



The gravest beast is the Ass; the gravest bird is the Owl;
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1892.



THE death of Alfred Tennyson at the ripe old age of eighty three is mourned wherever the English language is spoken. Following closely upon the death of his American compeer Whittier it emphasizes the fact that the intellectual activities of the present generation do not run in the direction of poetry. Tennyson's works will always hold a high rank among English classics, which is more than can be said of any living

writer of English verse.

THERE is likely to be some difficulty in filling the vacant laureateship, owing to the very limited number of available candidates—there being but two or three poets in Britain to-day whose verses rise above mediocrity. If the office is to be continued, it would be a graceful act on the part of the British Government to extend the circle of selection and appoint a Canadian to the office. Archibald Lampman, W. W. Campbell, or Bliss Carman can any of them hold their own with the present race of English singers. But the office, which is an anachronism at best—and might be a bribe at worst—ought to be abolished.



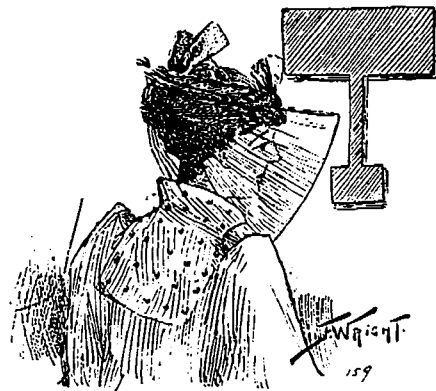
as an outrage on free speech.

So nearly as we can understand the *Globe*, Sir Mowat did perfectly right in dismissing Elgin Myers and Prof. Goldwin Smith is equally right in protesting against the act

So you are right
And I am right,
And all is right as right can be,

as the Mikado hath it. Now let the editor try and reconcile Free Will with Fore-ordination or tackle some hefty problem of that kind.

THE *World*, which is usually better informed than its contemporaries on Government affairs, hints at the probability of the appointment of Hon. J. C. Patterson as Minister of the Interior in place of the incapable Dewdney. The change will be greatly to the credit of the Administration. The Ottawa Government has certainly done wisely in making a live paper like the *World* the medium through which information of their intentions is conveyed to the public, rather than the sleepy old *Empire*. In last Saturday's issue the latter concern announces that it has no knowledge of the Government's intentions on the Manitoba school matter—a rather singular confession for an alleged organ to make.



HE opinion seems to prevail in well-informed circles that the demand of the Roman Catholic hierarchy for "remedial legislation" in the matter of the Manitoba school law is simply a bluff, and that the real purpose

of the move is to force a compromise by which large tracts of school lands held by the Dominion in trust for educational purposes would be handed over to the Catholic Church. Such a proposal ought not to be entertained for a moment. It is, if anything, worse than the imposition of a separate school law upon the Manitobans against their will. From such a measure, harsh and unjust as it would be, growing intelligence and the increased influence of the West would bring future relief—but the lands once handed over would remain in the dead hand of the Church forever—and as they increased in value enable the hierarchy to levy a heavy tax upon the community for sectarian purposes.

THE experience of the difficulties and heart-burnings over the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question ought to be sufficient to prevent a repetition of the fatal mistake of endowing religious corporations with tracts of land. But in the present demoralized condition of public opinion and utter absence of anything resembling statesmanship or public spirit in the national councils, there is no outrage on sound legislative traditions, common sense or justice from which we are exempt so long as it happens to serve the purposes of a temporary and purblind party expediency. Some day, however, an awakening will come, and it will go very hard with the promoters and beneficiaries of land-grabbing schemes, whether religious or secular.

AN anti-Catholic political movement is sincerely to be deprecated by all good citizens, and if any agitation