

growing dim with increasing distance, as any one who reads Mrs. Spragge's surprising and gratifying account of Vancouver's development will gladly acknowledge.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

The sudden overthrow of the empire and the establishment of a republic in Brazil have naturally given rise to a good deal of discussion. While the admirers of democracy on this continent hail it as an omen of the speedy disappearance of the last vestige of monarchy in America, European republicans make it the ground of predictions almost as confident. Among those who seized upon the news as an occasion for joyous presage, the most noteworthy is Senor Castelar, the Spanish statesman and orator. For certain reasons what that gifted son of the great Latin race may have to say on a question of this kind is deserving of the utmost respect. He is a man of lofty moral character as well as of strong convictions, fair in his dealings with those who differ from him, and as anxious to save his country from needless agitation as to see her aspirations for complete freedom fulfilled. It is for this reason that he has refrained from factious opposition to the monarchy since the restoration of the old dynasty, deeming it wiser to let the nation develop gradually than by forcing on a revolution to repeat the experience of France. In adopting this policy of caution, Senor Castelar is simply turning to account the lessons learned by Spain in his own lifetime. To say that the Spaniards had no grievances under the dispensation which was brought to a sudden close in the fall of 1868 would be far from accurate. But England under its constitutional monarchs has at times endured provocations—not omitting scandals in high places—which might with equal reason have been made a justification for revolt. Constitutional agitation proved a sharper weapon for the excising of abuses, and the assured and growing liberties and ceaseless yet tranquil reforms of the present reign are the reward of the patience displayed under some of Queen Victoria's predecessors. It may be urged that, but for the *coup d'état* of 1868 Spain would not enjoy the comparative freedom of the actual *régime*. That is simply a question of probabilities. Had the necessary wisdom and tact been possessed and exercised by the reforming statesmen, it is quite as likely that all the good, without the mischief, of the revolution would have been accomplished. Knowing, as he so well knows, the evil consequences of Serrano's surprise, we cannot help wondering that Senor Castelar should express so much satisfaction at the banishment of Dom Pedro. Setting aside the anarchy and impotency that prevailed in Spain and Cuba during the republican interregnum and the abdication afterwards of the alien Amadeo, he surely has not forgotten that it was the vacant Spanish throne which caused the quarrel between France and Germany, the most sanguinary war of our time, and such a lasting and rancorous feud between the belligerent nations as has turned all Europe into a camping ground of armies ready to fly at each other's throats.

Senor Castelar bewails a system by which a few ambitious men thus arrogate to themselves the power of life and death over the millions of the nations. But that crime of wholesale murder is not confined to monarchies. On this continent, which is especially concerned in the Brazilian revolution, democratic government has proved but

a poor safeguard against military ambition and bloodshed. Since the Spanish colonies in America threw off the yoke, there has hardly been a year in which one or another, or several of the republics into which they were transformed, have not been devastated by war or insurrection. The only exception to the reign of terror thus initiated has been the Empire of Brazil, which, during the long reign of Dom Pedro, enjoyed an immunity from internal disturbance, which was remarkable. As for war, the Empire engaged in it only to defend itself from foreign aggression. It must be admitted, therefore, that Senor Castelar's felicitations of the republican triumph in Brazil are by no means justified by the course of events on this continent. As to the future, we know not what it may bring to pass. But what is established beyond the reach of doubt is that neither in Europe nor America has revolution, followed by republican administration, given any assurance of tranquillity at home or of peace with foreign states. On the contrary, the testimony of the last hundred years is clearly opposed to such a conclusion.

As to Senor Castelar's preference for democracy as more in accordance with the principles of justice and the claims of reason, the whole question thus opened was dealt with more than two thousand years ago in a treatise which may still be read with advantage in this age of progress. To just two points in Aristotle's treatise we would refer at present. The first is the stress that he lays upon an influential middle class as an element in a well organized and administered state, and the second is the admission that different forms of government are required for different communities, so that what might in theory be the best, might in practice, under certain conditions, prove the worst. Now it was to the growth of an enlightened, independent and powerful middle class that England owed the beginnings of her liberty, and it is to the same controlling influence that, under the name of monarchy, she is endowed to-day with the most highly prized privileges of democracy and the assured stability of a recognized succession. In Canada we enjoy the same nominally monarchical, but really democratic, *régime*, without (save in the provision for an Upper House) that traditional aristocracy which links the present with the past. There is certainly no republic in North, South, or Central America, continental or insular, that can boast of possessing the essential attributes of self-government and popular sovereignty in larger measure than we do.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

Opposite *Tête de Pont* barracks, the site of old Fort Frontenac, a low promontory juts into Lake Ontario. Between it and the side of the harbour on which the barracks are situated, flows the Catarqui river, debouching into the lake. This promontory was, during the war of 1812, a dockyard, where Sir James Yeo built his fleet. The sailors and marines occupied a three-storey stone building, constructed in its interior arrangements like a three-decker, and known by the *soubriquet* of the stone frigate.

After the dockyard, grown useless in the "piping times of peace" had been dismantled, the Government determined to utilize the buildings for a Military College. Col. Hewett, R.E., was appointed commandant, and in June, 1876, the college was opened, with three professors and eighteen cadets. The stone frigate was, however, quite inadequate to all the demands made upon it for class-rooms and dormitories, and a large and imposing educational building was erected. This was fully occupied by

the kitchen and hospital, mess room, reading rooms and offices, class rooms, professors' rooms and laboratories, and the frigate was henceforth devoted to dormitories. Year by year the number of cadets increased, so that it became necessary to enlarge the staff. The present College consists of the commandant, staff-adjutant, fifteen professors and instructors, and about eighty cadets. The members of the civil staff are Canadians, while those of the military staff are, on the contrary, with two exceptions, borrowed from the Imperial Army.

In establishing the Military College, the Government had in its mind, not only Woolwich and Sandhurst, the great military schools of the Mother Country, but also the American West Point. Little military employment could be offered to graduates, as our standing army is of the smallest dimensions. It was determined, therefore, to give the cadets an education that would fit them for civil as well as military life. The syllabus of instruction laid down for a four years' course embraces military drill, artillery, infantry and engineering; signalling, gymnastics, fencing, swimming and riding; tactics and strategy; military law and administration; fortification and civil engineering; military reconnaissance; drawing, both geometrical and free-hand; mathematics and mechanics; French and English, civil surveying, practical astronomy, civil engineering, physics and electricity, chemistry, geology and mineralogy.

Col. Hewett, who may be almost regarded as the founder of the College, resigned his position for a much better one in England, in the summer of 1886, and was succeeded by the Professor of Astronomy, Col., afterwards Major-General Oliver. He carried on the work most successfully, till the summer of 1888, when he was succeeded by the present commandant, Major-General Cameron, under whose able administration the college has not only maintained its efficiency, but gives promise of still greater development.

In any country a new institution is always, during the first years of its existence, on trial, and is subjected to severe criticism. If it passes the ordeal unscathed, it reaches the second stage of its existence, in which it is at least tolerated, and then speedily passes on to popularity. There are now indications that the Military College has reached this last stage. It has done such good work that it is most favourably known, both in Canada and in the Mother Country. Abroad, its graduates may be found in every branch of the Imperial Army where some of them have already made their mark; while at home they have been successful in civil as well as military service. Several hold commissions in the Regular Canadian Artillery, and some in the North-West Mounted Police.

The institution has been so highly commended by the military authorities in England, that Australia contemplates a similar establishment on the Canadian model. Another evidence of popularity is the increased number of candidates for matriculation. Every year very many more young men present themselves for examination than can possibly be accepted. They come from the best schools in the country, eager to shoulder the rifle and don the scarlet tunic of the cadet. There must, indeed, be a charm about a military life, for these cadets have no easy time. The college does not tolerate laziness. Their day is a long one—from seven in the morning till ten at night, parade and study, with not more than three hours for recreation. Notwithstanding this, nay, rather on account of this happy combination of mental and physical exercises, the typical cadet is a bright young fellow, full of animal spirits; and yet withal polite and deferential in his bearing towards his officers and instructors.

Graduates are found all over the world. The most prominent at present is Lieut. Starr, who is with Stanley in Africa, doing good service in the cause of civilization, and winning honours, not only for himself, but also for his country and his Alma Mater. It is, however, a small proportion of the young men whom the college educates that seek service abroad. Most of them enter civil professions and remain at home, holding rank in the active militia, and ready, when the country needs their services, to respond to the call of arms.