

Senate as constituted is a most anomalous body for a free nation to tolerate, seeing that Rhode Island, *e.g.*, with a population of 276,000, has exactly the same number of Senators as New York with nearly five millions; that nevertheless this Senate is clothed with powers which enable it to practically deprive the people of self-government; that in a word the Great Republic is in point of fact an oligarchy and is ruled as such. It is also very easy for the pamphleteer to show that in regard to the administration of justice, the security of life, the observance of the Sabbath, and public morality generally, the United States compares unfavourably with our own Dominion. There is, to say the least, an important substratum of truth beneath this serious impeachment, and it would be well if Canadians who may contemplate seeking a home across the border could be induced to look carefully into the matter, undeterred by any lack of judicial calmness in the manner of its presentation.

THE movement which Sir Henry Parkes is trying to inaugurate for the Confederation of the Australian Provinces will be watched with a good deal of interest in all parts of the Empire. The project itself is no new thing. The idea that all Australia is destined, eventually, to be consolidated into one powerful union of some description, has long been familiar to the people of those colonies. It has come no doubt to be regarded by most of them as manifest destiny. It would, indeed, be disparaging to the intelligence and self-governing capacity of those great bodies of intelligent colonists to suppose that, related as they are to each other, and separated as they are from the rest of the world, they could continue indefinitely in isolation from each other. Such political dullness would show them unworthy of their lineage. Nevertheless, whether the time is yet ripe for their confederation, and what shape that federation can take to insure success and permanence, are questions which, as it seems to us at this distance, will be found not easy to answer. As to the first the difficulties in the way will undoubtedly be found very serious, not the least being those arising out of the diversity in their fiscal systems. To bridge the chasm between practical free trade and high protection, and bring the two together on a common and mutually satisfactory basis must be a formidable task. Then the problems of the future relations of each province to the Federal Government, and of that Government to Downing Street will, no doubt, be found too complicated for easy solution. Many of the Australians, it is well known, are accustomed to look forward to independent nationality as the goal of Australian ambition. It would hardly be surprising if those holding such views should deem the confederation movement a fitting occasion to press them upon the attention of all concerned. Seeing that one of the chief aims of the Federationists will pretty surely be the prolongation of the colonial relation, or the substitution for it of Imperial Federation, or some new form of subordination to Great Britain or alliance with her, it is not unlikely that those who cherish the Independence dream will hesitate to accept a scheme conceived in antagonism to their project. Possibly, however, they may take another view of the matter, and accept federal union as a convenient first step to independence. Meanwhile Canadians will heartily wish the Federation movement success. Happily, it is not, in Australia, complicated by any question of race jealousies and ambitions.

THE death of the King of Portugal and the succession of his son to the throne will probably have little effect upon the history of that ancient and most conservative kingdom. The deceased king, though a man of literary tastes and culture, lacked the force and individuality of character necessary to a great ruler. He was well content to follow in the footsteps of his ancestors, and to let the people over whom he ruled continue to lag in the very rear of European and so-called Christian civilization. The first proclamation of the new king, Carlos I., gives no evidence of any higher purpose or ambition. He swears to maintain the Catholic religion, the constitutional laws and the integrity of the kingdom. The form of proclamation is, we suppose, to a great extent, a matter of custom and necessity. But it would be too much to expect that any great movement of reform or progress should be inaugurated by a hereditary monarch, apart from a necessity, or at least a preparation, on the part of the people. In the case of Portugal, unhappily, there is no evidence of any such state of popular feeling. The Portuguese are, in fact, a peculiar race, combining characteristics which are seemingly of the most inconsistent kind, it might be supposed, incompatible kind. They are eminently brave,

enterprising and adventurous, and yet mentally sluggish, strangely non-progressive, and almost impervious to the entrance of new ideas and ambitions. This may be in part accounted for by the absolute and well-nigh universal sway of the Roman Catholic religion. The perpetuation of this sway is, in its turn, accounted for by the deplorable ignorance in which the masses are held. We have not before us any recent statistics, but it is pretty certain that no change has occurred or is in progress to take from them the reproach of being one of the most illiterate nations in Europe. The great majority of the lower classes are unable to read or write, and their darkened minds furnish, in consequence, a soil but too well prepared for the growth of the rankest superstition and bigotry. The day of Portuguese emancipation has not only not yet come, but there can hardly be said to be any promise of its dawning.

THE annual addresses of the German Emperor at the opening of the Reichstag are documents of more than local or even national interest. Their announcements and proposals have indirect relation to the councils of every Government in Europe. That read on the 22nd inst. is no exception to the rule. Like its predecessors for several years past its leading paragraphs are those which deal with military matters. Further re-organization of the army is proposed, involving large increase of expenditure, and as a consequence largely increased contributions from the several states. The preservation of European peace is, of course, the great object aimed at in this as in every other increase of armament, a plea which must, one would suppose, have come now to fall upon the ears of the long-suffering Germans with a bitterly ironical ring. The proposal to create a special department of the Government to have charge of Colonial affairs indicates that the Empire has fairly embarked upon a colonizing career. The Emperor's congratulations upon the success of the Zanzibar blockade and other measures taken for the suppression of the slave trade in East Africa, sound rather strange when read in conjunction with recent telegrams describing the regular traffic in slaves in the Zanzibar market. As usual a new Bill for the suppression of Socialism is to be submitted. The Emperor builds his hopes of peace largely upon the personal relations he has so assiduously cultivated with other European rulers, and it is very likely does so not without good reason. Apart from any secret understandings which may have been reached in confidential interviews, there can be no doubt that the interchange of these personal courtesies between Sovereigns, more or less absolute, must tend to retard the outbreak of hostilities. The German Emperor is making for himself an unique record both as an entertainer of Kings and a Royal visitor and guest. It must, in the nature of things, be more difficult for a despotic Ruler to issue a declaration of war against a brother monarch from whom he has recently received hospitality, or to whom he has dispensed it, than it would have been had they remained strangers to each other personally. But the fact that this kingly intercourse is thus relied on to secure the peace of Europe should suggest to the people of that continent some very serious and profitable reflections upon what is implied, in regard to the extent to which the wars in which their blood is so freely poured out are the offspring of the personal or dynastic prejudices and ambitions of a few hereditary despots.

#### THE PROFESSORSHIP OF PHILOSOPHY.

RECENT events remind one of the remark of a judicious person on the subject of patronage. He said that he detested the idea of having anything to give away, as it always made one ungrateful and ten vindictive. Certainly we do not envy the gentleman or gentlemen, whoever he or they may be, upon whom is laid the responsibility of appointing professors and lecturers in the Provincial University. Hardly ever does such an occasion arise without torrents of counsel, criticism and abuse—without very little commendation in any case—being poured upon the head of the unhappy patron. Not long ago it was a Professor of English Literature who had to be appointed, when showers of letters, anonymous and signed, appeared in the daily papers, setting forth all the reasonable and unreasonable, possible and impossible qualifications that were to be found in the new professor.

But this kind of thing has reached its culminating point in the letters, leading articles and deputations (or was it only one?) which heralded the appointment of the successor of the late lamented Professor Young in the Chair of Philosophy. "Unhappy lies the head that wears a crown;" but the wearer of a crown is nothing in mis-

ery to the man who has to satisfy a popular constituency when he has a professorship to give away. And we certainly have a good deal of pity for the man or men who have, very probably, been trying to do their best for the University with a very peculiar kind of encouragement.

It is better to say at once that we have no personal interest or personal feeling in this matter. We have no knowledge of Mr. Baldwin or Mr. Hume. We do not even know with certainty what are the respective parts taken in the appointment by the Attorney-General and the Minister of Education; nor have we any information as to the sentiments of Sir Daniel Wilson and Principal Caven, whose names have been so freely used in connection with the professorship. But it concerns every one who has the interests of education at heart to protest against the manner in which it seems to have been taken for granted by a good many persons that the electors to this particular office were swayed by all kinds of improper motives.

Why, in the world, should Mr. Mowat, or Dr. Ross, or Sir D. Wilson, or Principal Caven wish to put an inferior man into such a post? What intelligible or conceivable motive could they have for preferring a second-rate American to a first-rate Canadian? No one imagines, we suppose, that Mr. Baldwin bribed the patrons or promised them a percentage of his income on condition of his being appointed!

What were the arguments employed by the objectors to Mr. Baldwin's appointment? Chiefly the following. Mr. Hume is a Canadian and Mr. Baldwin is an American. Mr. Hume is the better man. Mr. Hume is a follower of the late Professor Young, in his philosophical teaching, and Mr. Baldwin is a disciple of Dr. McCosh, of Princeton. In view of future agitation on similar occasions, it may be worth while to make a few remarks which must, of necessity, be somewhat simple and obvious.

With regard to the claim that the Professor should be a Canadian, we have only to say what has been said a great many times already in these columns. Other things being equal, for every post that becomes vacant, a Canadian should be preferred. We do not suppose that any sane person demurs to this principle. On the other hand, is there any reasonable man who will maintain that an inferior Canadian should be preferred, when a superior outsider can be obtained? It is sometimes said that it is a disgrace to our local University that it should not be able to educate men sufficiently to enable them to occupy the place of teachers and professors. But every one who considers the state of education here and in the old world will at once see the absurdity of such a reproach. Our schools and colleges are excellent and efficient, but they have neither the material nor the appliances which are found in the older educational institutions. But, however this may be, those who make these appointments are bound to get the best men they can, and to get them where they can. This is their simple and obvious duty, and we trust they will always perform it, however unpopular it may sometimes make them.

But, it is replied, Mr. Hume was the better man. This may be true, or it may not; but how can the public be sure of it? For our own part, we should place more reliance upon the judgment of the responsible patrons than upon a number of self-constituted judges who were evidently in a state of mind which was a bad qualification for forming a calm judgment.

But, moreover, it is urged that Mr. Baldwin does not hold to the same philosophical system as the late Professor Young. This argument, absurd as it is, is not quite new. The same thing was said when Sir William Hamilton's successor was chosen at Edinburgh. Professor Ferrier was supposed to be a Hegelian, or some other dreadful thing. Professor Fraser was an orthodox disciple of the Scottish school—a worthy successor of Reid and Stewart and Hamilton. Well! Professor Fraser was appointed, and every one acknowledged that it was a very good appointment. But alas for orthodox Scottish Philosophy! Professor Fraser has forsaken the old paths, or rather he has turned aside into paths still older.

Now, if there is any subject on which the Horatian maxim of not swearing by the words of any master should be observed, it is certainly the study of Philosophy. We are persuaded that Professor Young would have been the last man to wish that a successor to him should be chosen merely or mainly because he was his disciple and would carry on the same teaching. He would have known better than most of us that the thing was impossible, and that any one who should profess to do it would either be insincere or altogether incapable of teaching Philosophy. It is generally known that Professor Young's teaching corre-