

## CHINA NOT EFFETE.

The marked influence that China now exerts upon Asiatic and European politics is beginning to be generally recognized; and the Empire, which was once regarded more with historical curiosity than with any genuine live interest, is proving that she is no longer to be considered as an effete State. For many centuries China has been the hermit nation of the globe, all Foreign Powers being regarded with suspicion, and their citizens excluded from commercial intercourse with the Celestials. Slowly, very slowly, have the relations of China with the rest of the world been changed, but such changes as have already taken place, have apparently revived the Empire, and given to it a new lease of life. Lord Dalhousie once pronounced the good Government of China by Europeans as practically impossible; and it is well that it is so, for had any European State obtained a strong foothold on Chinese soil, and secured for itself the good will of the Chinese people, its position in the world would have been unassailable, while its powers for good or evil would have been irresistible. Russia, France and Britain are now interested in preserving the autonomy of this great Asiatic Power, but the vitality which China has evinced during the past decade naturally awakens speculation as to the part she is to play in the future history of the world. Within a short time, China has accomplished the extirpation of the Panthays, has obliterated from the map the Mussulman Kingdom of Kashgar, and obtained from Russia the retrocession of Kuldja, in all of which she displayed a force and determination, which, if developed in proportion to the strength of the Empire, would make her a powerful antagonist for any two of the great European Powers.

Russia and France have already been seriously checked in their territorial expansion by Chinese interference, and Britain now recognizes that the friendship of the Chinese Court is essential to the peaceful occupation and government of Burmah. China's influence at St. Petersburg, Paris and London is therefore recognized by diplomatists, and every precaution is taken to prevent any insult being offered to the members of the respective Chinese embassies. To the speculative thinker, the possible position that China may occupy before another century rolls round, offers abundant food for thought. A great Pagan nation, the government of which controls nearly one third of the population of the globe, would, if it availed itself of all the arts of civilization, be a Power for evil rather than for good; and it is therefore in the interests of humanity, from a purely material and worldly standpoint, that the efforts to Christianize these people be carried on with redoubled zeal.

## THE OVERCROWDED PROFESSIONS.

The mere assertion that the professions are overcrowded, and that each year it is becoming more difficult to earn a fair livelihood in professional callings, does not appear to deter our young men from applying themselves to the study of law, medicine, etc.

We have no desire to place obstacles in the way of those who desire to improve their condition, nor have we the slightest wish to damp the ardor of those who fancy that fame and fortune are within easy reach; but, under the circumstances, it is but fair to point out to those aspiring to the professions, that the glamor which ambition throws over such callings is liable to be rudely dispelled, when, as a doctor or a lawyer, the young man undertakes to battle with the world.

With nearly 300 medical men, or one to every 1500 of our population, Nova Scotia offers a comparatively poor field to the young practitioner; and even at the best, he is but the servant of the public, called upon to undergo hardships and endure self-sacrifices such as are never dreamed of by the ordinary citizen. A large percentage of his patients, in these days of keen competition, consider they are doing him a favor to call on him for his professional services, and comparatively few of them regard it as obligatory upon them to pay the moderate fees which he has charged. But if the medical profession is overcrowded, that of the law is even more so, and scarce a week goes by that we do not hear young men regretting that they have used the best years of their lives in the study of a profession which does not afford them even a scanty livelihood.

A large number of the lawyers in this Province will, if consulted, honestly admit that the practice of their profession in Nova Scotia is unremunerative. This they attribute mainly to the inherent aversion of our people to litigation; but while there may be some truth in their assertion, they overlook the real fact, which is, that the profession is crowded far beyond the actual needs of the country, the lawyers now outnumbering the doctors in the Province.

Young men who are about to choose a calling in life, should bear these facts in mind, especially since there are other pursuits to which they might devote themselves which guarantee a more certain and independent livelihood than they can hope to obtain as barristers, attorneys, physicians or surgeons.

## AMERICAN DEFAULTERS.

The additions which are being made to the transient population of Canada by defaulters and dishonest speculators from the United States, is not that kind of growth upon which we can congratulate ourselves; and yet, so long as the Government at Washington refuses to ratify an extradition treaty, which would make Canadian soil an unsafe camping ground for dishonest citizens of the Republic, Canada will continue to be the asylum for that ever-increasing army of speculators who have failed in their endeavor to grow rich hastily. We presume that there are few people with clean hands who would not gladly see a stop put to this constant evasion of jus-

tice; but until the United States fully realizes the folly of not considering dynamite plots as extraditable offences, and dynamite fiends as extraditable offenders, we must continue to harbor the officials who are daily robbing the agricultural and laboring classes of their hard-earned gains. Among a certain class in the United States, the old time-honored methods of obtaining wealth appear to be antiquated. Industry and integrity in the eyes of these gentlemen count for nought; they are virtues of a bygone age. The greed for gold is insatiable, and reputation, position, and their future well-being are hazarded in the attempt to secure wealth. If the testimony of these defaulters is to be taken as reliable, the main causes of all this speculation and dishonesty are attributable—first, to extravagance in living; and second, to the opportunities that are afforded in American cities for engaging in speculative enterprises. So long as the American public applaud lavish expenditure, and regard as enterprising those who risk the funds at their command in speculations of a doubtful character, there will be no cessation of these evils, nor a diminution in the number of those who are victimized.

## IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

The report of the select standing committee on Immigration, recently issued by the Dominion Government, gives much important information concerning the success, expenses, and prospects of our immigration system. The public will learn with regret that the number of immigrants, both those who arrived at Canadian ports and those who actually settled in the country, during the year 1885, shows a marked falling off when compared with the corresponding figures for 1884. Thus, in 1885, the settlers numbered 75,169; while in 1884 there were 103,824. The North-West Rebellion is the principal cause of this decrease; but it must also be borne in mind that emigration from Europe has also fallen off: there is a marked decrease in the number of immigrants to the United States. On the other hand, the cost of the Immigration Department for 1885 has been \$120,000 less than for the previous year; and it is stated that the class of emigrants was exceptionally good. Only 7,819, composed of farm laborers and female servants, availed themselves of the "assisted passage" rates. The demand for these two classes of labor was far from being satisfied. Mechanics were not persuaded to emigrate, nor was any assistance offered them by the Department. The total expenditure on this service, \$310,271.67, includes the maintenance of fixed establishments, the cost of inland transport and assisted passages, and the expense of publishing and circulating over \$3,000,000 pamphlets in all the countries of Northern Europe.

An interesting feature in Canadian immigration is the establishment of little colonies of foreigners. Thus, in Manitoba and the North-West, there are Mennonites, Icelanders, and a few Hungarians, living in communities almost exclusively of other nationalities. The report gives the evidence of Mr. Shantz, of Berlin, on the Mennonites, and Mr. Anderson, of Winnipeg, himself an Icelander, on the colonists from that island. Both report very favorably of the progress which these little communities are making, and give the fullest assurance that they will soon blend with the English-speaking colonists. The number of Mennonites who originally settled in Manitoba was 8,000; the census of 1881 gives the total number of Scandinavians then in Canada as 4,000, including 1,000 Icelanders. It may be said of these foreigners that their methods of farming are improving, they are gradually becoming more intimately connected with the settlers of other nationalities, and their general condition and prospects compare favorably with those of their neighbors.

Frederick Baumann, the architect, has submitted to Health Commissioner DeWolf a gigantic and decidedly novel plan for disposing of the dead of Chicago in a manner neither expensive nor calculated to injure the health of the living. The inventor claimed that cremation had not yet become sufficiently popular for general adoption, and the cemeteries around Chicago are filling up too rapidly for public healthfulness, and something must be done to meet the emergency. He therefore proposed to erect a monster edifice resembling the ancient tower of Babel, with a gradual ascending stairway, which might be carried to any height that was desirable, from twenty-five to fifty stories. The structure should be architecturally beautiful and elastic in design, and built of solid masonry. Thousands of vaults could be arranged in this building, which could be sold or rented to parties for single interment, or the accommodation of families. The walls of each department were to be of stone, with ornamental entrances, and the entire building to be hollow to the sky. At all times a huge fire was to be kept burning in the basement of this hollow center, which would effectually destroy all the poisonous vapors and gases which rose from the process of human decomposition. All that was required to carry out the scheme, claimed the enthusiastic inventor, was an Act of Incorporation and a half a million dollars, and then Chicago would vie with Egypt in the magnificence and colossal character of her pyramidal mausoleums.

Since 1879, says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, the military bands perform "The Marseillaise" wherever they are called to take part in any ceremony, but as it appears there is no recognised version of the French national tune, bandmasters make the most of their musical abilities to arrange, transpose, and elaborately orchestrate it according to their personal taste or inspiration. Hence, no two bands could perform together without a previous rehearsal in common. General Boulanger has now asked all bandmasters to forward to him their favorite transcriptions. One among these will be selected to become the official national tune. It will be published at the expense of the State.