

lesson taught by the ejection is one which may in the future be useful in dealing with contractors who fail to work up to the lines of their duty.

For the present Mr. Abbott is not to resign the premiership, but is to go to England to consult Sir Andrew Clarke. He suffers, it appears, from a rush of blood to the head and is in need of rest. We shall learn from the consultation with the celebrated English physician what chance there is of his being likely to recover so far as to be able to discharge the duties of his office. That he is unfit for work or worry at present is beyond doubt.

One possible cause of emigration from Quebec has been but lightly touched upon; but there is no doubt that the exactions of a Church with legal authority to collect tithes are felt to be a great strain on the rural population. Occasionally the priesthood produces an enthusiast in favor of colonization; but this does not balance the account of the tithe system. Just now another complaint against certain of the clergy is being made in two reputable organs of the French press. It is the old story of the abuse of the confessional, in which sexual immorality is made to play a part. It is impossible not to feel, in reading Father Chiniquy's book, in which the same accusation is made, that the author generalizes too much and converts into universality some known cases of abuse. But it is impossible to say how general the abuse is; for the *penitentes* are impressed with the alleged sacredness of all that passes in the confessional, and above all things with the duty of preserving absolute silence in regard to them. But the confessional would find a poor refuge in any attempt to make it the shelter for crimes committed by the confessor. Nevertheless the confessional could scarcely become a hot-bed of crime without the truth regarding it becoming public. Good Catholics, in Quebec, begin to insist on knowing what happens to their wives and daughters in the confessional; the inquiry is such as may portend a social and religious revolution. The attempt which will be made to suppress it will be watched with profound interest.

Venezuela is once more the victim of anarchical conditions. A demand was made, at the instance of Mendoza, through his commander at La Guayra, to squeeze a large sum out of the merchants of the place; from \$500 to \$2,000 each was asked from them, and they were told that they would be held as prisoners till the money was paid. In addition to this, the consuls of ten different countries were placed under arrest. The English, French and Spanish consuls, who had not been subjected to this outrage, agreed to stand by the others. Not till the war ships of the foreign nations got up steam as a means of obtaining redress, did Mendoza telegraph to release the consuls.

It has been known for some time that American whaling vessels carried on smuggling on the shores of Hudson's and James'

Bays. Mr. Parmalee, the Canadian Commissioner of Customs, has gone north to gather information about these practices; and it is probable that as a means of preventing the perpetration of this abuse, protective posts will be established by our Government on the shores of these bays

#### PRESIDENT - CANDIDATE HARRISON'S PROGRAMME.

Between his re-nomination by the Republican Convention and the formal acceptance of the candidature for a second term of the United States Presidency, Mr. Harrison has allowed some months to pass. By this means he brings down the review of the situation, as seen through party glasses, to a date much nearer the day when the electorate must decide between the candidates of the two parties. The letter of acceptance is intended to go over the whole ground of the issues in dispute between the Republicans and the Democrats. For the most part, Mr. Harrison is on the defensive, and his business is to make apologies for what has been done.

Reciprocity, so far as it is favored by the McKinley tariff, is made a subject of eulogy. That policy has been brought into operation in connection with five countries in Central and South America, and with San Domingo, the Spanish and British West Indies, in North America, and with Germany and Austria in Europe. The achievement when viewed in the light of this catalogue, has a formidable appearance. But the whole trade of Central and South America with the northern republic is less than that of the latter with Canada: a fact which the Democrats do not fail to point out. But are the Democrats, for that reason, enemies of reciprocity? On the contrary, their main objection is that the reciprocity favored by the McKinley tariff is too limited; and for saying so, Mr. Harrison asks the rejection of the opposing candidate on the pretence that Mr. Cleveland and his party are opposed to reciprocity. Apparently Mr. Harrison favors such reciprocity only as will bring "free importation of such articles as do not injuriously compete with the products of our own farms, mines or factories, in exchange for the free or favored introduction of our products into other countries." On these lines, reciprocity with Canada is made nearly if not absolutely impossible. Of course it might be bought with a price, but if that price were the ruin of our own manufactures, the whole force of Mr. Harrison's argument, in favor of his own country, would go to show that it would be too much to pay. We have only to transpose his reasons from American to Canadian policy, to arrive at this conclusion. On the whole, he must look upon reciprocity with Canada as practically out of the question; and this conclusion the history of his administration in dealing with the question seems to fully warrant. The McKinley form of reciprocity is represented by Mr. Harrison as fairly making the hair of "startled" and "alarmed" Europe stand on end. How salutary this scare was is proved by the result, which opened the

gates of more than one European country to the long-suffering and much-maligned American hog.

It concerns Mr. Harrison much that the Democratic platform goes on a higher plane of free trade than this "sham reciprocity." The sham consists in the nature and the limits of the measure, which is real as far as it goes: the pretence of favoring reciprocity as a principle, while rejecting it where it is capable of extensive application. Mr. Harrison forthwith runs away with the idea that the Democrats are opposed to reciprocity, as far as it has been applied, and he becomes eloquent over the woes which the American farmer would suffer under a Democratic President. He tells the farmer he is threatened with the loss of the new markets opened to him. The fact is valuable as showing what a large place the farmer's vote occupies in this campaign, and how difficult it would be to induce him to agree to the free introduction of competing products which he is told could only result in his injury. It does not occur to the President-candidate that when the wants of Europe make the prices for grain, the fact of the grain of other countries which the United States may be in a position to handle, would, if so handled, secure middlemen's profits and the profits of the carriers, while it could make no difference to the American farmer whether this surplus grain found its way to Europe through the intervention of American enterprise, or was sent by Canadians through the St. Lawrence. Or if any glimmering suspicion of the truth occurs to him, party policy requires that he should suppress it, and not allow it to develop for the enlightenment of others or even of himself. Here Mr. Harrison is willing to sacrifice mercantile and carrying profits, that no obstacle to the delusion of the American farmer may interpose. The delusion is now at its height; but the tendency of this form of folly is to dissipate before the light of advancing knowledge.

On the subject of the currency, the Democrats have unwisely given the opposing party a real advantage. As a means of favoring the National Bank system, Congress extinguished the circulation of the State banks by putting a tax of five per cent. on their issues. The Democrats advocate the repeal of this tax. Their opponents jump to the conclusion that, if this were done, a return to the bank frauds which were so numerous in former times would be inevitable. Very few people know the full history of American banking, which has never been written and exists only in a condition which makes it inaccessible even to those who have the greatest interest in knowing. Nearly all the bankers who are adherents of both parties, assume that the repeal of the National Bank law would lead to a revival of the banking frauds which were so common during the ante-bellum period. This fear goes beyond reasonable possibility. The main question turns on the security of the notes, and it is assumed, contrary to fact, that the present form of security originated with and is peculiar to the National Bank system. The truth is that,