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"What well-directed training schools can accomplish," says the *Canadian Manufacturer*, "is illustrated in the case of the dairy-schools of Denmark. That Government has for years spent over \$50,000 yearly for the maintenance of dairy-schools. The result has been an immense improvement in dairy products, and a lively demand for Danish butter. Within twenty years Denmark's exports of butter have increased from \$2,100,000 to \$13,000,000 per annum." The preference of Danish and Dutch to Canadian butter in the English market has been a reproach to the butter-makers of the Dominion, which, we trust, will soon be deprived of justification.

In a recent number (August 10) of the *Toronto Merchant* there is an article on "Fallacious Ideas of Merchants," which it may do some members of the mercantile community some good to read. "There are merchants," it begins, "possessed of the idea that time spent in conversation with the travelling salesman is so much time wasted;" and then it goes on to show that these travellers are mostly intelligent men, whose business gives them wide and varied opportunities of acquiring knowledge, which the merchant, who seldom leaves home, cannot be expected to obtain. To refrain from conversing with a man thus well informed as to the course of trade throughout the country, on the plea of time-saving, is, the *Merchant* urges, a false economy.

In a contribution to the *Star*, written with his usual charm of style, Mr. S. E. Dawson has fitting words of praise for the new short line from Montreal to St. John, N.B. He mentions an anomaly, however, the continuance of which we would earnestly deprecate. In St. John, it appears, the visitor from Montreal, seeking the news in his familiar *Herald* or *Gazette*, *Witness* or *Star*, seeks in vain, while experiencing no difficulty whatever in securing a *Mail*, a *Globe*, an *Empire*, or a *World*. This rarity of Montreal and abundance of Toronto papers may, it is true, be owing to natural causes. Our Toronto "contemporaries" may be accessible in that fair and thriving city by the sea, for the simple reason that Toronto proprietors are more enterprising and wide awake to their own interests than their journalistic brethren of Montreal. Mr. Dawson, indeed, does not hesitate to make comparisons which are not flattering to the Montreal press. It was that of Ontario, not of Montreal, that sent representatives to the Carnival, although that most successful *fête* celebrated an event that especially concerned this city. For Montreal is the point on the St. Lawrence that was brought into direct connection with the Atlantic

at St. John by the opening of the Short Line Railway. If mere apathy be at fault—strange as such apathy must, in the circumstances, be considered—the remedy is within reach, as far as the supply of papers is concerned; and Mr. Dawson has done well to stir up his fellow-citizens.

But he seems disposed to invest his disappointment with a further and more deplorable significance. He hints at the possible isolation of this province from the English-speaking communities on either side of it; at Toronto and St. John "joining hands over our heads." And he ascribes the risk of that misfortune befalling us to "the prevalence of the French language and the continual discussion of French questions." It is true, as he points out, that at the last census there were 56,635 residents of French origin in New Brunswick, so that there is really more ground for sympathy (apart from their contiguity) between Quebec and New Brunswick than between New Brunswick and Ontario. Montreal certainly (as Mr. Dawson reminds us) lost an opportunity in not making more of the carnival and the railway, which helped to give it *raison d'être*. But, to whatever cause that neglect may be attributed, we cannot think that it arose out of either indifference or slight. Our own experience is that the kindest feelings are reciprocated by the English-speaking elements in the two provinces, and as for the relations between Acadian and Canadian French, they never were so cordial as they have been for the last twelve months or so. The writings of Abbé Casgrain, M. Rameau de Saint Père, Senator Poirier, Benjamin Sulte, and others, in the Old World and the New, have done much to bring about this *rapprochement*.

If the Elixir of Life is not "as old as the hills" (or was it "the Flood?") as a distinguished professor asserts, it is certainly old enough to be no novelty. The word, like many other scientific terms introduced into Europe in the Middle Ages, is of Arab origin, though the Arabs may have derived it (as they derived much of their knowledge) from the Greeks. It was originally used to denote the philosopher's stone, but was afterwards applied to fluids as well as solids. Potions bearing the name of *Elixir vitæ* have been practically countless. Only one of these has taken permanent place in pharmacy—that of Matthiolus, which was once given to relieve epileptic attacks. Of the more pretentious preparations of the name, Dr. Francis Shepherd, of this city, mentions some of the most famous in an article on "Medical Quacks and Quackeries," which appeared in the *Popular Science Monthly* for June, 1883.

We are behind the times in some respects, doubtless. If a Canadian judge or ex-judge raised murderous hands against a brother of the Bench, or if, to prevent such a scandal, some quick-eyed Canadian sheriff were to anticipate his proper functions as the supreme dispenser of justice, what an outcry there would be. Why, we would think the world was coming to an end. The Terry-Field-Nagle tragedy belongs to a class of "sensations" which, happily, are virtually impossible on Canadian soil.

Not, indeed, that we can claim a social record entirely bloodless. There are persons still living who can recall the years when duelling was sanctioned by the makers, and winked at by the interpreters, of our laws. Affairs of honour were not unknown in Canada in the early years of the present reign, though it is to the credit of Her

Majesty and the late Prince Consort that they constantly frowned upon the sanguinary code; till eventually it fell into desuetude. Although, even in its worst days, the practice was not so frequent in Canada as in Europe, it was more often attended with fatal results, in proportion to the number of encounters. The death of Major Ward is still remembered by some of our readers. "John White, Esquire, His Majesty's Attorney-General," William Weekes, barrister-at-law, and "Young Ridout," son of Surveyor-General Ridout, fell victims to the code of honour within the space of twenty years in Upper Canada. The seconds, in this last case, one of whom was then serving as Attorney-General, were brought to trial eleven years after the fatality and were acquitted.

But, in the matter of duelling, Canada was moderation itself compared with the Mother Country. No office or dignity (if it were not clerical) was deemed a valid plea for exemption from the tyrannous usage. To decline a challenge called for a nobler exercise of courage than to accept it. The provocations on which men were called out were sometimes of the most trivial character. A statesman's duty to the commonwealth did not shield him from the annoyance. Wilberforce was challenged by a sea captain, who considered himself insulted by one of the philanthropist's speeches on the slave trade. In the early years of the century there was hardly a public man who had not offered himself as a mark for a bullet. Pitt fought a duel while he was Prime Minister. So did Fox and Canning and the Duke of Wellington. Peel was the last statesman of the first rank to send or receive a challenge.

The change in opinion on this question has in England been equivalent to a social revolution. We cannot realize such a thing as Lord Salisbury or Mr. Gladstone going out some morning to exchange shots with some hasty-tempered opponent. The duel between M. Floquet and General Boulanger seemed to emphasize the contrast between the tone of thought and life in England and that which prevails on the other side of the Channel. Yet a few generations ago the sword or the pistol was the final court of appeal in questions of "honour" in England even more than in France. In the latter country, perhaps, the custom would ere this have died out were it not that convention has made it little more than a form. Certainly, where a brief matutinal exercise in swordmanship and a mere scratch given or received can satisfy all the laws of honour, duelling is less brutal than the lawless and treacherous shooting which has taken its place among our neighbours. If to slay a man in a duel be murder, then to shoot a man down without warning is seventold murder.

## SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S POSITION.

Some difference of opinion seems to exist as to the position of Sir Charles Tupper with respect to the Imperial Federation movement. Some Canadian journals have commented on his recent speeches as though they implied the assent of the Government and people of Canada to his proposal of a convention. Such a conclusion is certainly not justified by what Sir Charles said either at the anniversary banquet of the Imperial Federation League or at the subsequent council meetings of that body. His utterances on the former occasion, which were briefly summarized in this journal, were simply intended to give a practical tendency to the policy of the League. On that