

certain protectionists in favour of specific duties on such commodities as food and clothing. The people must be protected from the wicked foreigners, who might sell them adulterated groceries or shoddy garments, by being compelled to buy all such articles from the home manufacturers, who of course are all and always paragons of honesty and benevolence. Happy people! How can we ever be grateful enough for such paternal, we had almost said maternal, restrictions.

Many thoughtful citizens are strongly of the opinion that we Canadians are greatly over-governed. Some would go so far as to attribute not a little of the unrest which manifests itself amongst us from time to time to the fact that the people feel too sensibly the weight of the complicated and expensive machinery by which we carry on the self-government which we so highly value. In another part of this paper a writer who has had long experience, and who has evidently given the subject careful consideration, marshals a strong array of facts and arguments to show that this tendency to the reduplication of unnecessary and costly machinery is no less obvious and burdensome in municipal than in provincial and national affairs. We are not quite sure whether some of Mr. Grierson's remarks are meant to disparage the municipal system itself, with its direct taxation and somewhat minute subdivisions of authority. If so, we should not be able to agree with him in that respect, for we have always been of opinion, which we see no reason to change, that self-government carried thus to its full extent and logical issue, even should it prove more expensive than the administration of affairs by grades of governing classes, more than repays its cost in its educational influence, and that it is the only system worthy of a free and intelligent people. But the fee system, the extravagance and abuse of which Mr. Grierson so fully exposes, is no necessary part of a complete municipal system. We regard it as a great and growing evil in Ontario, and have given our voice against both the principle of it and its use by the Government of the day for the reward of political supporters. Mr. Grierson shows how the system has grown in municipal affairs, and especially in connection with the administration of criminal justice. He also complies fully with the condition which requires that the critic of an evil or abuse should point out the way of reform. We have no doubt that his paper will be read with much interest, and that its plain statements of facts will come to many who have given less thought to the matter almost as an astounding revelation.

While all history proves conclusively that the Church of Rome is not "*semper eadem*," in the sense in which it claims for itself the unchangeableness of infallibility, recent history seems likely to prove that it is not always the same in the sense in which

Protestants sometimes attribute unchangeableness to it as a reproach. In days past the absolutism of the Vatican has not been supposed to be used on behalf of the "masses" as against the "classes," but recent events indicate a very noteworthy tendency in this direction. It is but two or three years since a remarkable Encyclical from the Pope took the religious and industrial world by surprise, by the attitude in which it placed the Holy See in relation to the labour question. It was tinged with democracy to a degree unheard of in any previous deliverance from that quarter. The words spoken in the name of the Pope by the Count de Mun, at the recent Catholic Congress in Toulouse, go still further in the same direction, and seem intended to commit the Catholic Church to a position of full sympathy with the working classes. Count de Mun is reported as saying, in a report of the views expressed to him by the Pope:

"The great preoccupation of the moment is Socialism. There are two solutions: concentration with the capitalists and concentration with the people. . . . At risk of appearing to stand quite alone and of seeming extravagant, I will say that what must be protected is not capital, but labour. We must not let it be supposed that the Church is a cassocked policeman let loose in the sole interest of capital. On the contrary, it should be understood that it acts in the interest and for the defence of the weak."

If it be true, as is reported, and as a recent article in a Roman paper supposed to be informed gives good reason to believe, that the Pope is about to invite the great European powers to agree upon a common disarmament, the Protestant Churches will need to look to their laurels. Christianity should be the great peacemaker, but it is not easy to discover that its professed representatives are putting forth much effort in that direction. Some of them seem quite as ready to admire military pageants and to encourage the military spirit as those who make no professions of allegiance to the Prince of Peace. If the Vatican initiates an effective movement for European disarmament, it will earn the gratitude of millions, and set an example worthy of all imitation. Let us give honour to whom it is due.

President Cleveland has at least gained a little time by causing the question of the constitutionality of the Chinese Exclusion Act to be taken before the Supreme Court. As had been foreshadowed for some weeks, instead of a serious attempt to carry out the Act on the day on which it came into force, a few preconcerted arrests of unregistered Chinese were made, writs of habeas corpus were taken out, these writs were dismissed *pro forma*, by the lower courts, and an appeal was immediately taken to the Supreme Court, before which the cases will be promptly argued. Should the Geary Act be pronounced unconstitutional, as there is reason to believe is confidently expected,

the Administration will be relieved of an enormous responsibility. On the other hand, should its constitutionality be maintained, its enforcement will involve the deportation to China of almost every Chinaman in the republic, as very few have registered. It is very hard to believe that an Act which seems a gross and cruel violation of both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty with China, and which, moreover, traverses the ordinary principle of American as well as British law, that a man must be regarded as innocent until proved guilty, can be in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic. But it is useless to predict in such a case. Even should the constitutionality of the Act be affirmed, we cannot believe that President Cleveland will attempt its enforcement, though how he can constitutionally avoid doing so we are unable to conjecture.

After the foregoing paragraph had been sent to the printer, came the announcement that the Supreme Court had, by a majority of five to three, affirmed the constitutionality of the Geary Act. Particulars are not to hand at the time of this writing, but the decision is said to be based broadly upon the inherent right of an independent sovereign power to restrict or prohibit the immigration of aliens into its territory, or to exclude therefrom those already admitted, at its own pleasure. Whether the Constitution contains any provision requiring the nation to observe the faith of treaties, or imposing any obligations whatever with regard to other nations, does not appear. As the court has taken under advisement the motion of the counsel for the Chinese for a rehearing of the case and an argument before a full bench, the Administration is understood to be relieved from the necessity of taking any action under the decision, pending the determination of the question of the re-hearing.

The breaking down of several students during the examinations now in progress in the University of Toronto is a serious matter. It is one which demands investigation by the proper authorities, with a view to finding out what is wrong and applying the remedy. That there is grave wrong somewhere goes without saying. Observation and statistics abundantly prove that there is nothing injurious to health in the severest mental labour, if performed under proper conditions and with due regard to simple physiological laws. It is equally certain that it is only by careful observance of these conditions and laws that the maximum of brain-work can in any case be accomplished. Hence scholarly ambition is no excuse for injury to health. The breaking down, as a rule, proves only ignorance or recklessness on the part of the student who thus defeats his own ends. We write this from no lack of sincere sympathy with those who have suffered cruel defeat in the uni-