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December 1st, 1880.

THE TIMES.

It is a sad thing that so promising a career as Mr. Keller had before him should be brought to such a sudden and disastrous termination, but I think we ought to find room for a little sympathy with parties losing their money. This doesn't seem to have occurred to the daily papers when they were remarking about it.

The Jubilee Singers have come and gone, having had crowded houses, and given universal satisfaction. Their rendering of the "Jubilee" or "Spiritual" songs, as sung in former years by the slaves in the South, was a rich treat, and a novelty to nearly all hearers. Almost all the music is set in the minor key and the weird pathos acts like a charm on the senses. All the more are they to be honoured and helped when the object of their singing is remembered. They are making a noble effort to educate the African race. That is the best kind of missionary work I know of, and I am sorry that their visit to Montreal was not an unmitigated pleasure.

In the days of slavery, in the Southern States, the slave looked upon Canada as his sole haven of freedom. Many lost their lives, or were subjected to brutal treatment in their noble attempt to reach her shores, thinking that Canada once gained, they would be regarded as men. This was very nearly a score of years ago, and now they are free throughout the Continent, but in many places, though they are free, they are denied the common rights of humanity. They are treated with contumely and insult, are refused admission to hotels, etc., and are looked upon as inferior beings. In the United States, that

land of freedom and equality, where the star-spangled banner waves over the brave and the free, it also waves over the liberated slave, and has placed him *theoretically* upon an equal footing with his former master, but *practically* such is not the case. The sentiment is still against the coloured man, and will probably exist for many years yet; it is very difficult of eradication, and this feeling is, especially in the South, fostered and strengthened by attendant circumstances. The belief held by some that the negro's intellect is inferior to that of the white man is at the present time true, but why it is, can be explained by the admission that long years of slavery, oppression and suffering have blighted their powers. Phrenologically the Caucasian is superior, but it has yet to be shown that there is no chance of improving the intellectual capabilities of the negro.

Judge Johnson's judgment in the Berthier election case has settled the question of priestly interference. He said what all reasonable beings will accept, that the clergy of any and all churches have the full rights of citizens—they may speak for one candidate and against the other, they may argue this way or that, and advise according to their own minds, but to use ecclesiastical weapons to threaten a deprivation of ecclesiastical rights and privileges is to use undue influence—and the law should protect the poor uneducated and superstitious people from any such coercion. I say uneducated and superstitious, for the educated portion of the people are not likely to be much influenced by ecclesiastical terrorism.

"Endymion" has gone off with a rush in Canada. It may be a brilliant book, and it may be worthy of an Earl and ex-Premier who has been, and is, counted as one of the foremost men of the day, and who has had a great reputation as a *littérateur*, but I do not think so. To my mind it shows a lamentable decline of power and is altogether unworthy of the author's reputation. The book is utterly valueless as a help to an understanding of the last thirty or more years of English political life, for there is hardly a complete character in it. There are a few great sketches thrown in, but for the most part they are so mixed and imaginary as to completely bewilder the reader. There are a few brilliant turns of thought and rhetoric, but there are many more parts which fall below dullness. Here is an example :

"Then they were shown Myra's room, but she said nothing. Standing by with a sweet scoff, as it were, lingering on her lips, while her mother disserted on all the excellencies of the chamber. Then they were summoned down to tea."

Here is another sentence about Myra :

"She took also the keenest interest in the progress of her brother, made herself acquainted with all his lessons, and sometimes helped him in their achievement."

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me some space for the discussion of the questions raised by "Nihil Verius" anent the appointment of English graduates to positions in the High School. That there are Canadian graduates admirably fitted to hold such positions, we have very many instances to prove. But there can be no doubt that some truth lies in a remark made by one of themselves, that, as a rule, those who are worth anything won't take up teaching as a profession, while those who do are worth very little. In other words, the men who are really wanted think they have better things to do.

"Nihil Verius" speaks of "other things being equal," but how often is that the case? Presumably he knows of some applicant whom he considers in every respect equal to either of the two gentlemen whom he has seen fit to attack. A higher culture, due to undeniably more cultivated surroundings—a broader acquaintance with the subjects they have to teach—minds whose ideas go beyond the narrow notion of *utilitarianism* in education, so prevalent in Canada—a more extended sympathy with the rapid progress which education