

The Maritime Provinces, we fear, are not yet ripe for sustaining a newspaper dealing exclusively with arts, sciences and literature. Meantime every editor who occasionally calls the attention of his readers to even a few of the latest noteworthy inventions and publications is doing a good educational work. None of our county papers is more to be commended in this respect than the *Eastern Chronicle*, whose "Literary Gossip" succeeds in presenting the salient ideas of new books in a clear and readable style.

The following extract from our esteemed contemporary the *Militia Gazette* is indicative of a true Canadian spirit among the silversmiths of the Dominion—a spirit which we trust will infuse itself into all businesses and all consumers in the land. "The Canadian Military Rifle League has progressed as far as is possible without the entrance fees. Already many silverware companies have their artists busy drawing designs for the first prize trophy, and each firm seems determined that theirs shall be the design chosen, not for what they will make out of it, but more to show what can be manufactured in Canada. The manager of one company told the secretary that 'if it cost him double what he is to receive for it he is determined to receive the order'; so we may expect something handsome." Every Canadian should indicate his preference for Canadian made goods, in preference to those manufactured in other countries.

A somewhat important action of Congress is reported. The committee on foreign affairs has by an unanimous vote instructed its chairman to report to the house a joint resolution that whenever it shall be duly certified to the President that the government of the Dominion of Canada declares a desire to enter into such commercial arrangements with the United States as would result in the complete removal of all duties on trade between Canada and the United States he shall appoint three commissioners to meet those designated to represent the government of Canada, to consider the best methods of extending trade relations between Canada and the United States, and ascertain upon what terms greater freedom of intercourse between the two countries can be best secured." It is impossible to say what results, if any, may follow this action, but if any movement takes place its progress should be narrowly watched as to its bearing on Canadian interests in every view.

There is perhaps no reason why newspapers should not receive a share according to their services of the spoils which, in the United States, belong to the victors to an extent unparalleled in any other country, but the number of prominent journalists who have been appointed to important and lucrative offices by Mr. Harrison is so large as to have elicited an unusual amount of comment even from American papers. Without counting the Editors in smaller towns and cities who have been given post offices and minor billets, the number of which is said to be very large, the *Nation* publishes a list containing the names of no less than twelve conductors of prominent journals who have received or been offered ministerships, consulships, collectorships, treasurerships and other important posts. These instances, however, are at all events less objectionable than the sale of the governorship of New York to Hill, by means of which transaction the *Tribune* admits that the Republicans bought the Presidency for Mr. Harrison.

Irish affairs threaten, as usual, to consume the lion's share of the time of the British Parliament during this as in foregoing sessions. Perhaps the best feature of the threatened monopoly is the acknowledgement on both sides of an improved state of feeling in Ireland. Both sides of course claim the credit, one as the result of Mr. Balfour's firmness, the other to the good feeling and renewed confidence in constitutional methods due to the friendly attitude of English Radicals. Party controversy, however, is noticeable for increased rancor, due, no doubt, principally to the bitterness evoked by the charges of the *Times*, and the sitting of the Commission. Neither party can claim the honors for vituperation. A certain amount of defection from the Government ranks seems to indicate that the rashness of the *Times* in allowing itself, almost with open eyes, to be cajoled by an almost transparent forgery, has appealed to the common sense of fair play, and it seems not improbable that the government may be driven to accept a modified amendment from one of its own supporters in order to evade a serious diminution of its majority.

If the doctrines held by Dr. Goldwin Smith required, at this time of day, any further refutation, Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, M. P., has fulfilled the requirement in two communications to the *Empire*. It may be imagined how a writer so lucid as Mr. Davin deals with the ex professor as to details, but the peroration (so to speak) of his last letter is so complete and eloquent a summing up that we cannot resist reproducing it. "No one is more ready than I am to acknowledge the debt we owe Mr. Goldwin Smith. But the good he has done us has nothing to teach us now. He has delivered his message long ago. A more useless message for a young people cannot be conceived, for it is a message of despair. Like Poe's raven on a bust of Pallas, croaking 'never more', he is a classical figure with a solitary note of monotonous despair, and ominous only to an unhealthy mind. It is hard not to lose patience with a man enjoying his *otium cum dignitate*, emerging from his cherished ease and wealthy seclusion to scold people who are bearing the burden and heat of the day, any one of them doing a hundred times more for the country than he. A literary sybarite, his lip curls with scorn at the sweating toiler, and if his conscience smites him for keeping aloof from the heavier duties of life, he soothes it by persuading himself that they are all bad, and that their energies are sated with corruption, and then gives vent to his angry misconception by barking at honest and patriotic men." It is probable that Mr. Davin's execration will do more than many ordinary articles to set Dr. Goldwin Smith before the Canadian public in his true light.

Much attention is being given in Alberta and Assiniboia to irrigation. It is a most important matter. If rooney can be made in farming under the present conditions of light rainfalls and occasional severe drought in those territories and in the interior of British Columbia, it stands to reason that prospects will be infinitely improved under an efficient system of irrigation. Systems of irrigation have been adopted in Washington, rendered available by the great Columbia River, in Idaho and in Montana with the happiest results, and there can be no doubt that its introduction into our own North-West will cause the wilderness there to "blossom like the rose."

Considering the market values to Canada of the various crops which constitute the staples of Canadian agriculture, and setting aside wheat, we find that for barley, the next important product, the United States has hitherto been our only market. The variety of soil and climate in Canada, however, gives us every hope that, with the attention now being given to the subject, it may be found that the two rowed barley, which seems to require a slightly cooler average of climate than that which grows the six-rowed variety, may be so successfully raised in Canada that a most profitable market may be found in Great Britain, and if this reasonable anticipation be realized a large margin of profit in barley will fall to the lot of Canadian farmers.

Scarcely any one at this time of day would have expected to hear of the Tichborne Claimant turning up again. More remarkable still is it that this most pertinacious of impostors has the effrontery to offer himself as a candidate for Parliament. It is true that he was unable to put up his election expenses for Stoke-upon-Trent, the constituency he proposes to honor, but it is said that this will not be the last of him, as it is reported that his claim to the Tichborne estates will be re-opened in April, a sufficient number of gulls having been found to raise a fund for the necessary expenses. No doubt he has every incentive to make a living out of his unsavory notoriety, and is quite determined to do it as long as he can find credulous sensationalists to back him up.

Next in market value, but of even greater aggregate importance as an agricultural product, is oats. In this grain, as in wheat, the prices in Canadian markets for the greater part of the last four or five years have been so much higher than those of the United States that there is no doubt the tariff duty of ten per cent. has largely conduced to the high prices realized by our farmers. The next important crop is peas, of which we have it on good authority that, in seasons of good crops, the exports to Great Britain are six or eight times greater than those to the United States. Canadian peas are now quoted about two shillings per cwt. or nearly ten shillings per quarter higher than Indian corn in the Liverpool market. It would appear that "the market of 60,000,000" is not the only one open to the Canadian farmer.

Says *Bradstreet's*: "A plan for subsidising one or more lines of steam navigation between the ports of the United States and certain important South American ports has been recommended by a committee of the Pan-American Conference. It is proposed to establish a fast bi-monthly line between the United States and Rio Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, with accommodation and capacity for freight, passengers and mails, speed to be at least 16 knots an hour. Also, an auxiliary line of freight steamships twice a month making not less than 12 knots. The contracting States to have the right to impose their flags and register to a number proportionate to the percentage of the aid they pay. Only vessels constructed in the United States are to be accepted in consideration of a higher rate of aid paid by them." The italics are ours and they sufficiently reveal the true inwardness of American policy. It would be a boom for American shipbuilders. None of these South American countries build ships to any extent, and herein lies the great superiority of Canada, to whom no such cool proposition could possibly be made, or if made be treated with anything but ridicule.

An Ontario contemporary remarks that the "gullibility of American readers is pretty severely taxed by some of the English correspondents. We read in a recent contribution that there is a 'deep feeling' in British political and religious circles because Canon Liddon, the eloquent preacher of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is not appointed to a vacant bishopric. The delay is due, we are solemnly assured, to his having once addressed the Queen as 'Madam,' in the course of a sermon delivered in the Chapel Royal at Windsor. The account continues to record, with equal good taste and truthfulness, that the Queen was in 'a lowering rage' and, summoning Dean Wellesley, 'with a flaming face, screamed at him not to permit Canon Liddon to preach before her again. This is the sort of stuff which is dished up for the class of persons who read it, but one would imagine that the common sense, if nothing else, of Canadians would prevent its being republished here. But it seems not. Upon such rubbish as this do too many readers in the United States base their opinions of English affairs. Intelligent people—and there are a great number of them in the United States—pay no attention to nonsense of this kind, but they unfortunately fail to enlighten their more gullible brethren." These remarks are most just, but our contemporary misses a point which adds to the absurdity of the report, which is that, after all, "Madam" is the correct style of address to the Queen. It recalls an anecdote of Disraeli, who was infallibly correct in such matters. The King of the Belgians at a public dinner in London was repeatedly addressed as "Your Majesty," during more than one lengthy ovation. When Lord Beaconsfield rose he immediately indicated the right thing in a direct address by saying "Sire," the other form being awkward and clumsy, except when introduced where the construction of the speech warrants.