

of the Central Experimental Farm, and his exhaustive report clearly indicates that impure water was one of the main causes of the recent epidemic. In the course of it, Prof. Shutt says:—"Applying the standards of purity proposed by Drs. Muter and Wigner, the celebrated English analysts, the Ottawa water would rank as undrinkable. Mr. Wigner's scale is as follows.

Extremely pure water.....	15
First-class water.....	40
Second-class water.....	65
Third-class water beyond.....	65

The Ottawa water, according to this, stands at 134.

It is hardly necessary to say that this condemnation of the river water for potable purposes is heartily endorsed by the Ottawa disciples of Bacchus, and it is interesting to mark the renewed vigor and persistency of their recourse to the flowing bowl, in order to counteract the poisonous effects of any water which may by mistake have penetrated their "interior economy." I would advise Maritime members who sit for Scott Act counties to bring their own water-supply with them, unless their firm adherence to total abstinence principles teaches them to scoff at microbes, bacteria, and other aquatic denizens. If they should happen to come without it, they may be interested to know that the standard parliamentary beverage at present is five cents a glass.

There is always more or less divergence of sentiment between Ottawa and her border sister, Toronto, but seldom has this been more strikingly exemplified than during the week just past. In various churches of the capital three eloquent Evangelists have been magnifying the power of the evil one, and exhorting our people to buckle on their Christian armor and battle with all their might against his rapidly-increasing ranks, while in the "Queen" city, a gentleman by the name of Johnson, who professes intimate acquaintance with realms Plutonian, has proclaimed on the public platform that the devil was a human being, but is now dead, and that the bottomless pit is frozen over! This Mr. Johnson, of Toronto, is not the first to tell us that the prince of darkness is incarnate, for Shakespeare says in King Lear, Act III, S. 4:—

"The Prince of Darkness is a gentleman."

And Heinrich Heine—

"He is not ugly, and is not lame,  
But really a handsome and charming man;  
A man in the prime of life is the devil."

However, I imagine that Mr. Johnson announces a startling bit of news when he proclaims His Satanic Majesty's obituary; and he certainly made a notable discovery when he found that the temperature of the nether regions had fallen below freezing point. But if Mr. Johnson's announcement be correct, the wicked man and the transgressor will probably find little solacement in it, because if the regions referred to are half as cold as Dakota and Minnesota have been during the past ten days, the old time torridity of Sheol would doubtless prove more agreeable to settlers.

Ottawa.

DIXIE.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

#### A NEW VIEW OF THE ANNEXATION QUESTION.

The stirring and patriotic appeal which concludes an article in your issue of the 26th, entitled "The Past Year," has, I doubt not, awakened an echo in many a true Canadian breast, and has given birth in my mind to some thoughts anent the annexation question and the counter question of loyalty, which I have not seen hitherto expressed, and to which I would fain give utterance.

Ever since the day when, under the leadership of Mr. Blake and his Quebec confreres, the opposition party in Dominion politics, unhappily for the party and still more unhappily for the country, took up the Riel cry and gave their tacit and ill concealed assent to treason, the dividing line between the two great political parties of Canada has been day by day more distinctly marked, and the issue between them more clearly drawn, as that of loyalty to Canada and the empire on the one side, and disloyalty or at best a half-hearted fealty on the other. That the climax has at last been reached, that the gage of battle has been thrown down, and that the issue now clearly defined between the two parties has been accepted by the country, goes without saying, when we call to mind that a member of the opposition representing in parliament an important commercial constituency, and the editor of an influential opposition journal has, in the columns of his paper, boldly declared for annexation, without one word of reprobation or disclaimer from any public man on his side of politics or any organ of the party save only the *St. John Telegraph*.

That this is a state of affairs very much to be regretted in the interests of Canada seems at first sight to be self evident.

What is most to be desired in any country where government by party is the accepted system, is that there should be a laudable emulation and rivalry between the parties for public confidence on the ground of their devotion to the country and to its constitution.

However, in this case, it is possible that good may come out of evil. It is well that a question of so great moment to this Canada of ours and to the empire we adorn, should be decided for weal or woe before the interests involved become so tremendous as to precipitate a struggle such as convulsed our neighbors to the south.

As the annexation question may now be said to be fairly launched before the people of Canada, and will continue to be before them as a vital question until it is publicly and distinctly repudiated by the party to whom Mr. Ellis alludes, I propose, as I said before, to present a view of the subject, which is

certainly novel, which may be considered by those who are devoid of sentiment as fanciful, but which to me seems to be a legitimate and logical conclusion based on sound premises.

My postulate is this:—That we, the people of to-day, are in many things the stewards of the past, and hold many of the rights and privileges we enjoy in trust for posterity, as they have been held in trust for us by those who have lived in the ages that are gone.

That this is essentially true in the domain of knowledge, needs but an illustration to prove. It will be readily admitted that the vast and varied store of information which is open to be drawn upon by the searcher of truth, in this age of the world's history, is but the accretion of each atom of information which has from age to age been added to the general store since first the intellect of man emerged from its state of primal barbarism. If the school boy of to-day is better versed in many a branch of knowledge than the sage or scientist of a hundred years ago, is it because of his greater ability? Is it not rather that the results of their labors and of those who followed them have been faithfully preserved and faithfully transmitted for his use.

Now for the illustration. Suppose it possible that those in authority in this province should propose a hiatus in the domain of knowledge, an absolute break between the past and the future, that all schools and institutions of learning be closed and that the children of this generation grow up, bereft, in so far as we could deprive them, of that inheritance of knowledge which has been ours from our birth. What would be the verdict of the whole civilized world upon such a proposal?

Would it not unquestionably be that this sum total of knowledge which we have inherited is ours only in trust, that we have, as it were, a life interest in it only, and that as it was preserved for us, and transmitted to us by those who have gone before, it is our manifest duty to preserve it intact for those who come after, and transmit it to them with the added increment of the age. The claims of the offspring upon those who are responsible for their presence in the world are being recognized with greater force as the world progresses. If a man provide not for his own house let him be as a heathen, says the law of God, and the law of man now enforces the anathema. In the domain of knowledge this principle of responsibility is fast taking the form of compulsory education. Is there, then, naught of value of which we can deprive our offspring, save sustenance, which is essential to existence, and knowledge, which is essential to a right use of that existence? To those whose high privilege it has been to be born into the world under theegis of the mighty flag of Britain there certainly is. From the day when the minstrels and maidens of Britain chanted in rude lays the imperishable glories of Harold and Hordicane, from the day when Britain's warrior queen bade bold defiance to her mighty foe, there has been added from age to age and from generation to generation of true and faithful Britons, increment to increment of that magnificent inheritance of glory, of fame, and power, which has been preserved intact and transmitted in its integrity to be the invaluable birthright, inalienable save by his own act, of every one whose good fortune it has been to be born a citizen of the great empire of Britain. Now I claim that in regard to this, our grand inheritance of citizenship, as in the domain of knowledge, we are but stewards of the past and trustees for the future. The principle of responsibility to offspring in the matter of sustenance has been so thoroughly recognized that in some countries a man who will not provide for those dependent upon him is incarcerated and the product of his labor applied to their support. The same principle is asserting itself with equal force in regard to education. Shall we say, then, that there is no responsibility in respect to those rights and privileges of citizenship, which to many are dearer than knowledge, —dearer than life itself.

If this line of argument has the force and cogency I claim for it, then in this question of annexation or of fealty to the empire no British-born citizen is entirely a free agent, but the claims of posterity are strong upon him as his claims were strong upon those who went before, and inasmuch as this wondrous inheritance of glorious citizenship, the pride of every true-hearted Briton the world over, has been transmitted to us as trustees of the future, our manifest duty is to hand it down not only unimpaired but with added strength and grandeur.

This duty, it seems to me, admits of no denial and no exception save that grand one which is pleaded as the justification of the thirteen colonies, the denial of the right of citizenship by the central authority, and even in that hour of dire extremity were not wanting thousands of noble hearted men and women with whom this paramount duty overshadowed every selfish consideration. If my premises are correct and my deductions logical they will have their weight irrespective of their source, and will add somewhat to the power of that high conviction which should prevail in the public mind of Canada, that there are considerations of more value than dollars and cents to be taken into account when the question of loyalty to the throne and empire of Britain is under discussion.

The spirit of the U. E. loyalists is not yet dead in this Canada of ours, and I have a firm faith that there are many in our own Nova Scotia who have not so bowed the knee to the Baal of Mammon as to obliterate from their souls every high and noble aspiration, and who, like myself, infinitely prefer a modest allowance of the good things of this life with British citizenship added, to unbounded affluence under an alien flag.

Tangier.

J. H. TOWNSEND.

#### INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

When capital and labor go hand-in-hand, prosperity is sure to follow. A pleasing instance of good feeling between employers and employes was the distribution on Christmas Day, by the well known firm of Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, of 150 geese and turkeys, and 50 silk hauderschiefs, amongst their employes, and the subsequent presentation to the firm