

but a militia force is always available, and hence the advisability of raising it to a proper standard and maintaining it there. The Government has nobly seconded the general feeling, and deserves credit for many energetic improvements during the past few months. The establishment of a military college was a wise preliminary move, as it began the work of organization at its base. Now that Kingston has been chosen as the seat of this institution, it is to be hoped that it will be opened with the least possible delay. The report of Colonel FLETCHER on the model cadet school of West Point has already been forwarded to the Imperial authorities. The English papers have recognized that we could follow no better pattern, and probably by next spring we shall have a staff of competent professors and instructors to inaugurate the classes. The Government is said to have gone a step further in this direction. It has promised to provide uniforms and arms to such colleges and high schools as may desire to introduce the military drill, thus making them suffragans to the central establishment at Kingston. The project is a very good one indeed, and will work wonders towards stimulating young men in the career of arms. This system is pursued in Germany, England, France and the United States, and everywhere with the best results.

The nomination of a Major-General of Militia has likewise given a healthy impulse to our volunteer movement. Gen. SELBY SMYTH has been in the country only a few weeks, and yet he has already traversed the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, inspecting the different corps and making himself acquainted with their condition. He seems to be doing his work in a thoroughly business manner. He has no vain praise to shower on our young soldiers, thus deluding them, as has so often been the case, into that deceptive esteem of themselves which leads to presumption and consequent inertness. As he said at the review on the Champ de Mars, last Saturday: "I will not say that you are perfect soldiers. If I did, you would not believe me." But he points out their defects, encourages their good spirit, and explains to them how much they have yet to do before reaching the true military standard.

But there is a factor in this new reform which must not be lost sight of. Volunteers cannot do everything themselves. Neither will merely theoretic public opinion sustain them. They must be supported by those who employ the majority of them. It has been a standing complaint that young men, occupied in the different branches of trade, have not been allowed the leisure to attend to their military duties. Their patrons have preferred their own interests to that of the service. There is reason to hope that there will be some improvement in this respect. No employer need fear that he will lose anything by allowing one or two of his men a half-Saturday to attend his drill. It is demonstrable that there is ample compensation, in every line of business, for any such patriotic favours.

CANADIAN JOURNALISM.

Perhaps the most salient and palpable test whereby a stranger can judge of the standing of any community or country, is that of its newspapers. The tone of the journal indicates the prevailing spirit of the people, the quality of the articles denotes the capacity of their representative writers, and the advertising columns show the energy and enterprise of their business men. Tried by this criterion, Canada stands very well indeed. Both the number and character of its papers are quite up to the average standard of other countries, while the support which they receive testifies that the inhabitants are a reading people. The total of newspapers throughout the Dominion, according to the latest calculation, reaches the handsome figure of five hundred and fifty. This fact is more significant than appears at first sight. It proves that Canadians read as much proportionally as do the Americans. The

number of American newspapers is not more than five thousand five hundred—it was just 4,887 in 1871. Distributed among a population of 40,000,000, it gives precisely the same ratio as our 550 papers divided among a population of 4,000 people. We have not seen this striking circumstance mentioned anywhere as yet, and we call attention to it as a subject of pride to our countrymen, and an answer to our American neighbours with whom it is too fashionable to call Canadians an ignorant and backward race.

As to character, Canadian journals can also easily hold their own with their American rivals. Our country papers are as well printed, as well edited, and as well patronized as the same class of papers in the United States. It is true that in both cases, they are often rather commercial ventures than anything else, being established principally for advertisements. In Canada, as in the United States, as soon as half a dozen stores are opened in a settlement, some enterprising individual founds a newspaper to secure their patronage. Most country editors tell us that their papers, as such, do not pay, for their circulation averages only a few hundreds, and rural subscribers cannot be persuaded to pay in advance. But their job-work pays—their cards, posters, bill-heads, circulars, advertisements and miscellaneous printing. In the cities, the standard of journalism is high and most of our large towns can legitimately boast of their organs of public opinion. In the matter of mere news-gathering, we are doubtless far behind our American contemporaries, but it is a question whether that particular department has not been overdone by them, to the detriment of good taste and the almost constant violation of the sanctities of private life. With the majority of readers in the United States, it is the reporter, not the editor, who is the ruling spirit of a newspaper. They expect their journal to give them all the attainable news as early as possible, and with full details. In their morbid thirst they do not object to a little prematureness or imagination on the part of the writer. And the reporter is usually quite equal to his task. Not only do the editors think nothing of fabricating correspondence from every quarter of the globe, but the reporters ferret out and work up paragraphs of every conceivable nature into forms so alluring that one is inveigled into reading them, although he feels that he is losing his time in doing so. Indeed, it is a pity to see how much splendid writing is wasted on such perishable stuff. Yet special qualifications are required for the work. The reporter must be always sharp-eyed, quick-eared, alert and audacious. He must have a rapid pen, a brilliant imagination, and a reserve fund of humour to draw on whenever, as so often happens, the ludicrous in the scenes to be depicted, elbows the pathetic. Unfortunately, the reporter goes further than this, and often becomes dangerous because unscrupulous. He is satisfied if he can create a sensation, no matter at what cost.

From such abuses, the Canadian press is happily free, and even at the price of occasional dulness, its habitual reserve is commendable. With regard to personalities, also, in the heat of political discussion, a marked reform has taken place, under the guidance of the leading papers, and the probabilities are that shortly, we shall be able to conduct a political campaign and canvass the merits of our public men, without stooping to ribaldry and billingsgate.

BISMARCK AND ARNIM.

The latest intelligence from Germany is that Count Von ARNIM has been subjected to a second arrest in his own domicile. The cause of this unusual severity is still said to be connected with the abstraction of official papers from the archives of the Parisian embassy, but the general opinion

is that there must be a deeper reason, reaching far beyond any technical misconduct of the Count. Neither will the alleged personal hostility heretofore existing between Von BISMARCK and Von ARNIM explain the harsh treatment of the latter. Well-informed correspondence from Berlin points to serious complications in the German chancellery, of which the Von ARNIM case is the initial episode. This would appear to be nothing less than the removal of Von BISMARCK from the direction of affairs. That Von ARNIM should have been singled out for persecution by his great antagonist is explained by the former's bold, uncompromising character, his strong personal following, and the powerful influence of his family. It is also openly stated that the Empress AUGUSTA, the Prince IMPERIAL and the Princess IMPERIAL who detest Von BISMARCK, view with no unfavourable eye the beginning of a movement which may ultimately lead to his downfall. Whether the movement will succeed is another question.

Representative men are not so easily put down. Prince Von BISMARCK SCHONHAUSEN is one of these. However his enemies may rail, he is the greatest man that Germany can boast of since the days of FREDERICK. If Prussia is a first-class power to day, she owes it to Von BISMARCK. He rules the Emperor at his will, uses the army at his will, makes the former write his proclamations, makes the latter fight his battles where and when he wants them. It is his genius that sways the cabinet of Berlin; it was his spirit that brooded over the red field of Sadowa and rode triumphant in the tempest of Sedan. He has that energy and pluck which enter largely into the ideal of all greatness. He has that desperate courage which "makes one a majority." But with all these qualities, he lacks the art of acquiring that popularity which is based on real liking. He is imperious, over-bearing, violent, absolute and vindictive. His policy is regarded as unscrupulous, ungenerous and uncompromising. No friend of freedom can love him. He has trampled not only on the liberties of his own people, but has stripped his feeble neighbors of their autonomy. He is a feudal lord. He has scant sympathies with constitutional government. He is an old Norse baron, stubborn and unrelenting, *der mann von blut und eisen*—the man of blood and iron—as his countrymen call him. His enemies, while they acknowledge the debt which the Vaterland owes him, affirm that he has survived his usefulness, that he is fast undoing all that he did, by his terrorism and absolutism, and they even go the lengths of charging him with fits of mania. The old Kaiser's health is very precarious, and he may drop off at any moment. The object of Von BISMARCK'S adversaries is to have him out of the way, before the advent to the throne of the Prince IMPERIAL. If the case of Count Von ARNIM really has the significance here attributed to it, it assumes exceptional importance and the issue of it may be regarded as pregnant with serious results to Germany and Europe.

THE STATE OF ITALY.

The latest news from the Italian peninsula is of a satisfactory nature. Only a few months ago, there was a Parliamentary dead-lock, arising chiefly out of the low and almost bankrupt condition of the exchequer, but Signor SELLA, the Minister of Finance, after infinite pains and the display of consummate ability, submitted a hopeful scheme for a budget, and threw himself upon the goodwill of the country for support. The result of the general elections, just received by telegraph, indicates a powerful majority in favour of the ministry, notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts on the part of the several branches of the Opposition to break down their policy. The triumph of the MINGHETTI-SELLA Administration, under present circumstances, will be regarded by everyone acquainted with Italian affairs as perhaps the most important event since the occupation of Rome in 1870. It will

probably aid in putting the finishing touch to those reforms which the genius of CAVOUR, TAPARELLI-D'AZEGLIO, RICASOLI, RATAZZI, and MENABREA inaugurated, and the patriotism of VICTOR EMMANUEL has been endeavouring to carry out for the good of fair Italy.

It has been a gigantic task to accomplish the amalgamation of heterogeneous elements into one nationality. New organic laws had to be made to suit the exigencies of so many different peoples; radical proprietary transformations had to be operated in the face of vested rights and old traditional customs, and, in some instances, the odious *lex talionis* had to be mercilessly enforced. It were not true to say that all these changes have been conducted wisely, but, considering all the circumstances, the Italian people are to be congratulated on the progress they have made in constitutional government.

No nation ever excited so much sympathy as Italy. None has ever been more petted, caressed, and encouraged by foreign peoples. She was so unfortunate, that her neighbours helped her. When Lombardy was wrested from Austria, it was the genius of MACMAHON at Magenta and of NAPOLEON at Solferino which annexed that province to Sardinia. Seven years later, the province of Venetia was restored to Italy, but this was owing entirely to Prussia and the retrocession of France. GARIBALDI took the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, with the money, the secret military aid and the moral influence of England, as the history of the descent on Palermo and the memorable siege of Gaeta abundantly prove.

But Italy has been grateful, by showing herself worthy of such friendly intervention. She has laboured hard to retrieve herself and reform her abuses. When CAVOUR exclaimed: "*L'Italia farà da se*," he uttered a cry of proud independence revealing a consciousness of national strength, and affirming a purpose of thorough national regeneration. The promise has been kept, Italy has taken good care of herself, and now that she is entirely free from foreign domination, bids fair to recover all her ancient glory and European influence. From the present Administration, just emphatically endorsed by the people, we may hope for a completion of the work of Italian unity and stability.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

The question of woman's rights is again coming up to the surface. It is going to be openly advocated in the Congress of the United States, and it is being introduced with more or less success in several State Legislatures. In Wisconsin, the law is now that women shall enjoy the same elective rights and privileges with men. In England, a strong and very positive kind of petition in behalf of female rights is being signed extensively for ultimate presentation to Parliament. Female applications for degrees in several of the learned professions, medicine particularly, are more numerous than ever, and women in England, as well as in America, address public audiences on this and other subjects. That a very large proportion of women takes active interest in the movement we do not believe, but the comparatively small number that does is very energetic about it.

Spite of us, it is hardly possible to treat this subject seriously. The idea of women mingling in public affairs—in municipal and national elections—shoulder to shoulder with rough men in the boisterous politics of the day—eligible to high offices where iron characters are tested—and exercising professions which necessarily banish all maiden mawkishness, is so novel, so contrary to all notion of feminine sweetness, modesty, and delicacy, that we are apt to be hilarious over it, even when most gravely advocated. It need not, however, be a matter of sheer jest.

Woman is essentially a domestic creature. Her natural place is the fireside. Where she is not called by an inward voice to cloistral celibacy, or doomed by circum-