eyes of the blind. Men cannot do that, but it is wonderful how much they can do and have done to educate blind persons for usefulness and happiness. It may be that the triumph over difficulties, the success as it were in spite of fate, is better for the character, strengthens and elevates it as the restoration of the sight would not do. At any rate, we are sure that Mr. Fraser and his assistants are engaged in one of the most philanthropic and noblest of works, and we wish them still larger success. During the past year 43 persons have been under instruction, twenty belonging to Nova Scotia, fourteen to New Brunswick, one to Prince Edward Island, and four to Newfoundland. We must not omit to mention that Miss J. E. G. Roberts, of Fredericton, whose literary attainments are well known to the cultured in Canada, is on the teaching staff of the institution.

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THE most interesting part of the 5th Annual Report of the Provincial Board of Health of New Brunswick, is the introductory paper by the chairman, Dr. Bayard. He devotes the greater part of the paper to the subject of intemperance. He resolves all possible remedial measures into four: Sanitation, Education, Local Option and Prohibition. We agree with all the Doctor has to say as to the importance of the first and second, but we dissent wholly from his estimate of the third and last. We think that a man who makes the statement that where "prohibitory laws have been on the statute books in various places for the last 30 years, in no one instance has drunkenness been lessened," proves his incompetency to discuss the question in that judicial spirit which the subject demands. As a physician he acknowledges that the drunkard is insane, and that the state has a perfect right to restrain him and confine him in an inebriate asylum. What a saintly and solomonic system of government, to be sure! Deriving a large part of its

revenue from the manufacture of lunatics, and then providing asylums at the public expense to secure the victims of its own misgovernment. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,"—may not be a good motto for a physician, but it is a good one for a government. It would be just as reasonable to propagate the doctrine that a law against murder does not diminish the number of murders, or that a law against immorality does not make society purer, as to maintain that the prohibition of the liquor traffic will not enormously lessen the sum of drunkenness. Give us such a law for five years, and no intelligent man will take his pen in hand to write, "Prohibition does not prohibit."

DR. GEORGE STEWART, F. R. G. S., of this city received on Tuesday through the hands of the Count de Turenne, consul-general for France, the intimation that the French Government had conferred upon him a distinction seldom given to foreigners, and but sparingly granted to citizens of the French Republic. In recognition of his literary and historic writings, many of which relate to France's past career on this continent. Dr. Stewart has been named Officer d'Academie de l'Instruction Publique, the highest honor paid to letters by the Government of France.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

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MATTHEW R. KNIGHT,  
Benton, New Brunswick.

