

THE trouble is that some people are too stupid to distinguish between commercial unity and political union ; or if not too stupid, they are too dishonest. Mr. Wiman, while regarding Annexation as a wild and impracticable dream, very properly looks upon the removal of the barbarous double row of custom houses along the Canadian-American frontier as something perfectly feasible within a comparatively short time. The article to which we have referred ably illustrates this idea, while it forcibly assures those American politicians who hope by McKinleyism to coerce Canada into Annexation that they are doomed to certain disappointment.

WHILE we wouldn't positively set ourselves up as more learned in the law than Mr. Justice Rose, we may gently intimate that that excellent jurist's decision in the case of Fleming *vs.* the Temperance Reformation Society strikes us as being too much of a "good thing" for the defendants. When Jesse Ketchum bequeathed the Temperance Hall to the cold water public of Toronto, and vested its management in the above-named society, it is not likely he contemplated merely providing a soft snap for a few individuals. Yet Justice Rose has decided that the Directors of the Society have the power to make and enforce rules to regulate their own affairs, and by virtue of one of the rules which they have made, which provides that four blackballs will shut out any applicant for membership, the Directors, it appears, *are* regulating affairs very much to their own liking. It would interest the temperance public to know just what becomes of the annual revenues of the property Mr. Ketchum bequeathed, but under the ruling of the judge, it would seem that nobody can get in to find out, unless the directors see fit to kindly grant permission.

ABOUT this proposed swop of a magnificent piece of the city's property on Front Street for a piece of park land up behind the University, we say emphatically to the city authorities, don't do it! It is not a trade which any sensible man would make for himself, and therefore not one which a sensible City Council should make for the people whose property is in their management.

ANOTHER thing which is utterly wrong in principle is the selling of the monopoly of market fees to private individuals. The right to collect taxes in the Western cattle market was disposed of by auction the other day for over \$15,000. Why can't the city appoint an officer to collect the fees direct for the public till, if fees are indispensable? This thing of the community giving away its valuable franchises to private parties has either gone too far or not far enough. If it is really more profitable for public functions to be performed by private speculators, then the management of all the departments of the civic government should be auctioned off ; if, however, it is manifestly safest and best that the community should manage its own affairs directly (as has been decided in the case of the waterworks), we see no reason why market fees, street cars, etc., should be made exceptions.

IF Canadians fail to make this country great, powerful, free, a blessing and wonder to the world, history will write them down as dastards, such as never before have proved themselves unworthy of high opportunities."—*Nicholas Flood Davin in The Week.*

Good, Nicholas! But if Canadians who are gifted with intellectual powers of a high order, possess all the advantages of culture, and are placed in positions of

influence, are content to chain themselves to the chariot-wheels of Barty, and to do the bidding of small-beer politicians as mere lackeys, they will keep Canada just where she is in the opinion of the world. The eminent Regina journalist can afford to do some "searching of heart" over this.

WHAT becomes of that stirring British song about the Union Jack being the safe refuge of every fugitive from tyranny, in the face of this cable item, which appeared in our papers the other day :

The British Ambassador at Constantinople has delivered to the Russian authorities Prince Zatscharsky and six friends, including a lady and child, who were arrested recently for complicity in the accident to the Czar's train near Borki, but who escaped and took refuge on a British steamer.

It is bad enough for Great Britain and the other civilized powers to passively tolerate Russia, but it is a great deal worse for British ambassadors to actively aid that Government of savages in its despotic proceedings. So long as Russia continues the system of banishing suspects to the Siberian mines without a trial, no refugees should be given up, however strong the presumption of their guilt may be. This ambassador has simply disgraced the British name.



THE OBLIGING POLICE MAGISTRATE.

(A joke on property owners and the respectable public.)

Toronto Telegram.—August Lawlor admitted having already spent seven terms in the Central Prison for larceny and vagrancy. He pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing a pair of boots from the Toronto Shoe Company. Upon being asked whether he would prefer Kingston Penitentiary or the Central Prison he chose the penitentiary. "I guess I would be better off at Kingston," he observed. The magistrate then committed him to penitentiary for three years.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

DISTINGUISHED men share with their less conspicuous fellows the almost universal weakness of attempting to compensate for the mistakes and faults of the past by starting the New Year with a crop of good resolutions. The following are some of the vows for future guidance taken by prominent individuals at the opening of the year :

- Lord Stanley—To live within his income.
- Sir John Macdonald—To allow his followers considerable latitude on the Reciprocity question when required by local exigencies.
- Premier Mowat—To avoid rash and hasty legislation by giving every question his serious consideration.
- Mayor Clarke—To run for a fifth term unless elected to Parliament in the meantime.