

their agent from the Seignior, and leave those who have interfered to prevent the Government from exercising successfully their good offices with the Indians, the responsibility of any difficulty which may arise as a consequence." Such an action on the part for the Government would occasion very great regret in all the friends of the Indians, who know how wisely and effectively you have exerted an influence for good in the place. To the Seminary and their bullies, it would, beyond doubt, be a matter of joy, for then, untrammelled by the presence of an influential witness, they could, without much fear, prosecute their measures of annoyance and irritation, which evidently are leading elements in the settled policy of the Seminary towards these Indians. In view of these facts, I think the Superintendent-General should hesitate to take a step so fraught with undesirable consequences. But, much as we all would regret the course, the Government here threatens to adopt, we cannot agree to be parties in carrying out the present scheme towards the Indians, in the principal features of which we see so much to object against.

I remain, my dear sir,

Yours, most truly,

To JOHN MCGIRR,
Indian Agent, Oka. }

JOHN BORLAND.

WHAT "THE MAN OF THE WORLD" THINKS.

There is a weekly newspaper published in London called *The Man of the World*. There are not perhaps a dozen people in Canada who have seen it, but it possesses a large interest to the men of the world in London. Its "make up" is similar to the *London Truth*, and it calls itself a "moral journal." Its articles appear to be well written, but leave behind them a sting far sharper than the *London Times*. The journal also devotes a portion of its space to Canadian affairs, and in a copy of its edition of April 6th there is an article headed "On the Rialto," with the quotation below it, "Now Barabbas was a robber." The burthen of this article is upon the Province of Quebec Government Bonds, (a pretty weighty burthen, truly,) and the dismissal of the late Ministry by the Lieutenant-Governor. The tendency of the article is seen in the first sentence: "We have repeatedly warned English investors of the dangerous nature of these bonds." It goes on to make extracts from the now famous memorandum of Mr. Letellier de St. Just, and then proceeds to apply "the moral" in the following language:—

"Sell every bond you hold, whether of Government or Municipality, of the Province of Quebec, and subscribe to no new loan for that country, under any seductive influences, whatever may be attempted by Morton, Rose & Co., and the Bank of Montreal. The Government of Quebec has borrowed £1,660,000 in this country. When the last loan of £680,000 was issued in the autumn of 1876, the *Times* (bearing in mind the solemn protests of Mr. Joly and his party against the reckless manner in which the Government were running the country into bankruptcy) warned the English public against the investment. Efforts were also made before the Committee of the Stock Exchange to prevent the loanmongers getting a settlement and quotation, on the grounds, amongst others, that the prospectus contained statements which were untrue, and that the money was being obtained ostensibly for one purpose, but about to be applied to another, and such was the fact, and *ex post facto* legislation was actually resorted to for the purpose of carrying the latter into effect."

Had the writer stopped here his article would have probably served the purpose it intended. But the venom had entered into his soul, so instead of letting "the well alone" he has sought to relieve himself of his spleen by libelling the proprietors of the *Gazette* in the following fashion:—

"There is a wretchedly corrupt and scurrilous broad sheet called the *Montreal Gazette*. It was formerly, and probably still is, the property of Sir Hugh Allan, the author of the notorious Pacific Railway Scandal; the man who entered into a contract for that work with the Government, and advanced them \$350,000 which was used for the purpose of carrying the elections. The *Gazette* was the abettor, and has continued to be the consistent advocate of that notorious transaction. The *Gazette* is the organ of the late Government, of which we may say *arcades ambo*, and was dreadfully irate at the *Times* venturing to caution the English public against the loan of 1876, but in its abuse of the gentleman who opposed the settlement and quotation on the Stock Exchange, the *Gazette* outdid itself and led to the belief that the Editor must have been recently harbouring with a skunk, and could not rid himself of the odour. * * * The Government of Quebec is in debt to the people of this country £1,600,000, for which they pay interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and they are indebted to the Bank of Montreal in \$1,000,000, or £200,000, for which they pay 7 per cent. As to the question of security, all loans rank *pari passu* on the Government resources. Why, therefore, should the Government be able to borrow money at 5 per cent. where they are not known, while they cannot borrow under 7 per cent. where they are known?"

Then, as a parting shot, this apparently well-informed contributor to that "moral" journal concludes by telling us something about the ex-Solicitor-General's proffered hospitality to his London friends:—

"This gentleman, whilst in London, was very profuse in his invitations to Englishmen to call on him on their visit to Montreal. To everyone, he said, 'Call and see me; you will find me at the bar of the St. Lawrence Hall.' * * * The invited naturally supposed that this meant the grand Hall of the Supreme Court of Justice, at least, but were much shocked to hear, after the departure of the Solicitor-General, that it was to the bar-room of a tavern * * *

After promising to illustrate the "financial position of the city next week," the writer reports, upon the authority of the *Toronto Globe*, that 17,000 out of 27,000 municipal votes have been struck off the electoral roll on account of non-payment of taxes.

One would suppose after reading the above in this eminently respectable and moral journal, that shattering people's reputations is as popular in the "high-toned" London journals, as it is with some Canadian newspapers with no tone to speak of. Perhaps the writer is an investor who has lost heavily on Quebec Bonds, or, may be, which is more likely, an investor interested in wrecking private character, by which means broken-down scoundrels have realized large profits. But, whoever he is, his article bears the impress of a man seeking for revenge. Upon the theory that liars sometimes speak the truth by mistake, so it must be admitted that there are some grains of truth behind these statements. Not that anyone would for one moment believe that the talented editor of the *Gazette* would deliberately associate himself with any dishonest men or measures for private gain. For it is a fact highly creditable to that gentleman that during his political career, when party strife runs high and partisans are apt to become reckless in what they say, the public have yet

to hear the first breath of suspicion against the editor of the *Gazette*, whose integrity as a journalist will certainly compare with that of the editor of even so high-toned and moral a journal as *The Man of the World*. But since the issues of the Provincial elections, public opinion has undergone a change—a change startling but hopeful. The truth is, we are in this Province morally and politically a bankrupt people. And it would be well to face this truth, unpalatable though it be, manly and frankly. This city of Montreal is enjoying a character for rowdiness second to none on the Continent. We beat New York in this respect, and leave Chicago far in the shade; so Chicago, as a mark of its appreciation of our degraded tastes, sends us a troupe of *demi-mondes* to feast our senses, in the theatre on the Champ de Mars, under the very shadow of the City Hall, and we are told by our City Fathers that they are powerless and can do nothing but take the license fee and let other license run its course in a disgusting exhibition of profligacy, at which even Paris would blush with shame. Thanks to the inertness of our City Council, other features of Montreal rowdiness have been brought about by a false system of economy. (Why there is not another city on the continent, in proportion to its size, but what is taxed twice as heavily as Montreal.) And as a consequence, our peace is broken almost nightly by murderous assaults. No wonder, therefore, that our credit is impaired, for our honour, our resources and our politics are morally as zero. And yet the people clamour for Protection. Against what? Mostly against themselves. In England capitalists are beginning to weary of us. At home they bleed us. So we have to pay the price of our own folly with an additional two per cent. The political god is superior to all other considerations. If there is a "dodge" to be worked in the Council, the details are suppressed for political considerations. Reports are one-sided, and if the newspaper reader desires to glean anything like an impartial opinion he cannot do so, for the reason that he cannot obtain a fair statement of the case from any of the party journals. I honestly believe that had the people of the Province a journal that reported everything of public interest in a fair and square manner, it would pay. Unfortunately, we have not, and the result is that an election is decided rather by those who do not vote than by those who do. In the struggle for power our politicians lose their self-respect, and lay their failures at the door of the men of their own party who will not vote on issues they cannot conscientiously approve. They will not vote for Party at the expense of principle upon which they have to pay an interest too heavy to be borne much longer. National credit is synonymous with national salvation, and must have integrity to back it if either is to be sustained. Such is the present condition of things under which we exist, and we grope on in the dark waiting for "the ins" and "the outs" to deal with us as they will. And so it will remain until a higher school of thought supersedes the present condition of our local politics—a byword to the English Press and a reproach to ourselves. We may expect, therefore, to find that the political drama originated in the School of Scandal will terminate finally in the Beggars' Opera. It now remains to be seen if Mr. Joly will succeed in redeeming those promissory notes he has drawn upon the country. Was the Canadian National Society a mistake after all?

FRED. HAMILTON.

EDUCATION FOR CANADIAN GIRLS.

It has been said that a speaker who thoroughly interests his hearers, holds them by the spell of his eloquence for a time, and sends them away just before they have heard enough, while they are indeed hanging upon his words and hungering for more, is certain to draw his audience together again and again, as surely as a magnet draws to itself the iron filings scattered about it. In reading the excellent articles on the education of Canadian girls, which have recently appeared in the *SPECTATOR*, we have laid down the paper with a desire to hear more from one whose ability to "mix reason with pleasure and wisdom with mirth" has made these articles of practical value to those who have the responsibility of instructing the young.

"But what more would you have?" suggests one at our elbow. "Have we not seen a sure foundation laid in arithmetic, grammar and geography, and upon its pedestal of French, Latin and Greek, watched the polishing and adorning of the statue, until our Galatea stood before us in all her charms?"

Yet even her kneeling lover sees but marble. Where is the power that shall make the statue glow and palpitate with the colour and warmth of divine life? Let us quote from the second of the articles in question. "What is it," asked a young gentleman the other day, "that makes Mrs. M— such a charming companion? No matter how common-place the conversation may be at its beginning, it always becomes delightful when she joins it. She must have received a splendid education." Yet our friend says—Nay. "Mrs. M—'s educational advantages were below the average, but a wide range of reading made her the charming and cultivated woman she is to-day." Now, while we have so much to be grateful for in the wisdom of the papers under discussion, the writer will assuredly pardon us if we venture to differ somewhat from her on this point. Let us look at it for a moment. Note on the list of your acquaintance the most omniverous readers you know, and call to mind all you have heard or read of the social qualities of the book-worms of times past. These are not—were not the most charming companions. So there must be something more. But how define the undefinable, or give form to that which is spirit? We can only hope to suggest; and lest we appear to assume too much, let us sit at the feet of one of the great teachers, Ruskin, and hearken unto his words.

"The chief vices of education have arisen from the one great fallacy of supposing that noble language is a communicable trick of grammar and accent, instead of simply the careful expression of noble thought. All the virtues of language are in their roots moral; it becomes accurate if the speaker means to be true; clear, if he speaks with sympathy and a desire to be intelligible; powerful, if he has earnestness; pleasant, if he has sense of rhythm and order. The principles of speech have all been fixed by sincere and kindly speech. On the laws which have been determined by sincerity, false speech apparently beautiful, may afterwards be constructed. So long as no words are uttered but in faithfulness, so long the art of language goes on exalting itself; but the moment it is shaped and chiselled on external principles, it falls into frivolity

*The italics are not ours.