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*N.B.—During the summer months the SPECTATOR will be delivered free to subscribers residing in the country, who, as well as city subscribers who have changed their residence, are requested to send their new address to the Office, No. 162 St. James Street, to prevent irregularity in delivery.*

During the absence of Rev. A. J. Bray "The Times" will be discontinued. Letters, etc., for insertion are to be addressed as usual to the Editor, and those on business matters to the Manager.

## TORONTO AND ABOUT.

I must confess I am at a loss to understand the meaning of the insulting language of the *Toronto National* in its comments on the SPECTATOR'S remarks concerning the Roman Catholic convents of Toronto. I have not troubled myself to take notice of every trumpety insult the SPECTATOR receives at the hands of Toronto editors, but when, without the slightest provocation, it is given the lie direct from a rag baby organ, claiming to have at least some pretension to decency and politeness, I think I am warranted in reiterating the statements which appeared to call forth such insult, and enlarging upon the same. I should be glad to know what part of the offensive article was vulgar. I should be pleased if the *National* would point out the falsehood on "its very face," and prove it. I should also like to know what facilities the *National* has for learning the truth of my statements. Is it vulgar to make known such a shocking scandal as I attempted to show, and which I am prepared to prove? If these ladies, who, as the *National* says, devote their whole lives to the education of the young, would not shrink from winking at it, then, I think the sooner the public are made aware of it the better; to offer a premium for deceit is to encourage fraud, and surely no educational or other establishment should be encouraged in such nefarious practices, no matter who may be interested. If these ladies devote their whole time to the education of the young, so much the worse for this example of the looseness of their employment.

It appears we are not to have peace, or be exempt from party processions. The tremendous excitement at Hamilton proved annoying to some of our Catholic friends, and very foolishly they have determined to have a grand parade in about a month. Because the Orangemen did not have a grand demonstration in Toronto this year, they are of opinion the Papists should not walk either. Very little is said just yet, but there is a suspicion that the Orangemen are grievously put out. I am sorry the Hibernian societies have agreed to "walk," and I am sorry the Orangemen had such a monster turn-out. What right has Canada to these party processions? Should they not be made illegal, and the penalty of breaking the law enforced?

At least one-half of the Toronto architects have decided not to compete for the proposed new Parliament buildings, on account of the way Mr. Fraser has worded his instructions to architects. I have heard considerable speculation lately about these same proposed buildings,

as the time draws near when the plans are to be submitted for approval. It is not too late to express again a hope that the proposed buildings may not be erected just now, for, from what I am able to learn outside of Toronto, the proposal does not meet with such approval as one would be led to expect.

Will some one please congratulate us upon our advancement in the progress of education? Not only is Toronto the seat of learning whence emanates all that appertains to the far-famed school of education, but she is also becoming a second Oxford, as far as the building of colleges is concerned. First, there is the University with its college, a famous building; then comes Trinity College, of second fame; next in preference comes Knox's College; and lastly, St. Basil's (Catholic). But still another is to be added to the list, and a Baptist College soon will adorn the precincts of this enlightened capital. I sincerely hope that with all the learning in our midst, and our great facilities for acquiring learning, including the Blake Scholarship for Political Economy, we may ultimately discover a means whereby we can put into practice some few of the excellent hints thrown out by Professor Goldwin Smith for the better government of this much-governed Dominion. We have D.D.'s and M.A.'s by the score, while LL.D.'s and Q.C.'s are as little thought of as silver in the days of Solomon; but all these capital letters attached to men's names somehow or other do not appear to make them wiser or improve our political or social distresses. We are truly rejoiced to see so many colleges and universities in our land; we would also be rejoiced to see a college and university in our midst for conferring degrees for proficiency in practical common sense.

As the action of water wears away stones, so a constant zeal in any object is sure of ultimate success. The Toronto island for the last fifteen years has been a source of much vexation to the citizens and City Fathers; but by constant reminders of the local journals for the last few years, we have at last arrived to that position when we may be fairly said to be ready for a start in the way of improvement. It is very gratifying, therefore, to be able to say that there is every chance of the island becoming at no very distant date, instead of a nuisance, a very great benefit to the city. To restore the island is not only advisable, but is absolutely necessary, as the island is becoming every year more useless as a breakwater. This island is of so much importance to Toronto, that Torontonians generally would rather see its restoration than give fifty cents to the construction of the Huron and Ottawa Ship Canal; and this not on account of opposition to the canal, but because the restoration of the island is of such immediate importance.

The *Globe's* zeal in its advocacy of the abolition of the Senate calls forth considerable comment in Toronto; the capital of the Province being the home of several of the members of that body Torontonians therefore appear to consider the abolition of the Senate of local importance and look at it from a local standpoint. Popular opinion appear however to run in two grooves, at present widely apart but converging towards the same point; ultimately I presume those in favour of the abolition of the Senate and those in favour of a change in its constitution must meet on the same platform when, I trust as far as Toronto is concerned, the Senate will be abolished.

Again the bonus business is about to breed trouble in Toronto. At a late meeting of influential citizens Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Boswell—"That the council of the city of Toronto be petitioned to pass a resolution offering inducements to new manufacturers to establish their works here, by exempting such new institutions from