

nary news an extract of a few lines from a private letter he had received from a friend who is farming in the vicinity of one of the larger towns in the North-West. When the Toronto newspaper containing this item reached the western town the people worked themselves up to an extraordinary state of excitement over it, and there was much talk of holding an indignation meeting to denounce the "informer." As it was, the town council took the matter up, and passed a vote of censure upon the latter. There was no pretence of denying his statement. Everybody knew that it was true; but it was asserted with great vehemence that outsiders must not be informed of these things, because such reports would prevent immigration, and so destroy the chances of profit which the merchants and speculators hoped to make from new settlers. As a result of this unprincipled policy of booming the country, many new settlers go through a course of sad disillusioning which begins soon after their arrival. The deception which has been practised upon them becomes evident, they become dissatisfied and despondent and in some cases would gladly leave if they had the means. This is of course only one side of the matter. That there are fine farms and abundant harvests in some parts of the North-West, and that many settlers are accordingly prosperous, is a matter about which there can be no dispute. But a statement of the other facts seems necessary by way of disabusing the minds of some people in Ontario who yet hold the notion that our great North-West is an earthly Paradise compared with our own province of Ontario.

#### QUEBEC AND ANNEXATION.

MR. L. O. DAVID, the well-known French Canadian littérateur and journalist, has been making himself especially conspicuous on the floor of the Quebec Local Assembly. During Monday's session of that body, the member for Montreal East, in the course of a moving speech which had evidently been carefully prepared and committed to memory, denounced Confederation in unmeasured terms. He declared that Sir John Macdonald was the testamentary executor of Lord Durham, and that his policy was tending directly towards a legislative union of the provinces—a contingency which the speaker, in common with many of his fellow-countrymen, regards with unspeakable abhorrence. But he did not pause here. He went on to say that in the event of such a contingency arising, it would be necessary for the people of Quebec to look for relief across the border, and to seek for a union whereby, at any rate, they would be benefited in their material interests.

#### WHAT WILL THE HARVEST BE?

Now, it is quite possible that this wild speech was intended as a mere trap to catch a sunbeam: in other words, as a menace to the Government at Ottawa, in the event of their refusing to concede better terms to Quebec. But there is no doubt that it voices the sentiments of a good many young French Canadians who have to a greater or less extent cut themselves aloof from the teachings of the Church. Coming from Mr. David, it is regarded as specially significant, for, whereas he was once an ardent Conservative, he has for some years

past been a prominent Liberal, and his position in the party ranks gives colour to the belief that he is not merely giving expression to his own individual views. There are people who do not hesitate to say that in the event of their being defeated the Liberals would come out boldly and openly as advocates of annexation. At the present time, so far as may be judged at this distance from the scene of action, any movement in that direction would be altogether futile. Unnecessary to say that any such movement would be opposed by the united strength of the hierarchy, who have good reason to be satisfied with things as they are. The Church is not, as it once was, omnipotent in the Lower Province, but it still controls public opinion to a greater extent than any other motive power whatever, and so long as this state of things continues British connection is not likely to be seriously menaced there. Quebec, indeed, is the very last province of the Dominion where one would expect to find annexation sentiments widely diffused.

#### ARCHBISHOP LYNCH'S LETTER.

AS was to have been expected, the letter addressed by Archbishop Lynch to Lord Randolph Churchill is just now receiving a good deal of attention at the hands of the United States press. The letter itself is ably written, and goes to the root of the matter with which it professes to deal. His Grace understands the Irish Question in all its bearings, having been "to the manner born," and having visited his native land under exceptionally favourable circumstances since the beginning of the present agitation. The letter is probably intended to influence public opinion on the subject of the Coercion Bill now before the British Parliament. If so, it is exceedingly likely to fulfil the writer's intention. Such a deliverance, at such a time, is specially opportune, and can hardly fail to find many eager responses in Ireland, as well as in the United States.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

EDUCATIONAL matters are conspicuously to the front in Ontario just now. Mr. Mowat's Government is being urgently importuned to grant money for the establishment of schools of practical science in connection with Queen's College, Kingston, the Baptist University at Woodstock, and other educational institutions in different parts of the Province. ARCTURUS's opinion on this subject was emphatically delivered more than a month ago, and subsequent events have confirmed the opinion then expressed. Our one important school of practical science stands in urgent need of thorough overhauling and organization. Its equipment is altogether inadequate to the requirements of many would-be pupils, who are compelled to resort to Yale and elsewhere in the States for that thorough training which is denied them at home. For the present, and indeed for some years to come, whatever public money is devoted to such a purpose should be strictly confined to the thorough equipment of the one institution of the sort which is already in existence. When that institution shall have gained a national reputation: when its pupils shall have become so numerous that full justice cannot be done to them there: it