

he asks, "are people like hearses, and look like pictures of misery? It must be from discontent with the government of God, for all things are directed by him. If being doleful in appearance did good, I would say, be very doleful; but it does not do any." He is very tolerant. Difference of race and creed does not raise in him any feeling of self-righteousness or conscious superiority over others. Of the Turks he says, "I find the Mussulman quite as good a Christian as many a Christian, and do not believe he is in any peril. All of us are more or less pagans." No living follower of John Calvin is a firmer believer in predestination than is General Gordon. He could subscribe most heartily to all that the Westminster Confession and catechisms say on that most mysterious doctrine. But he is not a believer in eternal punishment. It is a dogma repugnant to his ideas of the Father and the Son, and his condemnation of it is most emphatic. Neither, in his conception, will the future life be one of dreamy but delightful indolence. "It must," he says, "be a life of activity, for happiness is dependent upon activity."

Here is a man doing the work of his time with all his might, and holding with fervid intensity his religious convictions with a sincerity that is beyond question. When time and duty permit, no city missionary could surpass him in self-denying labour amongst the neglected masses. His benefactions are given with lavish hand. He is as poor as an apostle.

D. SCRIBE.

### OTTAWA NOTES.

THE echoes of the great bribery case in Toronto have grown fainter within the past week, and members of Parliament have been able to give their attention more fully to their work. The week has been one of late sittings and strictly party debates. Nearly every day has witnessed a motion for a Committee of Supply and an amendment to the same, with a long debate upon it. The effect is to bring prominently forward some of the members of the Opposition who are usually kept in the background by the sheer inability of their leader to keep quiet. No desire has been manifested by the Liberals to prolong discussion, while on the Government side hardly a man is allowed to open his mouth, so great is the anxiety to get to the vote, dispose of the matter and hurry along with the work of voting the supplies. On Monday evening Mr. Paterson, of Brant, the man of Stentor tones, brought up the question of assisted immigration. He made an excellent speech and closed with a motion against assisting mechanics, artisans, and labourers, other than agricultural labourers, to come to Canada. In the course of his speech Mr. Paterson showed by official letters laid before the House, that there had been no effort on the part of the Government to arrange with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company respecting immigration, nor was there in the hands of the Government any statement showing the amount of money that Company has spent in influencing immigration to Canada. Sir Charles Tupper followed Mr. Paterson. His argument was that it was very unpatriotic for Mr. Paterson to attempt to show that many people were forced to leave the country, and that many who remained were out of work. This is the one single argument that the Minister of Railways has used this session. He is master of his own style of denunciation of those whose ideas of their duty to the country do not coincide with his own, but when he uses his talent on such slight provocation as Mr. Paterson gave, it looks as if the Minister were playing a part. Then Mr. Paterson received a blow from his own side. His irrepressible leader had prepared another of his great speeches for this particular occasion, and he solemnly rose and delivered it. The consequence was, of course, that the effort even of the capable and painstaking member from Brant was cast completely in the shade, and Mr. Blake shone forth as the principal speaker on the question. The speech is a wonderful complication of figures and arguments to prove that there can be no possible mistake about the large exodus from Canada. It is a splendid specimen of oratory, and is all the better because it is shorter than speeches from the same quarter usually are; but it cannot do any good beyond giving the authority of irrefutable and perfect logic to the opinions of certain people. It was simply a "great speech," nothing more.

Two days later—on Thursday last—it became the pleasing duty, for so he seemed to regard it, of the Minister of Railways to denounce Mr. M. C. Cameron for an attempt to ruin the country by preventing the influx of immigrants into the North-West. Mr. Cameron was so simple as to suppose that when the Manitoba Legislature, the North-West Council, and the Farmers' Convention had sent down separate appeals for the redress of certain alleged grievances, possibly there might be something in the complaints made. Therefore he moved for a committee of the whole House to consider them. True, the motion was in the form of a want of confidence in the Government and had to be voted down. True, Mr. Cameron knew it would be voted down; true, that he meant not to gain redress for North-West wrongs, but simply to gain party advantage by making Government supporters vote against what he believed to be a popular proposition. But why Mr. Cameron should for that reason be bellowed at as an enemy of his country it is not easy to understand. Sir Charles exhausted his voice as well as his vocabulary upon the mover of this resolution, his friends and sympathizers. So well did he succeed in rousing his opponents, that Sir Richard Cartwright sprang to his feet as soon as the other was done speaking, and, for ten minutes or more, made the house ring with denunciations of Tupper more violent than Tupper's own, but not half so effective.

On Friday, too, there was an amendment to the motion for Committee of Supply. It brought Hon. L. H. Davis, of Prince Edward Island, to the front. He argued that as the fishery clauses of the Washington treaty would expire on 1st July, 1885, the Government ought to take steps to

have them renewed and to secure from the Americans substantial trade advantages in consideration of that renewal. Sir John Macdonald opposed the motion because it would look like going to the United States Government, cap in hand, begging for reciprocity, and his Government did not purpose doing anything of that kind.

On these and other votes it is one of the sights of the session to observe Sir Charles Tupper's action. No matter whether he has been sitting quietly in his place with his sphinx-like face unmoved during the debate, or whether he has been lashing himself into fury in a speech as chief defender of the Government, as soon as the vote is called he leaves the chamber. Sometimes he goes into the gallery, sometimes he remains outside in the lobby, walking up and down like a sentry. As soon as the vote is declared, he goes back and takes his place in the chamber again. This mummery he goes through because he believes he would be liable to a fine if he voted while still holding the office of High Commissioner to England. Had he appealed to his constituents they would have re-elected him; had he appealed in earnest to the House the majority would have absolved him from all penalties. But he does neither, preferring rather to exhibit to the House and country the spectacle of a member of Parliament who is only half a member, a creature which, it is not too much to say, has hitherto been unknown in the political world. The bill of absolution which the Government proposes to secure on his behalf, is still before the committee on Privileges and Elections. So is the question raised by Mr. Blake in a motion declaring the seat for Cumberland vacant.

Both leaders have been unfortunate. On Wednesday last Mr. Blake appeared with his arm in a sling because of a sprained wrist, the result of a bad fall. That day Sir John Macdonald did not turn up at all, being confined to his house by a serious cold. He had earned the cold honestly. On Monday night he insisted on the House sitting late. The next day was Annunciation and a holiday, and Sir John's wish seemed to be to discount the loss of time by crowding the work of two days into one. Something ought to be done with some of the Ministers. First and most noticeable is Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue. This gentleman seems to have been appointed to his office for the special purpose of showing how densely ignorant he is of everything pertaining to the department of which he is the nominal head. So childish and foolish does he appear, when attempting to promote the bills placed in his charge, that a stigma must rest, not only upon him, but upon the officers of the department. It is almost inconceivable that if they know anything of their work they could let a Minister escape them and walk into the House with such a wonderful lack of knowledge. The most rudimentary form of cramming would enlighten Mr. Costigan about at least a few simple things, but as he stands in his place trying to explain some bill relating to excise or weights and measures, he is the embodiment of helpless and acknowledged ignorance. Then there is Hon. Mr. McLelan, Minister of Marine and Fisheries. There are many things about which this gentleman knows something. But his dread of altering, even by a letter, any bill placed in his hand, is nothing short of a superstition. The other day a clause appeared in a bill which was there by error. Mr. Davies called his attention to it and pointed out that it must have been some note or remark written upon the original draft which the printer had innocently made one of the clauses of the bill. But Mr. McLelan did not want to interfere with a thing he did not know anything about, consequently he objected to the clause being removed. He appeared ready to persist even to a division of the House, but Sir John came to the rescue by asking that the matter be allowed to stand over. A. P. Caron has been almost a week, off and on, getting the estimates for his department through the House. The Opposition find him not well up in his business, easily teased and utterly without tact, and exceedingly anxious to talk. They therefore delight in baiting him, asking all sorts of questions and raising all sorts of objections. Some of the estimates are in far from satisfactory shape as he explains them, but as it is evident he knows very little of the subject, it is not unfair to suppose that the department's chief difficulty is in the way its case is presented.

The Geological Survey of Canada is under inquisition of a special committee. To judge by the evidence given before the committee there have been jealousies untold among the members of the staff. It is only fair to say that the difficulty seems to be largely in dissatisfaction with the head of the Survey, Prof. Selwyn. It seems that practical people complain that Prof. Selwyn is too much of a *savant*, and not sufficiently alive to the Survey as a means of promoting the mining industry, while such *savants* as Dr. Sterry Hunt of Montreal, and others, say that Prof. Selwyn is not possessed of much scientific knowledge. The committee is still sitting almost every day. The report will be a voluminous one, as many witnesses have been examined.

ED. RUTHVEN.

Ottawa, March 29th.

THERE should be some discrimination in the laws which forbid the sale of liquor in places of amusement. Because there may have been low resorts which used the amusement feature as a mere pretense to attract people to drink is no reason why acknowledged respectable places should be prohibited from supplying their patrons with such refreshments as they wish. Indeed resorts of this character may be spoken of as a benefit to the community at large. To them go gentlemen with ladies, and it becomes the habit for the man of the house to seek his amusement accompanied by his wife, if not by his family. Laws may be too sweeping. Laws should not be framed without a due consideration of every translation which may be made of them. It would be the wisest course to encourage instead of putting obstacles in the way of such places of amusement as are likely to receive the endorsement of ladies.—*Progress*.