

of keel. The recent races on the Clyde and elsewhere between the "Vigilant" and the "Britannia" must have now convinced anyone who may have accepted either of those conclusions that the induction was built upon too narrow a basis of facts and was therefore unwarranted. There is, it must be confessed, something not a little puzzling in the fact that in American waters the yacht which had previously vanquished the "Britannia" on the other side of the ocean, should have been beaten with comparative ease by the "Vigilant," and that the "Vigilant," in its turn, should have been repeatedly outsailed by the "Britannia" in British waters. A good deal has been said about the tortuousness of the British courses and the uncertainty of the winds on both sides of the ocean, but it is hard to account for the almost uniform series of successes of the one boat in the one case, and of the other boat in the other case, on any such grounds. At the same time it must be admitted that, notwithstanding the great preponderance of victories in favor of the Prince of Wales' boat in these last races, the margin by which they were won in almost every case was so narrow that it is impossible to resist the reflection that a very slight variation in wind, or position, or some other variable condition, might have changed the result in each event. Indeed the closeness of the contests was one of the most remarkable features of the races. It is evident that a third trial—why not in neutral waters, to which both are equally unaccustomed—between these boats or others yet to be built, will be necessary before the question of superior skill can be regarded as settled.

The assembling last week in this city of a body of no less than five or six thousand delegates to a convention of young people representing one of the evangelical denominations calls attention to a movement which has been making great headway during the last few years, and which can scarcely be devoid, to any thoughtful mind, of a profound significance. Such institutions as the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, the Epworth League, and the Baptist Young People's Union of America, seem to mark the entrance of young men and women, as never before, into aggressive religious work. It is true that for many years the Young Men's Christian Association, with its branches all over Christendom, has been engaged in somewhat similar work, with no small measure of success. But these later organizations are different, in that, while working on what seem to be somewhat narrow lines, they confine themselves more exclusively to distinctly religious and educational as distinct from philanthropic work. Statistics in the United States, and presumably in Canada, have shown a marked tendency on the part of young men, of late years, to hold aloof from the churches. If this movement means, as

many think, the beginning of a great reaction, in the direction of religious profession and effort, its progress may well be watched with interest. Should the different societies develop their organizations along right lines, they may possibly do much to supply the practical moral training and thoughtful conscientiousness, the want of which has caused and is causing in many minds very serious apprehensions as to the tendency of our purely secular systems of education. There is sure to be a good deal in connection with the methods of such assemblies which the more sober-minded can hardly approve, but on the whole it is a hopeful sign of the times when young people by the thousands are found preferring to spend their brief summer holidays in attending meetings of the kind held in Toronto last week, rather than in the pursuit of pleasure in more common and perhaps less safe channels.

The session of the Dominion Parliament which has just closed was an important and a somewhat remarkable one. The great question to be fought out and settled as soon as possible after the opening was that of the promised tariff changes. It is needless now to repeat the story. Everybody knows how very soon after the opening the Minister of Finance made his Budget speech, in which the tariff-reform which had been so earnestly demanded by a large proportion of the citizens, and so distinctly promised by the Government, seemed to be granted on a tolerably large scale, and how, for weeks from that date the Minister succumbed, now in reference to one set of commodities, now another, to the pressure which was brought to bear upon him mainly by the representatives of manufacturing interests. A very large percentage of the reduction promised in the Budget has been withdrawn and, with one or two important exceptions, the tariff is either pretty nearly in *statu quo*, or the promised reductions have not been made on any large scale. Even the obnoxious specific duties, which constituted one of the chief causes of popular complaint, have been restored in one case after another, until the bulk of the reforms promised in that regard are wanting. The upshot of the whole business, is that the question of tariff-reform is still the great issue before the country for decision at the next election. Had the Budget proposals been adhered to, the Government would have materially strengthened its position at the point where it has been most vigorously assailed. Pending the next election, it is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty, to what extent the farmers and other opponents of the protective tariff will swallow their resentment at the evidently prepondering influence of the manufacturing firms and to what extent cherish their disappointment and give it expression at the polls. It is

pretty safe to say that very much will depend upon the state of business throughout the country during the intervening period.

Next to tariff-reform, the most important Government measures were the Insolvency Bill, the ratification of the French Treaty, and the subsidizing of the fast North Atlantic Steamship scheme. The Insolvency Act is, wisely, in view of the seemingly irreconcilable differences of opinion among the classes more immediately affected, held over. It is doubtful whether any bill can be drawn which will so far reconcile the wide differences of opinion in mercantile and financial circles, as to insure the hearty support of a good majority of representatives. The first principles of such a measure have, seemingly, yet to be agreed on. The other two great questions have been so recently treated of in these columns that we need not recur to them. The bringing down, at the last moment, a supplementary estimate of sums amounting in the aggregate to millions of dollars, to be either voted or re-voted to prospective railways all over the country, is indefensible. Surely this is just the kind of appropriations which needs to be carefully scrutinized by Parliament. It is a species of business, too, which even the strongest partisan should be able to consider apart altogether from party predilections. The necessity alleged of procuring an Order in Council authorizing the proposals is a very weak excuse for the delay. Whether Mr. Laurier's proposed audit would or would not be the best means of safe-guarding the proper expenditure of these moneys, it can hardly be denied that, in view of such frauds as have within the last few years been brought to light in regard to the disposal of these subsidies, the greatest care should be taken to see that every dollar reaches its proper destination. One would have supposed that a Government, conscious of the rectitude of its intentions, would have heartily concurred in devising some system whereby suspicion would be disarmed.

From the moment that the lawless classes in Chicago and other western cities began their work of outrage and arson, in connection with the late strike, we unhesitatingly took the position that the first duty of the authorities, State and, if necessary, National, was to protect property and restore order, at whatever cost. It was obviously necessary that they should do this without staying to inquire whether the strikers, themselves, were or were not really responsible for the lawlessness. That was an after question to be decided by careful investigation, and it is a gratifying proof that President Cleveland desires to be fair as well as firm, that he has appointed or is about to appoint an impartial Commission to inquire into the facts concerning the strike, that referred to no doubt, amongst others. But it is the journalist's duty to