

bably, have been glad to have had from him a clear expression of opinion. Every loyal Canadian must approve his strong denunciation of the want of noble sentiment which would brand as despicable any people who could consent to transfer their allegiance to a foreign power for any purely commercial consideration. But, from the point of view, or what we may imagine to be such, of those who may be supposed to stand in need of the convincing power of Mr. Mowat's arguments, it might perhaps be objected not without some force that, in the first place, the case which he supposes, or in fact any which he could possibly suppose, of another country or nation, is not or would not be parallel to that of Canada in its relation to the United States, a people of the same blood, speaking the same language, reading the same literature, etc. Without dwelling, however, upon this point, though the reasoning it suggests is so familiar from the lips of many of those for whom Mr. Mowat's arguments may be supposed to have been specially intended that it might have been well had he given it a fuller answer than that which is suggested in the evidences adduced—painful evidences, too, they are, though it may be easy to attach too much importance to them as indicative of the sentiments of the great body of the people of the United States as distinct from their politicians and the classes to whom these cater—of unfriendly feeling towards Great Britain, and Canada as belonging to her. But there is another consideration hinted at, but not so fully and clearly dealt with as we could have wished to see it in a paper of this kind. It is often objected that those who dwell so strongly upon the subject of loyalty, and so constantly exalt it as one of the cardinal virtues in every worthy people, take no account of the difference between a nation and a mere "colony." A colony cannot, it is argued, in the nature of things be expected to cherish the same sentiments towards the distant Empire of which it is a mere appendage rather than an integral part, which animates the breasts of the home subjects of that nation. Disguise it as we may, there is no doubt that this feeling has weight in the minds, or perhaps we should say hearts, as it is admittedly a matter of sentiment, of a good many who claim to be second to none in their loyalty to Canada. Mr. Mowat, it is true, indirectly recognizes this feeling when he looks forward to the day of Canadian independence, and speaks of the desire for that as a legitimate aspiration. But he puts that day so far away in the dim and distant future that the recognition of it as a thing to be desired and looked for has little force as against the feeling of which we speak. The matter is in some measure a practical one, for it can hardly be doubted that Canada suffers in point of immigration from the lack of the attractions of independent nationality. But a third omission, if such we may call it, in Mr. Mowat's letter, closely connected with these two is, it seems to us, of greater practical importance than either. It is a question which objectors will feel that they have a right to ask of one to whom many look up as a political guide, and who in the very act of writing these letters has to some extent accepted that position. Suppose the policy of the Liberal party to fail, and unrestricted reciprocity to be found unattainable on any terms consistent with Canadian self-respect, what is to be done to prevent the process of annexation by piecemeal, which is now going on, from continuing, to sap the strength and retard the progress of the country? A Minister of the Crown never shot wider of the mark than did the Minister of Marine when, a few weeks ago, he spoke contemptuously of those who are leaving our country to find employment on the other side of the line. Anyone giving thought to the matter might reasonably infer what observation teaches to be the fact, that the most energetic and enterprising of the population are the readiest to go abroad to better their condition. Most of the young people who thus leave hope no doubt to return one day and make their homes in Canada. Thousands of them will do so gladly the moment they can see their way clear to remunerative employment on this side of the lines. Reciprocity failing, what is to be done? "Preferential trade arrangements with Great Britain" is the Conservative answer. What do Liberals, who scout that as unattainable, propose as their alternative?

WHILE we heartily agree with Mr. Mowat that our Canadian institutions are, in the main, preferable to those of the United States, we are occasionally reminded that some of their practical methods of setting about the accomplishment of worthy purposes are well worthy of imitation. We have before us, for instance, a prospectus

of an Institution whose aims and methods alike commend it, as what it claims to be: "a national institution with high aims." We refer to the "American Institute of Civics." This organization is the outcome of the idea that "good government is dependent upon good citizenship," and that good citizenship is attainable only as the result of the use of all the forces which make for the realization of the highest ideals in government and society. The "Institute of Civics" has been described as a "National Academy of Patriotism." It was chartered in 1887, having among its founders and first trustees such men as Chief Justice Waite, President Noah Porter, Bishop Vincent and many others, representing the highest types of American character, and occupying the most influential positions. "The term 'Civics,'" the circular tells us, "was adopted as the distinguishing title of the Institution, because regarded as a suitable name for the body of knowledge, or science, which concerns itself with the reciprocal relations of the citizen and the State. In its efforts to promote civic virtue, the Institute, therefore, seeks to secure such attention to the facts of civics as shall lead to a proper sense of civic obligations, a secure foundation in right character, and an adequate degree of intelligence as to civic affairs, thus qualifying the citizen in private and public station to act the part of an upright and intelligent juror in all affairs submitted to his decision." It has already the following departments of work, viz., a department of school work, a college and professional school department, a department of the press, one of popular work, a business school department and one of legislation. Another Institution, of perhaps even greater interest from the patriotic point of view, which our neighbours have in operation, is a school or institute of Ethics, which meets stately for the discussion of the larger and more difficult ethical questions which are continually coming up for solution. Our attention is directed to these institutions because they show the commendable zeal with which many of the best men of the nation devote themselves to the culture and development of the higher qualities of citizenship, so essential to the welfare of democratic communities. The two subjects of civics and ethics are so closely related, and the education of public intelligence and of public sentiment in both directions is so much needed in Canada, as well as in the United States, that we are led to wish that a somewhat similar organization, covering the whole ground, could be brought into operation in Canada. The effect even of the forensic discussion of some of the larger questions of duty to society and the State, by men of influence, could not fail to be salutary. This mode of promoting patriotism, by seeking to elevate individual and national character, would be one which should commend itself to the sympathy and support of all good citizens.

EVERY honest and high-minded Canadian, irrespective of party, must feel glad that the reputation of Dr. Weldon, M.P., for Albert, N.B., has been amply vindicated from the stains which party spite had attempted to put upon it, the charges against him having been unconditionally retracted and amply apologized for by the journal which made them. We refer to the matter, not because we supposed it likely that such charges would greatly affect a gentleman of Dr. Weldon's high character and standing, but because the singular nature of one of the charges invites thought and comment. We refer to the allegation that he travelled on a railway pass. This was deemed, we may infer, a slander so injurious that Dr. Weldon took pains to furnish proof of its untruthfulness, and to compel an unequivocal and absolute withdrawal. Who will say that he was not right in so doing, or that any member of Parliament, duly sensitive on a point of honour, could have done less? And yet what about other members of Parliament, who are said and believed to accept such favours from the railroads whose interests may be at any moment promoted or damaged by the legislation in which they take part, and who have never taken the trouble to deny the impeachment, or to call those making it to account? Is not Dr. Weldon's course a distinct reflection upon the honour of such members? Assuming that the popular belief, in Parliament and out, in respect to these gentlemen's acceptance of such pecuniary favours, at the same time that they take care to draw their travelling mileage, is correct, is there any very great difference in essence between their acts and those of the Civil Service officials who have accepted commissions from persons having dealings with the Government, and have been punished therefor? It is evident that there is a growing sentiment, both here and in the United States, in regard

to such transactions, which will not much longer suffer them to be carried on with impunity. Only to-day two significant facts have come under our notice. The House of Representatives in South Carolina has passed a Bill prohibiting the use of passes by members of either chamber, and by county officials. Again, Attorney-General Millar, of the United States, is, it is said, about to institute a suit against one of the New England Railroad Companies, to test the right of such roads to issue free passes. It will thus be observed that this practice, now so common, is likely to be prohibited, not only on the ground of the tendency of such gifts to affect the moral eyesight of those who receive them, but also of the legal right of railway companies, existing as they do only in virtue of great powers and privileges conferred by public charter, to give such favours and convey certain favoured citizens free, at the expense of the general public; for it is very clear that if these passes were withdrawn and fares collected, the result would be that the railways could afford to reduce their general fares by a sum equivalent to that received from those theretofore accustomed to travel free. It is evident that the relations of railroads to the legislatures which charter them, and through these to the people these legislatures represent, are bound to be reconsidered and readjusted in the public interest at no distant day.

UNDER other circumstances the announcement of a series of skirmishes between British Indian troops and lawless tribesmen on a frontier of the Indian Empire would attract little attention, or be interpreted simply as the prelude to the necessary (?) subjugation of some tribe of unruly mountaineers. But when the fighting is located in the Pamir district, at a point where the too indefinite boundaries of the territories of Russia, China and Great Britain converge, the announcement, taken in connection with the chronic uneasiness created by the movements and intrigues of the Russian Generals in that region, becomes alarming. It has been so long believed that a decisive struggle with the great Northern Bear, on the Indian frontier, is but a question of time and may be precipitated at any moment that dread is at once felt lest the moment may have arrived. The fact that fighting has taken place in the locality indicated, that Fort Nilt has been captured by the British troops, and the hostile tribesmen driven to the hills, must, we suppose, be accepted, but the significance of the fact it is impossible in the absence of fuller information, to determine. It indicates, no doubt, for one thing, that the frontier is being guarded with unceasing vigilance, and that it is impossible for the Russian forces in the neighbourhood again to steal a march upon the British. It seems, however, highly improbable that the Czar can wish to bring on a decisive contest at the present time, whatever may be his intentions in regard to the indefinite future. It is much more likely that whatever intrigues or machinations may have stirred up the tribesmen and led to their punishment may have been due to the imprudence of ambitious Russian Generals on the spot, rather than to orders from St. Petersburg. We shall, therefore, expect to hear that some explanation or peaceful assurance will be given, and the matter set at rest for the present. The Czar can hardly be unwise enough, in the midst of all the internal miseries which are now distracting his unhappy subjects, to wish to provoke a trial of strength with the combined forces of Great Britain and China, or to enter upon a struggle which might issue in the overthrow of his kingdom.

THE Annual Message of the President of the United States to Congress contains this year very little that is of special interest to Canadians. The statement that was incidentally made in the Supreme Court a few weeks ago, to the effect that the agreement with Great Britain for the reference of the Behring Sea question to arbitration awaits only the appointment of arbitrators, is distinctly confirmed. Provision for the settlement of the frontier line between the two countries, with reference, presumably, to that between Canada and Alaska, is recommended. Referring, evidently with much satisfaction, to the reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded with the Republic of Brazil, with Spain for the West India possessions, and with San Domingo, President Harrison adds: "Like negotiations with other countries have been much advanced, and it is hoped that before the close of the year further definite trade arrangements of great value will be concluded." As, however, negotiations with Canada cannot be said to have commenced, the friends of