

the country and for the cause of human progress, when every licensed teacher in the Province or the Dominion shall be of necessity a thoroughly educated and cultivated man or woman, as well as one of the highest intellectual and moral character.

### PROBLEMS OF GREATER BRITAIN—I.

THE very important book which Sir Charles Dilke has published under the above title is a complete encyclopedia of the colonial empire of Great Britain. To review such a book, in the sense of giving any approximate summary of the contents, is impossible. We have had enough and to spare of impressions of travel and of statistical abstracts, but there has not been, and is not now, any other work which places the reader in a position of such vantage from whence to obtain a general survey of the dominant characteristics of the widely diversified dependencies of the British Empire. The salient questions of each colony stand out above the mists of local politics and of English prejudices and may be seen in true perspective; while, in separate chapters, the reader may enter into the political life of each. He may follow with intelligent interest Sir John Macdonald, Sir Henry Parkes, Sir Graham Berry, Sir Thomas Mcllwraith, Sir Robert Stout, Sir Gordon Sprigg, and other knights innumerable, as they career in devious course upon the political chess-boards of Greater Britain. We are wont to complain of outside ignorance concerning Canada, but there is probably truth in Sir Charles Dilke's remark that "Canadian statesmen are in a state of blank ignorance about Australia," a remark which it would be safe in Canada to extend much more widely, and yet these progressive communities of the Southern hemisphere are finding original and satisfactory solutions to some very difficult social problems. In Victoria we find that place of the whole world where the average of wealth is greatest per head of the population. Such a place is worthy of study. The volume is large—over 750 pages of close print—but the "problems" are varied and numerous, and it is not padded out with unimportant details of social attentions paid to the writer. He has gathered his information from all classes and we may learn from him concerning the hopes, the prejudices, the fears, the political and social views, and the mode of life of that ruling class which in countries so democratic dictates to its leaders the policy they shall pursue.

Especially is this book useful now, because questions of great moment, such as Independence and Imperial Federation, are being discussed with more or less intelligence; and some of us in Canada, who think with the late President Lincoln that "it is time enough to cross a river when you come to it," are being driven to a decision by the assertion that our present position is intolerable—a melancholy condition, it would seem, which we had not suspected to exist. By a careful perusal of this volume we may learn how much or how little interest Canada has in the French convict settlement at New Caledonia, in the German annexation of New Guinea, or in the claims of the Boers of the Transvaal upon Swaziland, and we may argue from that how much, or how little indignation the French aggressions on the Newfoundland shore may arouse in Australia. In Canada, hitherto, Imperial Federation has been discussed too much as leading up to differential duties in favour of colonial products, while in England any practical treatment of the subject has dwelt upon the necessary extension of free trade in English manufactures. Sir Charles Dilke says with truth that the tariff is the *crux* of the whole question; which really means that each party is chiefly concerned with what it is going to make. Until people talk less about their rights and more about their duties, Imperial Confederation will never become a serious question. Huckstering never built up great empires. The prevailing tendency seems on the contrary to be centrifugal. At present the federation of the Australasian Colonies is all that is practicable or even desirable. The Southern Colonies are far more separatist than are the North American. Leading journals in Australia openly advocate separation, and leading statesmen, even premiers, are inclined to it. Young Australia inclines to look upon an Imperialist statesman as a fossil. English statesmen are languid about non-European questions, excepting when they concern India, while Canadian sentiment is profoundly modified by the pressure of the United States. The individualism of the Anglo-Saxon race causes it to grow more by fission than by organization extending from the centre, and all that seems probable in the future is aggregation into groups and a defensive alliance growing out of the use of the same language.

The general accuracy of Sir Charles' statements concerning Canada gives great weight to his statements concerning other colonies, and makes his book an indispensable manual for the political student. Slight inaccuracies there are, as for instance when he says that "direct relations between the Australian Colonies and the Canadian Dominion have been begun by the mission of the leader of the Senate to Australia." But then we ourselves were misled—even in Canada—so positive was the announcement. Some little over-statement there is concerning Quebec. The statement that "sentences of excommunication are published in some of the Lower Canadian journals, with the names of the offenders, almost in the way in which bankruptcies are gazetted in communities less ecclesiastical." And another, "that it has been seriously suggested by some of the Protestants of Montreal, that they would gladly see the government of the

Province of Quebec absolutely in the Cardinal's hands." The vividness incidental to transatlantic speech has probably misled Sir Charles. Sentences of excommunication by name are by no means common in Quebec. I do not remember ever to have seen one gazetted. The editors of the clerical papers are all the time excommunicating somebody or other, but they are not serious persons. Then, again, although no one can doubt but that Cardinal Taschereau could and would govern this Province infinitely more justly and economically than our lay rulers of late years, any Protestants who seriously suggested it must have spoken under strong excitement. Perhaps the gorgeous costume of our Premier at St. Hyacinthe, described at p. 47—"white breeches trimmed with red, a green satin vest, a red mantle, a hat with white feathers and a breast-plate set in brilliants"—may have unsettled their Protestant principles. Probably what Sir Charles' much-tried informants had in their mind was that, if we must have clerical government, it would be better to have it in its best form, under a prelate and according to canon law, rather than under unknown and irresponsible ecclesiastics, pulling the strings of politicians and watching to set the Pope right when he gets astray.

"Problems of Greater Britain" has stood the ordeal of criticism very successfully. The assertion that Canadian Confederation is a success has, however, been challenged, but surely without reason. The author may have gone a little far in saying that it has transformed a "backward colony" into a great power—for the Colonies were in the full tide of material prosperity when Confederation was completed—but it has prevented them from drifting into antagonism; it broke down their isolation, it enlarged the views of the people, it rendered possible great enterprises, it put an end to those incessant deadlocks which imperilled the peace of Old Canada, and it prevented the inception of a war of tariffs such as exists in Australia. We are told of a dispute now going on between New South Wales and Victoria for the water of the Murray River, which divides the two colonies. It is badly needed for irrigation, but while the water in the river bed belongs to New South Wales, it is drained for the most part from Victorian territory. In the absence of a central authority with local knowledge such disputes might lead to serious trouble. It is true that what we call nationalism is too often only provincialism, but men with the responsibilities of power are compelled to adopt broader views, and, when we consider how long it took after the revolution to achieve a real union of the revolted Colonies, we are disposed to be thankful for the measure of success we have attained. Sir Charles Dilke is a firm believer in the principle of federation. Not in Canada only, but in Switzerland, where the French, German and Italian languages, and the Roman, Lutheran and Calvinist religions are united, he sees evidence that the federal system can solve almost every political difficulty. He is, however, evidently sceptical as to the feasibility of Imperial Federation, and, with the exception, perhaps, of New Zealand, all the Australasian Colonies seem opposed to it. He finds that while Colonial statesmen will talk about it in an abstract and general way, they will not commit themselves to any definite opinion. The separate federation of the Southern Colonies he considers to be on the eve of accomplishment.

Tempting though a discussion of Sir Charles Dilke's account of Canadian, and especially of Quebec, politics may be, there is not space for it here; nor can I even glance at the myriad interesting points suggested or treated of in this valuable volume. He devotes much space to the defences of the Empire, and while he informs us that excellent provision has been made in the Southern Colonies, he points out that none whatever exists in the Dominion. The question is very simple in Australia. The expanse of ocean is the best defence. In Canada we do not appear to contemplate the possibility of a war between England and the United States, and we seem to have determined to risk it rather than ruin ourselves in advance by preparations. It is not very noble, but perhaps it is wise. The methods of warfare and the relative conditions of the two countries have changed so profoundly since 1812 that nothing can be concluded from what occurred then. There is no excuse, however, for the defenceless state of our Pacific coast, and it is to be hoped that peace may be preserved with all the world until our Government and that of Great Britain get through with their correspondence and settle as to whose duty it is to attend to the matter. Another point of contrast between the Australians and Canadians has attracted our author's notice. It is a certain mood of pessimism to which the latter are subject. To borrow his own words—"there is a wide-spread feeling in the Dominion that although the new nation seems vigorous and healthy, it is somewhat 'out of sorts.' Nothing is hopelessly wrong with Canada. It has the vitality of a young country, and the undeveloped power that lies in its territories is immense; but Canadians think (little as they have spent or borrowed as compared with prosperous Australia) that they have borrowed and spent a great deal of money of late years and that the results of the expenditure are not yet sufficiently apparent." Sir Charles does not tell us in sufficient detail of Sir Julius Vogel and New Zealand debt, but goes on to enumerate the various tonics which are recommended for our ailing condition, although his own private opinion seems to be that we are a little hypochondriac. Rest would probably be the best thing. We get a good deal of "tariff" every year and a good deal of "church" so that we scarcely ever steady our nerves before we are treated to another shock. There are some other "problems"

which I trust to consider in a following paper; but the consoling thought that we shall be happier when we borrow more and that we still have a large margin to draw upon induces a pause for meditation.

S. E. DAWSON.

### LOVE-LAND.

Ah! Jenny! though life is not over,  
The sweetness of living is past;  
No longer we walk through the clover  
And watch the white clouds sailing fast;  
For a darkness has newly arisen  
To spread and to spoil our fair sky,  
All our days must be spent in a prison  
And the black cloud shall never pass by.

Ah! Jenny! though bright the scales glitter,  
In the midst of the coil lurks a fang,  
And the fruit of the almond is bitter  
Though the blossoms are fair while they hang;  
And the rose has a canker within it,  
And some day the lark will not sing,  
And the year that flew by as a minute  
Shall bear heavy on Love's broken wing.

Ah! Jenny! our play-book lies broken  
Behind us;—before is the page  
Hermetic;—and so for a token  
To charm away grief in our age  
Remember the words of Creation,  
Our "Let there be Love," when Love's fire  
Through our lips like a sacred libation  
Drenched our souls with the wine of desire.

Ah! Jenny! we journeyed together  
Life's road for a year and a day,  
Bright summer has been all our weather,  
Fair blossoms have strewn all our way;  
And shall we now part at the corner  
Of cross-roads and meet nevermore,  
Because the world leers like a scorner  
And mocks when we pass by its door?

Ah! Jenny! the hand that I gave you  
That night when I promised to keep  
Your heart—lo! I stretch out to save you  
And to save my own soul from Hell's deep;  
Let the world say its worst;—we shall never  
Hear its voice or see aught of its gloom,  
For in Love-land the birds sing forever  
And the roses are always in bloom.

SARREPTA

### "GRIM TRUTH."

I SPENT a pleasant half hour the other day reading a new short story by a young Canadian writer. The name of the story was "Grim Truth," and that of the writer (Miss) Alexia Agnes Vial. Miss Vial resides at Quebec, and if her book has a local flavour it is probably to be found in the quiet self-restraint of the style, in harmony with the general character of the best English society of the ancient capital.

The story is founded upon a little play of the imagination. In a certain town a strange form of mental disease breaks out and at once becomes epidemic. The stricken person, man or woman, finds all at once that he or she must speak the real truth—"grim truth" if necessary—in reply to every question asked. The question may be put in jest, as when the servant-maid asked the milkman how much water he had put into the milk that morning; but the answer must come in dead earnest, as when the milkman replied, "About half and half." The terrors of such a situation in any well organized society, held together by the usual conventionalities of speech and action, are obvious. Miss Vial introduces us to a garden party that had assembled on the very day on which the epidemic struck the town. It was an ordinary party composed of ordinary people, but, as soon as they began to talk to one another, and the truth would slip out instead of the usual smooth and diplomatic speeches, there was war. The hostess, surveying the scene from some coign of vantage, saw that everything was going wrong. There were frowns for smiles, angry colloquies in lieu of polite interchanges of civilities, people moving away from one another in evident anger, in a word all the signs of the presence of some disruptive force. The guests began to leave, assuring the astonished hostess as they did so that they had never been in such singular company or passed such an unpleasant time in their lives. I do not reproduce any of the dialogue, which is very lively, because to do so would hardly be fair, the whole story being so short; it ought to be read in the book itself.

For several days the disease continues to rage with great violence through the town. The fashionable doctor, attending a fashionable lady patient, tells her that there is positively nothing the matter with her. The clergyman is obliged to check himself as he is about to utter the words "dearly beloved brethren"; for the first time in his life he realizes that he does not love the brethren in question so much after all. Young ladies are obliged to answer their ardent swains with a real declaration of their feelings, until they feel like biting their own heads off and sending the swains to kingdom come. Everybody in fact has to make a clean breast of whatever secret he is hiding,