

Cardwell.

Now that Cardwell must be fought for, it may not be amiss to consider what the Government has lost and what it would probably have gained by opening the constituency in 1893. Every one conceded then that a collector should be appointed for the most important harbour in Canada, and that, if the vacancy were not filled by the principle of promotion, no one is better fitted or better entitled to it than Mr. White. Nothing apparently blocked the way but the apprehension that a Conservative of Mr. D'Alton McCarthy's stripe might be the choice of the constituency. That caused delay, and one delay succeeded another till the knot was cut by Mr. White's resignation. Had the Government taken action in 1894, what would it have lost? At the most, one seat; and, with its majority, that would have been a flea-bite, which would have been forgotten long before this. On the other hand, it would have gained credit for courage, and that would have done good to the whole party; it would have retained the respect of the commercial men of Montreal; it would have respected the spirit of the constitution: it would have respected the feelings of a faithful friend, and it would have done its duty. By its inaction what has it lost? It has announced that the principle "to the victors belong the spoils" will be carried out in its most odious form in Canada, that "the spoils" include the business interests of the whole country, and that these must be subordinated to party interests as long as the party chooses; that it is better that the port of Montreal should have no collector for three seasons rather than the party should run the slightest risk of receiving a check; and—more alarming still to every lover of the British Constitution—that the principle of the independence of Parliament, the very keystone of our liberty, may be trampled on, year after year, without apology. We are inclined to think that the Government has lost more than it is aware of. It must have lost the respect of Mr. White, of his friends, of the commercial men of the country, and of the largest class to whom party is secondary to good Government, and in whose eyes all shuffling—whether in a man or in a Cabinet—is contemptible. It has lost caste, and in all probability it has lost Cardwell.

A Danger to the State.

"What do you do for a living," a drunkard was once asked? "I am engaged in the Temperance Cause," the poor wretch managed to hiccough. "What do you mean, sir?" "Well, you see, my brother is a temperance lecturer, and he takes me round with him as 'the awful example'!" At present Cardwell serves as our "awful example" of an evil more insidious, more dangerous, more destructive to the life of the State than drunkenness. We are a nation of freemen, simply because we believe that we have a free Parliament; and we continually boast to our American cousins that our Executive is dependent on a vote of the House of Commons, and, therefore, that the moment the Government, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, goes wrong, that moment it must go. But, what becomes of our freedom, if Parliament is not free; if one member has in his pocket the promise of a collectorship, another the promise of a penitentiary wardenship, another the promise of a judgeship, another the pledge that if he cannot carry his constituency he will be appointed to the Senate, and half a dozen others have hints of other offices which are dangled before their eyes when they should be thinking only of their duty to their constituents and to the country? This is the worst form of debauchery conceivable. The whole country

is debauched, for wickedness done in the High Court of Parliament filtrates down to every class in the community. Tolerated in one Government, it will be imitated by the Provincial legislatures, and the next Government will "better the example." What is the remedy, then? Simply this, that it must not be tolerated. The country must utter a condemnation so loud that the deaf shall hear. But, we are told, if the Grits get in, they will do the very same. Such an argument means that the evil must be permanent; that may go on to any lengths, and that there is no such thing as conscience in the people. If there is to be no punishment for wrong doing, then the sooner we give up the form of electing representatives the better.

Cardwell and Mr. McCarthy.

Reverting to the case of Cardwell, if the Government believed, in 1893, that the constituency desired to approve of Mr. D'Alton McCarthy's course, on what ground was it denied the opportunity of doing so? Its member had been elected in 1891 for the whole Parliamentary term; but he was anxious to retire, and the commercial interests of the country would have been served by his retirement. Bye-elections are welcomed in Britain, showing how the tide is running. The Government is warned or encouraged by them. But, in Canada a constituency is muzzled until the Government has "fixed" things so that its real voice may not be heard. On the other hand, Mr. McCarthy is declared to be insignificant because he has only one follower. On the other hand, another constituency is not allowed to speak lest it may strengthen him. Such a course, instead of weakening Mr. McCarthy, has the very opposite effect. A powerful Government appears to be afraid of him, and, therefore, how formidable he must be, is the argument of thousands all over the country. Had Cardwell spoken for him, it would have meant little. Had it spoken against him, he would have received a mortal blow. Cardwell, in any case, should have been allowed to speak.

The Toronto Garrison.

The Toronto Garrison paraded on Sunday afternoon last for divine service. It was the largest and finest parade ever seen in Toronto, and was witnessed by vast crowds of people whose interest in the imposing function was intense. Many of the spectators were evidently astonished at the remarkably fine appearance of the men. A garrison parade is an event of such infrequent occurrence that the public is somewhat taken by surprise at the imposing spectacle. It is finer than is expected. The fact is these parades should be of frequent occurrence. The excellence and value of our volunteer service needs to be impressed more strongly upon the people. It is an important and essential part in the national life of the country and should be generally recognized as such. There is no better corrective to the all-pervading commercial spirit which at present animates and controls our country than a touch of the martial spirit. Such a spirit inspires the order of virtues in which a commercial society is apt to be deficient: imagination, patriotism, self-control, appreciation of greatness. The church parade is a good thing and should be encouraged. There is no "money in it," which is an immense moral advantage. To possess, or share in, or regard something the chief object of which is not to make money—how grateful it is to the weary mind and heart! Let us have these parades often. They will stimulate our halting national pride, and promote the growth of a sound and lively patriotism.