

sectarian vandals to raise a hand against a cherished institution which is at once a bulwark against ignorance and a sturdy pillar of the State. Ply the axe at the root of Upper Canada College, and the next act will be to ply it at the foundations of all our high schools and collegiate institutes, and even at the University itself. Yield the College a sacrifice to the demagogism of the day, and it will be difficult to restrain the clamour when the cry is heard to yield the whole of our secondary schools. Those who think that a false Utilitarianism will discriminate between the circumstances of the one and the circumstances of the others will find themselves mistaken. The reasoning of Utilitarianism is not so just. When the spoiler is egged on by prejudice no institution is safe from overthrow; then, when fanaticism has the upper hand, it is easy to say, "not one only—all must go!"

THE financial world on the other side of the line seems to be much interested at present in many of the mining regions of Canada, and New York speculators and capitalists are said to be ready for any number of enterprises, particularly in Ontario and British Columbia, could closer commercial intercourse with their Canadian kinsmen be brought about. In this matter, reciprocity would bring untold good. Our mining area in Ontario, it is conceded, is not only of vast extent but of great richness. The deposits as a rule, moreover, can be readily reached, and we have still abundant wood for charcoal on the spot where the ore occurs. What we want is capital to develop the ore and to bring it to market. Had we some measure of Free Trade with the States, wealthy Americans would come in, labour would be employed, the ore would be got at, blast-furnaces would be erected, and an industry created that would vastly enrich the country, and yield a large revenue to Government. At present, the United States tariff imposes a duty of seventy-five cents a ton on ore entering the country. Had we reciprocity, this impost, which in itself is quite a profit, would be removed, and a market of sixty millions of people would be opened to us. Since Confederation, it is stated, that over two hundred million tons of manufactured iron and steel have been imported into Canada, most of which, had we invited the capital and the machinery, might have been produced in the country, and the cost of its manufacture added to the wealth of the people. Nothing, we know, more benefits a community than the proceeds of mining industry, for the chief cost in its production is labour; and of profitable fields of labour, more than of anything else, Canada stands most in need.

It is certainly a reproach that our mining interests have been so much and so long neglected by Government. Though the Geological Survey gets a large annual grant from Government, mining operators, it is understood, are obliged to go back to Sir William Logan's Report of 1866 for any extended mineral information of practical service to them. A Select Committee of the House of Commons, not long ago, reported strongly on this matter; the British Association, at its meeting at Montreal, drew attention to the neglect; and, last year, a deputation waited on the Government to urge the creation of a bureau of mining statistics in connection with the Geological Survey. So far, we believe, nothing has been done, and, without statistics and authentic information, it is obviously difficult for prospectors and others interested in mines and mineral regions to continue their labours. How far the present head of the Geological Survey is responsible for this indifference to the mining interests of the country, we are not competent to say; but if the facts are as alleged, Government should instantly see to the matter, and initiate a systematic mineralogical survey of the whole country. While on this subject, we may note in our columns the appearance of the Report for the past year of the Minister of Mines in British Columbia. Its summary of results proves the value of opening up the Mountain Section of the C. P. R. in the Pacific Province, for not only has the value of the gold mined during the year been greatly increased, but the prospect is vouched for of quartz mining being made soon to pay. The Report is particularly encouraging on this latter point. One expert, we are told, deduces from a number of trials that the average yield of the gold-carrying quartz veins in the Cariboo and Lillooet district is from \$17.50 to \$20 a ton against a yield of only \$8.50 or so a ton of average ore in California. With improved and cheaper facilities for quartz-crushing, and the aid given by Government surveys, the prospects of the miner, both in British Columbia and in our own Province, cannot fail to be bright, particularly if we are wise in obtaining free access to the markets of our own continent.

THE irony of fate has seldom been better exemplified of late than in the Dominion election in Haldimand. Last summer, it will be remembered, in one of the bye-elections, Mr. Colter (Reformer) after a keen contest beat Mr. Hamilton Merritt (Ministerialist). Before he could take his seat,

however, the General Elections came on, and the constituency, always Reform, again, it was understood, returned Mr. Colter, though by a small majority. Now it turns out, on a recount, that Mr. Colter has lost his seat by one vote, and that the Tory Candidate, Mr. Montagu, not so strong an opponent as Mr. Merritt, becomes the sitting member.

LAST week a deputation of gentlemen connected with the Canadian Institute waited upon the Provincial Commissioner of Crown Lands to urge the Government to appropriate some tract in the outlying districts of the Province for the purposes of a National Park. The suggestion is commendable on scientific, as well as on aesthetic grounds. It would be a relief to know that we had some portion of the provincial, if not the national, domain sacred from the invasion of the ruthless lumberman and the "potter" sportsman—some haunt of Nature's own where the Scott Act and the franchise were not in operation. Soon both the country's animal life and its noble forest growth will have utterly disappeared, and everything will have fallen before the advance of civilisation and its utilitarian needs. It is suggested that a reserve might be found in the picturesque Nipissing District, somewhere about the height of land, favourable to the scientific purposes in view, and attractive to the tourist and lover of Nature. It is too late, we presume, to save for such a purpose the beautiful and more accessible Muskoka region, for it seems already to be wholly given up to settlement and to commerce. Let the next best site, by all means, be secured!

THE termination of winter, which it is to be hoped we have reached, will, we trust, enable the Toronto Street Railway Company to clear out the tracks and put the summer cars on the tramways. Some of the vehicles the citizens have been obliged to ride in, during the past season, have not only been unpicturesque but uncomfortable and dangerous. They remind us of what Ruskin lately said of railways, to which he has, however, an unreasonable antipathy. "They are to me," says the eccentric Art critic, "the loathsome form of devilry now extant, animated and deliberate earthquakes, destructive of all wise and social habit or possible natural beauty, carriages of damned souls on the ridges of their own graves." It should be said, however, that the Broadway omnibuses, which the company have put on some of the routes, have in some measure mitigated the discomfort of the winter's travel.

WITH the coming of spring we hope something will be done to provide Toronto with public drives and parks for the health and recreation of the citizens. The committee that have the scheme in hand should report soon, and when this has been done we trust public spirit will not be wanting to carry their recommendations through. With the opening of navigation, may we not also look for greater transport facilities on the lakes? The steamboat service to Niagara and Port Dalhousie might be improved, and the run shortened by putting on faster boats, with enlarged and more suitable accommodation for tourists and passengers, and increased security for life and property. The St. Lawrence and Montreal line, which of late years has been a disgrace to Canadian civilisation, should also receive attention, and inducements be held out to enterprising steamboat companies to put on a fleet of larger and better-equipped boats. A little more public spirit in these and similar matters might be shown, which would not be lost on the travelling community, and would redeem the credit of the country in regard to the sort of service we have had over this grand highway of traffic.

THE great and increasing value of our fisheries makes it a matter of prime importance to Canada that, in negotiations with the United States for the privilege of sharing in them, we should have some substantial and well-defined equivalent. This is not only just, but reasonable. It is a view of the matter which so fair-minded a man as Mr. Congressman Butterworth is fain to admit in his proposed scheme for a Commercial Union between the two countries. Whatever gloss may be put by his countrymen on the Treaty of 1818, or however the fisheries clause may be construed by Congress, he at least brings to the consideration of the vexed subject a wise discernment of facts, and whatever the facts be, a statesmanlike respect for international amity, with a laudable intent to serve the common interests of the two neighbouring nations. In the modern records of international diplomacy it would be difficult to point to a more high-minded and patriotic deliverance, on a subject of great delicacy, than the letter Mr. Butterworth has made public on the Fisheries Question and our commercial relations with the United States. Not the least to be commended also is Mr. Butterworth's sagacity in looking at the practical bearings of the question, in all that affects the interests of the two nations, and at those momentous considerations that make for the peace and pros-