

expression of good will. It is to be hoped that he will never become proficient in arts which have been practised here with very gratifying results to the artist, but with bad results to our people. His good sense appears in his declaration that nothing shall induce him to reprint his occasional speeches. The playful motive which he assigns may be supposed to cover more serious reasons of taste and judgment; he sees that there is no greater betrayal of vanity than a volume of speeches re-printed when their importance is gone. He would be a great man or something approaching one if he could, by a still higher act of self-abnegation, resign himself to acting simply as the representative of a Constitutional Monarchy and refrain from making any use of the artificial authority connected with his rank and office for the purpose of influencing opinion, and thus interfering with the natural course of destinies which he is not to share. But it may safely be said that he is above the noxious littleness of tampering with the press and tuning its organs in his own praise. From his grandfather, the Nestor of Liberalism both in age and counsel, he ought to inherit a mind at once liberal and sure-footed. The stories of his harshness as an Irish landlord are untrue. Though he is an absentee his estates are kindly administered, and he is popular with his tenantry. These calumnies, and the attempts to excite dangerous feelings against him, seem to have been clearly traced, not to anybody in Canada, but to the enterprising editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, who caters, and is no doubt worthy to cater, for the dynamiters and thugs of Chicago. Among the Canadian Irish there has been little or no feeling of sympathy with the criminal parts of the movement; nor have their organs, like the Fenian papers in the United States and in Ireland, poured a torrent of calumnious ordure over the British Government, and over the characters of all British men and women. Their comparative freedom from bitterness, with the British flag always before their eyes, seems to show that the anti-British frenzy of their brethren south of the line is not spontaneous, but the work of demagogues, and that if the demagogues were out of the way, it would be likely to subside. Lord Lansdowne has disapproved parts of Mr. Gladstone's agrarian legislation; but parts of Mr. Gladstone's agrarian legislation are disapproved by persons who are neither large proprietors of Irish land nor small proprietors of good sense.

On the delicate questions of Canadian destiny Lord Lansdowne touched with judicious reserve, though by his order as well as by his office he is bound to adopt the Imperialist view. His theory of the proper relations between the colonies and the Mother Country he expressed under the image of saplings growing up around the parent tree. No friend of independence, at any rate, will quarrel with that similitude; for with maturity, the life of each sapling becomes independent; nor does any tree in the forest send a Governor-General to another. The Dryad in her teens no doubt feels towards her leafy mother the affectionate reverence which all British Canadians cherish towards the Mother Country, and which is at least as strong in the breasts of Nationalists as in those of the politicians of both parties who voted for the Home Rule resolutions. It would be perilous to dally with these high themes. But there is one very simple and practical piece of advice which might be useful to the Governor-General if it could find its way to his august ear. Let him cause to be prepared by some unofficial hand and hung where it will often meet his eye, a map of the Dominion showing distinctly the boundaries of the cultivable territory, and also the territory occupied by a solid population of French. Such a map, presenting the real conformation and geographical relations of his realm, will teach him, by a method as simple as that of an object lesson, truths alike as to the present and the future, which he will hardly learn from official documents or from official lips.

In a social point of view it is not very easy even for the wisest of Governors to prevent his Court from producing its effects. When we read the Court list of persons of fashion who have attended His Excellency's State ball or reception, and the descriptive catalogues of ineffable millinery, in which each Court lady delights to see her expensiveness chronicled, we cannot help feeling that, compared with this sort of thing, even Socialism may have something to say for itself. It is this sort of thing, in truth, that, by filling the minds of the people at once with envy and contempt of the wealthy, makes Socialism flourish. If, as the advocates of the institution always assume, colonial manners need to be refined, this is not the way to refine them. Whatever vulgarity exists can only be made ten times more vulgar by that which fosters at once servility and ostentation. At a State ball in one of the Australian colonies a gentleman who had the misfortune to tread on the gorgeous dress of a great lady, received, to his surprise, from the wearer's lips, a double-shotted epithet, which lost none of its vernacular raciness from being uttered within the precincts of a Court. In the case of a real aristocracy, folly

and display are half justified by tradition and are softened by hereditary taste. Vice-royalty in no way oppresses us, but it misleads us. In politics it makes us rely on a fiction instead of working out real securities for the stability and authority of government. In manners it directs our aim to an ideal which, happily for us, never can be ours. No manners in the world are in reality better than those of the self-made man of this continent, so long as he is content to be himself. The Governor-General may, at all events, and it cannot be doubted that he will, refrain as far as possible from stimulating extravagance, which, where incomes are small, is really cruel. What are likely to be the consequences of opening a Castle Rackrent at Ottawa, he may learn by inquiry into the experience of the past. Some of the Government clerks are said still to rue the day.

IN June last, it will be remembered, a formal indictment for a most serious offence was preferred by the *Globe* against Mr. Shields and against the Government as his alleged employer and confederate. Mr. Shields, it was averred, had been the agent of the Government in the last elections and had expended on that side a very large sum of money, (apparently over \$300,000) which was to be repaid to him by a corrupt re-classification and re-measurement of his work as contractor on Section B. of the Canada Pacific Railway. It was further averred that an honest engineer had been removed from the section for the purpose of facilitating this nefarious transaction. A new Pacific Railway Scandal in short, at least as foul as the first, had come to light. The charge, it is right to say, was made not in the loose and vituperative fashion to which we have been too much accustomed, but deliberately, circumstantially, and so as to challenge a distinct reply. Mr. Shields commenced an action for libel, but after several postponements, the object of which may possibly have been to keep the scandal suspended during the progress of the bye-elections, he has at length abandoned the prosecution and let his suit fall to the ground. The inference is inevitable. It is greatly strengthened by the general character of Mr. Shields, and by his sinister appearances on several other occasions. How comes he, a railway contractor and not a politician, to be expending his energies in the management of elections or doing the work of party in other equivocal transactions? That nothing is impossible to political animosity amidst the frenzy of a general election Canada already knows too well. The scene will now, it is to be presumed, be shifted to the House of Commons. Unfortunately, the result of an appeal to "the Grand Inquest of the Nation" is not a judicial investigation, but a faction fight. If a committee is appointed, party packs the committee, party sits umpire in its conduct of the inquiry, and when the inquiry is completed, party delivers the final judgment. An impartial tribunal, proceeding by the method of judicial investigation, is as much needed for the trial of these offences as for the trial of election cases, and nothing but the extreme moral sensitiveness of politicians stands in the way of its introduction. That the majority will vote down inquiry altogether is a surmise which may be at once discarded; no majority would be so brazen; besides the Governor-General would in such a case, doubtless use the power vested in him and insist on a dissolution. Nor is it likely that recourse will again be had to the singular expedient, sanctioned by Lord Dufferin, of transferring the investigation from Parliament to a Royal Commission appointed by the advice of the accused Ministers. Mr. Alpheus Todd, who, in his book, speaks of the whole of Lord Dufferin's conduct in the devout accents of unscrutinizing adoration, has elsewhere avowed that he did not approve the appointment of a Royal Commission. It is necessary that the people and those who guide the minds of the people should rouse themselves and give their watchful, and as far as possible their impartial, attention to this case. As the natural consequence of countless breaches of public morality, perpetrated and condoned by Party, and of the systematic corruption of the electorate, callousness is creeping over the public conscience. It is an unpleasant fact, but a fact it is, that the standard has sunk lower in Canada than in the United States. Mr. Colfax, a man previously in good standing, was driven from public life for a delinquency less gross than some which, in this country, have not only been committed with comparative impunity, but afterwards gilded over by the prostitution of Imperial honours. The face of freedom is fair, but it will be of little value to us when the heart has been eaten out by political corruption.

THE restoration of Mr. Mills to his seat for Bothwell is an accession of strength to an Opposition much in need of reinforcement. It is also a triumph of justice: for Mr. Mills had evidently been jockeyed out of the seat, though it is not necessary to ascribe to the Prince of Darkness in person the machinations by which the work of evil was effected; the activity of the local imps on both sides is quite sufficient to account for any exploits of this kind. Mr. Mills possesses not only more than the