

of society, as their works should conform to the laws of Nature. The deception of the senses is no more the duty of the artist than it is the end of his work. The affectation of superiority exhibited by many is merely the arrogance of egregious vanity, for excepting his skill as a workman he is vulgarly human with the rest of us. Does the artist see more than others? No; the same Nature unfolds her store to all alike, and none sees more than others save by infinite study and painstaking to understand the meaning of her many mysteries. Simplicity is the golden rule of great natures, and eccentricity the abnormal development of weaknesses.

#### A DIVORCE COURT.

A DISCUSSION recently took place in the Senate over a divorce bill, in the course of which the propriety of recognizing divorces obtained in the United States was pretty warmly discussed. There was a strong feeling against the principle of recognizing such decrees without enquiry into the merits of the case; and justly so, considering the varying practice in different States, and the extreme laxity allowed in some of them. To recognize all United States divorce decrees would make a Canadian marriage an obligation more easily evaded than any other contract, as nothing would be necessary to terminate an inharmonious union but a journey to the State in which divorces are most easily obtained. What is urgently needed in Canada is a Divorce Court that will grant divorces for good and sufficient cause without the great expense and delay of obtaining a private bill. We hope to see such a Court before long, though the opposition to its creation will certainly be most bitter. The Prohibition party, if the future should ever see it organized, will probably add that plank to its platform.

#### JUBILEE CRIMINALS.

IN the opinion of Mr. Sproule it would be a gracious commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee to set free certain of our criminals now undergoing the punishment of their offences. Luckily, it is not probable that the common sense which characterizes our Parliament when not engaged in the discussion of party questions will permit of such an act of folly. Liberty is dear to all; but it might be more in the interests of the public to set free the harmless inmates of our lunatic asylums than the responsible inmates of our jails. As a rule, persons who are lax in morality are not susceptible to great sentiment, and the reprieve of a thief would not likely result in his renunciation of thieving. In more cases than is generally supposed, men are born with certain criminal propensities, and the man with a wolf's nature is hardly to be expected to play the lamb for the rest of his life, as a result of the Queen's Jubilee. Criminals who have forfeited the rights of citizenship by conspiring against the rights of their fellows cannot expect, and should not be allowed to participate in, the pleasures attending those who love the law and obey it; or even of those who obey the law without any particular love for it. Misplaced lenity is even more to be deplored than cruelty.

#### "OF TWO EVILS," ETC.

THE farmers of Peel and Maryborough have embodied unanimously their sentiments regarding the trade policy of the Dominion, and by the manner in which they have expressed their desires they are not hard to please. They would prefer Reciprocity between Canada and the United States; but should this policy be unattainable Commercial Union with Great Britain and the colonies will suit. Considering the enormous differences that would result to Canada by the adoption of either of these policies it may be inferred that the farmers of Peel and Maryborough do not wish to hamper the Government by an iron support of either Reciprocity or Imperial Trade Federation. It is not likely when the question is definitely brought forward for determination that all Canadians will be so obliging in their views as the above body. It will resolve itself into a straight party question, no doubt, as most matters of vital interest to our Dominion have done, and in the ordinary course of our peculiarly sheeplike political nature, we suspect that the same obliging farmers of Peel and Maryborough will forget their resolution and support the political cow which they believe will yield the most milk to the country.

#### OUR NATIONAL GAME.

UNLESS wisdom prevails the signs of the times indicate that the aboriginal game of this land, which has been fostered into a splendid science by young Canada, will decay. The sporadic mania for baseball, the rupture in the National Lacrosse Association, and, last but not least, the semi-professional element that obtains in most of our clubs are all factors in the threatened corruption and collapse of our national game. Of these the last is the most important. There is at present a great deal of semi professionalism in the game. Many first-rate players find their abilities of such a quality and in such demand that they are able to set a price on the services they can render the club they may join. At the beginning of each season, such players are eagerly bid for by clubs who are desirous of coming out first at the end of their series of matches. By adroitly lying back and waiting for chances, many of our semi-professional lacrosse men are able to add a comfortable sum to their year's income. All of which is destructive of the true interests of the game, and should be remedied by the recognition of professionalism on the same basis as it is recognized in the thoroughly honourable and English game of cricket, in which there is no doubt concerning the status of anyone. Semi-professionalism is the forerunner of a gambling monopoly of a game that should be kept free from all taint if it is to be kept as the national pastime of Canada. There was a time when we prided ourselves upon our champion oarsman. That time is past, and there are many of our best citizens who merely regard him as the man who, consciously or unconsciously, has been the means of bringing more gamblers and demireps to Toronto than any other man of this generation. Aquatics and athletics deserve to be encouraged, but gambling cannot be too severely repressed.