

poor of every land" (China, presumably, included!). At this the poet-artist Lafroy springs to his feet and launches the following tirade at the American leader:—

The poor! What care you rich thieves for the poor?
Those graysers late the poor, from whom they spring,
More deeply than they hate this injured race
Much have they taken from it—let them now
Take this prediction, with the red man's curse!
The time will come when that dread power the Poor—
Whom, in their greed and pride of wealth, they spurn
Will rise on them, and tear them from their seats;
Drag all their vulgar splendours down, and pluck
Their shallow women from their lawless beds,
Yes, seize their puling and unhealthy babes,
And fling them as foul pavement to the streets.
In all the dreaming of the Universe
There is no darker vision of despair!

Tecumseh himself, it is well-known, always recognized the difference between the British and Yankee treatment of the red man, and for this reason he fought and died gallantly on our side. "May the people of England and their descendants in Canada," says Colonel W. F. Collins, in his *Chronicle of the War of 1812*, "never forget this noble sacrifice, or the sacred obligation it imposes. It should be held as the seal of a great covenant. 'And Jonathan said to David, the Lord be between thee and me, and between my seed and thy seed forever.'"

The brag and the dialect of a certain class of Americans is happily caricatured in a prose dialogue between citizens Twang, Slauch, *et al*, though one doubts the antiquity of certain of their slang phrases. These would be slayers of Indians are aptly made to "disappear" (in the stage directions) when a fight seems unavoidable. I am glad that Mr. Mair has sketched Americans of a very different type in the persons of some army officers. Insolent and treacherous, boastful and ignorant, cruel and cowardly is the typical American leader: courteous, liberal, cultured, humane, manly, is the typical American gentleman.

Tecumseh gives an exhaustive recital of the red men's wrongs in his speeches to Harrison, from one of which I quote:—

Why is our brother angry at our force,
Since every man but represents a wrong?
Nay! rather should our force be multiplied!
Fill up your streets and overflow your fields,
And crowd upon the earth for standing room;
Still would our wrongs outweigh our witnesses.
And scant recital for the lack of tongues.
I know your reason, and its bitter heart,
Its form of justice, clad with promises—
The clocks of death! That reason was the snare
Which tripped our ancestors in days of yore—
Who knew not falsehood and so feared it not:
Men who mistook your fathers' vows for truth,
And took them, cold and hungry, to their hearts.
Filled them with food, and shared with them their homes,
With such return as might make baseness blush.
What tree or bore such treacherous fruit as this?
But let it pass! let wrongs die with the wronged!
The red man's memory is full of graves.
But wrongs live with the living, who are here
Inheritors of all our fathers' sighs,
And tears, and garments wringing wet with blood.
The injuries which you have done to us
Cry out for remedy, or wide revenge.

The moral and material degradation of the Indians, since the Arcadian days when they had "no greed of gold, no quarrels over God," is also pathetically described:—

Thus flowed our lives until your people came,
Till from the East our matchless misery came!
Since then our tale is crowded with your crimes,
With broken faith, with plunder of reserves—
The sacred remnants of our wild domain—
With lamp-rings, and delicious feasts of fire,
The fruit of your three-cursed stills of death,
Which make our good men bad, our bad men worse.
Aye! blind them till they grope in open day,
And stumble into miserable graves.
Oh, it is piteous, for none will hear!
There is no hand to help, no heart to feel,
No tongue to plead for us in all your land.
But every hand aims death, and every heart,
Ulcered with hate, re-vents our presence here:
And every tongue cries for our children's land
To expiate their crime of being born.

Mr. Mair's heroics are rhythmical and smooth: with any fewer ripples, the stream of his versification would be too like a canal. One or two of his images are more quaint than fine, and one or two of his phrases are slightly tautological, as for instance "scars and cicatrized wounds." But generally his words fit well into their places, and his style has the charm of clearness as conspicuously as Longfellow's.

I am too unskilled in stage-effect to guess whether *Tecumseh* will or will not be a success, should it be placed upon the stage. Stone's Indian tragedy of *Metamora* has been frequently presented to paying audiences, and according to my dim remembrance of that play I should think *Tecumseh* was at least its equal in dramatic interest. But then the title-role in *Metamora* was played by Edwin Forrest, who bought the play and proved his admiration for it by erecting on Stone's grave a monument inscribed "to the Memory of the Author of *Metamora*." But Stone was himself an actor and in constructing his drama may have given more attention to stage-effect than the Canadian poet. And, besides, *Tecumseh* is so full of "alarums and excursions", of processions of Indians and soldiers, that it would take a very large stage and a large outlay to present it fittingly.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

Bruce had recourse to the sword. Tell to a bow and arrow, and Washington appealed to the God of battles; but when a woman strikes for liberty, she uses anything she can lay her hands on.

SESSIONAL NOTES.

FREDERICTON, N. B.—The Assembly has settled down to work and has already made progress with several bills. The first bills introduced this Session, as a wag remarked, were Bill Wilson, Bill Murray, and Bill Pugeley, the three members elected during the recess.

Dr Stockton has passed through the three readings, his bill changing the name of the "Mount Allison Wesleyan College and Academies," into "the University of Mount Allison," and permitting affiliation with any other colleges and schools wherever situated, and of every kind and description.

Both the amendments which the Opposition proposed to make in the address, and which amounted to want of confidence, were rejected by a vote of 28 to 8, in a House whose full strength is 41. And yet three years ago the two parties were so nearly evenly divided, that though one succeeded in electing its own nominee as speaker, the other just managed to overturn them a few days afterwards.

The *St. John Telegraph*, a supporter of the Government, remarks sarcastically that all the Opposition are leaders. There is, however, some truth in the remark, for in proportion to their numbers, there is much more ability in the Opposition than in the Government.

The proximity of the ladies' gallery will ensure the passage of Mr. Pugeley's bill, allowing spinsters and widows to vote at school meetings, and hold the office of school trustees. Mr. Wetmore, however, was bold enough to oppose it, considering it "the opening wedge," whereas the *Sun* lectures him for being behind the age. With regard to spinsters, Mr. Ellis remarked quite truly, that they would not know a great deal about the care of children, and therefore favored extending the privilege to married women.

Yesterday the Provincial Secretary brought down the accounts for last year and the estimates for this year, the former showing a large deficit

M. H. C.

EDUCATIONAL.

Report of Committee on Education, February, 1886, to the Provincial Grange of the Maritime Provinces.

Your Committee beg to Report, that, in view of the great importance to these Provinces of instruction for the masses in Agricultural Science, we regard with much favor the action of the Nova Scotia Government last year.

Some alterations, however, in the Act, entitled "An Act to encourage Agricultural Education," we are led to hope and believe, would render that Act far more effective in accomplishing the object designed.

We have noticed with regret, that in the farming sections, little attention is given in the schools to imparting even the rudiments of a scientific knowledge of the profession which most of the pupils expect to follow. Not only the grade A. or B. teacher (who may seldom be found in the rural districts), but those of whatever grade, who instruct the children of the large agricultural class, should be required, prepared and encouraged to impart that instruction best adapted to secure their success in life and to elevate our common country.

We are glad to find that the Council of Public Instruction is empowered to appoint a lecturer on agriculture, one of whose duties it shall be "to deliver public lectures on agriculture throughout the Province, so far as his other duties will permit." But we would suggest, that if some plan were adopted whereby the centres of agricultural thought could be supplied regularly with such lectures, the benefit to those whom the Government laudibly seek to profit would be largely enhanced.

While your Committee believes that the Government of Nova Scotia, in its aim to promote agricultural education, demands respectful and encouraging recognition by this Grange, we would express our firm conviction that nothing short of an agricultural college, with an experimental farm attached, should satisfy the farmers of the Maritime Provinces, and would cordially recommend that a committee be appointed to confer with the respective Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with the view of securing at the earliest period practicable their united action in conjunction with Prince Edward Island, in establishing an agricultural college for these Provinces, and thereby wipe away our reproach among civilized countries, and meet a deeply felt want of our people.

All of which is respectfully submitted

JOHN BOWES,
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