UPWARD OR DOWNWARD.

The satirists of every age have denounced its moral shortcomings. They have all written as if they were a high moral standard which people had at some time or other lived up to, but from which their particular age had sadly fallen away. When this sublime attitude was attained, is not at all clear. The sacred writers, who profess to go back to the beginning of things, are from first to last denounced the "wicked and adulterous generations" among whom they happen to live: the classic writers put the Golden age of universal virtue and happiness far back into the dawn of history, and in old Rome, as in modern London, there was nothing but lamentation over society fallen from its high estate, and seething in the foulness of its iniquities. Juvenal gave a picture of old Rome so terrible that it is demoralizing even to read it, and if we may trust contemporary writers, the Elizabethan age was distinguished by its grossness, that of the Charleses by its open and shameless profligacy, that of Queen Anne and the early Georges by a polished refinement in vice, that of the first gentleman of Europe by a violation of all the decencies of life, while it is reserved for the Victorian age to luxuriate in the enervating and debasing consequences of wealth doubtfully amassed, and still more doubtfully enjoyed.

The interesting question is whether the tendency of society is really upward or downwards. In other words, are we better or worse than those who have preceded us? The satirists are not absolutely safe guards in this matter, because there may be a sufficient floating scum of scandal to give a semblance of truth to their sneers without society being absolutely rotten to the core. We have to look the facts presented to us in our daily experience fully in the face, and to form our own conclusions. These, I am sorry to say, are not very favourable to the times we live in. It is impossible but to believe that there must be some foundations for the stories heard everywhere, and boldly stated in print, as to the intrigues and *liaisons* of some of the more distinguished personages of the land. Undue familiarity on the part of members of the Court and aristocracy with the Totties and Lotties, the Carries and Pollies of the stage, is, to say the least of it, a bad sign. In London it is only necessary to go into the Row of an afternoon to see the equipages of the most notorious courtezans—vulgar, low-bred women, raddled up to the eyes, loud in dress, and flashing in jewellery—and to mark the glances which pass between them and members of the Upper Ten, to be satisfied that all is far from right in their relations, and that men of position are abusing their rank wealth by forming connections which stamp them with disgrace. Another bad sign is the toleration which this sort of thing meets with from all classes. People buy with alacrity journals started solely to pander to the lowest taste for prurient gossip—journals reeking with scandal and inuendo, with the garbage of society—gossip, and details of the foulest iniquities served up with the *sauce piquante* of polished irony. It makes it none the better that the papers adopt a highly virtuous tone, and effect to give the grossest facts and suggestions, in the interests of morality, forsooth! Their moral system is like that of Joseph Surface, as exposed by Lady Teazle in "The School for Scandal," when she says: "Then I perceive that your prescription is that I must sin in my own defence, and part with my virtue to preserve my reputation." All these disclosures of infamy, all these frequent details of vice, are given in order that people who would have been ignorant of them may get them by heart and profit by the lesson which, in proportion as it pollutes, is supposed to purify! One of the severest of these preachers is notoriously living with an actress; another was a bankrupt solely through preferring his own indulgences to the claims of creditors; and of half of them it may be said with truth that they are eminently fitted for their posts through having graduated in vice and so qualified themselves for exposing all its allurements—in the interests of virtue!

Literature of this kind is well supplemented by novels of the most lascivious tibre and poems which in a healthy state of society would be burned by the common hangman. Art follows suit, and the Drama comes well up for a final place in the race for popular favor by pandering to the coarsest tastes. But the worst symptom of all is that legislation plays into the hand of those undermining the public morals by lulling the unsuspecting public into a belief that these morals are being carefully looked after.

But are thes only trifles on the surface, or do they indicate any greater depth of immorality? That is the question, and it is sad to have to admit that every glimpse we get of that higher life, which should be also the purer life of the country, shows us that it is rotten to the core. The revelations of the Divorce Court are absolutely sickening. Only recently a divorce was applied for by a lady of the most exalted rank, on grounds so revolting that the case had to be heard with closed doors. It could not be taken in public, and it could not be reported in the newspapers. It was too shocking. It has been followed up by the latest scandal, the Aylesford case, in which the Earl of Aylesford, found guilty of adultery, sought a divorce from his wife, the Countess, also found guilty of adultery with the Marquis of Blandford, and the Court refused the divorce, finding that the parties had acted in collusion to obtain it, so that the charming couple might get free, and the parties all round might go, not to "sin no more," but, as it would seem, to indulge their inclination to their heart's content. The scandal has been enormous, yet we will venture to say that "society" takes it quite cooly—the parties will assuredly not be "cut" by their circle—and it is doubtful whether even a word of admonition will be received by the Earl from any dignitary of the Church, for the sufficing reason that his lordship holds the patronage of seven livings, and the people of as many parishes are dependent on his whim for their spiritual sustenance, which naturally endears him to the Church!

Looking to these and other revelations daily made—looking to the general tone of society, I am inclined to believe that there is a very determined downward moral tendency in this age. The thing is hard to gauge. If there ever was a standard to go by in these matters, it has long since disappeared. The gradations, too, are so subtle. The Latin dwells on the ease with which we decend from the higher levels of goodness into the Stygian blackness of evil: and it not seldom happens that a nation has gone irretrievably down while it believes itself still on the shining heights. In our case the indications are most significant, and it behoves us to study the lesson of old Rome, which, enervated by luxury, pampered by indulgence, gorged with wealth, and morally rotten to the core, suddenly collapsed, and left behind only a name and a warning,—an empty name and a warning which the world has received only to ignore.—*Canadian Spectator.*

CANADIAN WORKMANSHIP AT PARIS.

Both Canada and America demonstrate, by their exhibition of agricultural tools, the immense superiority of their workmen over those of Europe. A well-known French manufacturer told Mr. Perrault, the Canadian Commissioner, that his men could not turn out such work as the pitchforks, rakes, mowers, scythes, &c., exhibited by trans-atlantic people. He could give no reason for it. "They ought to be able to make such steel," he said, "but they are not." A pitchfork, such as we can show—one which has times that when sprung entirely out of place will not break nor be ruined in any manner, but will spring back—cannot be found in any European exhibit. The manufacturers bite their nails with chagrin, and endeavor to fathom the reason. Sometimes they get the answer which an American exhibitor gave a day or two since to a German who was praising the really wonderful castings which to-day was applied to the ornamentation of stores in America. "Now," said the German, "I don't see why we cannot make these castings." "I only know that we have not yet succeeded in doing it. They are simple perfection, but we ought to possess more artistic skill than you do, and I have just as clever moulders. I can't understand."

"Well," said the American, modestly, "you see that you haven't got the iron in Germany that we possess in America"—

"Yes, but we can buy that"—

"And then you have no such good coal."

"Well, we can buy that too."

"Well, sir," at last said the American, defiantly, "if you must come down to facts, the reason that you cannot make the castings is that you have not got the men to do it."

The German did not deny this, although his patriotism was doubtless touched. He was far too firmly convinced of the truth of his antagonist's remarks.

In my notes on Canada, the other day, I scarcely alluded to their educational display, which is extremely large and fine. It comprehends a great variety of the material manufactured for object lessons, and exhibited by the Educational Depository of Toronto. The specimens of natural history and the appliances for teaching chemistry and geography are very complete and perfect. One of Canada's exhibits, which attracts European attention, is the railway furniture, so elaborate and so utterly different from anything in use here. I believe that the United States makes no exhibit of this kind—more's the pity. The Canadians exhibit lamps, signal lights, the furnishing of private saloons, the upholstery, etc., all of which produce round-eyen wonder on the part of the peasantry, and even of the untravelled aristocracy of Europe.—*Paris Cor. of the Boston Journal.*

SIR ARTHUR GORDON OF FIJI.

The private London correspondent of the Edinburgh *Scotsman* writing July 8th, says:—

Some interesting details of the visit lately paid to the Samoan group by Sir Arthur Gordon and Chief-Justice Gorrie, of Fiji, have been received here in a private letter from Samoa. It appears that the Governor as High Commissioner and Consul-General had to press the Samoan chiefs for the payment of certain claims ordered by the Foreign Office to be imposed, and to endeavour to get them to consent that cases between them and British subjects should be tried in the High Commissioner's Court. There were two money claims insisted on by the Home Government, one of five thousand dollars to compensate the widows and orphans of the men of the Barracouta, who were killed in a skirmish some time ago, and the other a fine of one thousand dollars imposed upon the Samoans by the British Government for having begun the appeal to arms on that occasion. There were also certain long-standing and accumulating claims by British subjects against the Samoan Government for all sorts of things—some preposterous enough. These last—the claims of British subjects—were referred to a commission, consisting of Letnala, a Samoan chief and Justice Gorrie, who went most carefully over the claims, and disposed of about forty of them, and laid down principles upon which the investigation of the others could be carried out. The Samoans were perfectly satisfied with this, but with regard to the claims for the Barracouta business they were not at all disposed to be complacent. The correspondent from whose letter I have been quoting goes on to say that in this matter the chiefs acted under the advice of the acting Consul for the United States, who appeared to be under the delusion that the Americans were going to take possession of Samoa, and to make the natives American citizens. The chiefs refused to pay, accordance with his instructions. He seized their sloop of war, a sailing schooner, which about represented the value of the widow and orphan claim of five thousand dollars; and as the chiefs still continued obstinate, the Governor went off with the vessel to Fiji, where it was to be sold. My correspondent further states that shortly after his return the High Commissioner sent the Sapphire back with Mr. Maudsley, as acting Consul and Deputy-Commissioner, with instructions to press the signing of certain articles of agreement and the payment of the fine of one thousand dollars. They would not yield until Captain Murray had turned his guns upon the native town and threatened to destroy it. They then paid up, and the Sapphire returned to Fiji, leaving Mr. Maudsley in Samoa, the death of Consul Liardit having deprived the British Government of its official representative in the group. There is a large German colony in Samoa. They go off to the Polynesian islands for labour (a ship came in from the Gilbert group while Sir Arthur Gordon was there), and of course neither of the Polynesian Acts passed by the British Parliament at all touch this kind of traffic.

A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.—Much sympathy has been excited in the Nisi Prius Court at Winchester, England, by the appearance of the plaintiff in a breach of promise case. She was clothed in widow's weeds, and wore a "false front," and it was stated that the pardonable deception had been rendered necessary in consequence of the whole of her hair having fallen off through the mental agony she had sustained. Of the depth and violence of her feelings, if any further evidence than the loss of her hair was required, it could in the fact that she was upwards of seventy years of age, and that the defendant was one year her senior. At that age the female heart, as several recent actions for "breach" have shown, has lost none of its susceptibility. The plaintiff had known the defendant about half a century ago, and had not met him since until last year, when they saw each other in church, and in a few days, such was the impetuosity of their feelings, they became "engaged." The defendant caused bands to be proclaimed in church, and lodgings were taken for their future home; but in an evil moment a little "huff" interrupted the smooth current of their affections. The defendant pleaded illness the plaintiff referred him to her lawyer, and informed him that she would not have him even in the improble event of "his hair being covered with diamonds." But although she acted thus sternly, the widow's grief for the loss of her lover was severe. It did not indeed "turn her head," as is so often the case. Its operation was external. Her senses remained in act, but her hair vanished forever; and, concealing her baldness with a false front, she cast herself on the broad bosom of a British jury. The exact sum awarded to her by that intelligent tribunal was £10.

On the 10th of August Mr. John Bright will complete the twenty-first year of his connection with Birmingham as one of its representatives in Parliament, and it is proposed, says the Birmingham *Post*, to commemorate the event in a manner which shall be worthy of the town. It may take place towards the close of September or the beginning of October, and it is proposed that the proceedings shall occupy two days. On the first there will be a public reception of Mr. Bright, and a procession will then go through the main streets of the town to Bingley Hall. Here it is proposed that addresses shall be presented from Birmingham, and that representatives of Liberal organization throughout the country shall also have the opportunity of presenting addresses. The programme for the second day includes a meeting with the Committee of the Six Hundred, and a public dinner in the Town Hall in the evening. It is intended, further that a statue of Mr. Bright shall be erected in some conspicuous place, and also that a presentation shall be made to Mr. Bright himself—one that may remain in his family as an heirloom for generations to come.

The Carleton Club banquet, in honor of Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury, was held in the Duke of Wellington Riding School. In his remarks, relative to the Anglo-Turkish convention, Lord Beaconsfield argued that the settlement of Europe had been limited to the Treaty of Berlin. Russia would, probably in a few years, again assail Turkey when, whatever British party might be in power, that party would, even though that no convention existed, have felt bound after considerable, perhaps fatal agitation, to defend Asia Minor. The convention with Turkey, by preventing such hesitation, practically lessened England's responsibilities. Lord Salisbury, in his speech, claimed Her Majesty's plenipotentiaries have tried to pick up the broken thread of England's Imperial traditions. He refused to believe the other Powers would display jealousy when they saw England's object was merely to establish peace and order.

An English critic in the *Saturday Review* in the park seeing the Princess of Wales, says:—"As you reflect, a sleepy feeling seems to come over you. The endless roll of carriages, all going at the same pace, all going the same way, is as soporific as the manipulations of a mesmeriser. Suddenly a thrill seems to go through everybody Every carriage draws to the side. A policeman in very white gloves trots past. Then comes a little phaeton drawn by two gray horses. A lady 'divinely tall and most divinely fair,' bows and smiles. You see a charming vision of children's faces; the carriages close in behind, and it is not till the round has begun again that you are fully aware that you have indeed seen the Princess. She is so truly well dressed that you have not even been able to distinguish the colour of her bonnet strings."

DUTIES OF SOCIETY TO CRIMINALS.

(*Concluded from last week.*)

There is a criminal class. They are human, but unfortunately constituted. They cannot be trusted. They encroach on the rights of others, and thus show that they are dangerous to allow at large. Whenever one of these commits a crime, he is seized by the law, and sentenced for a fixed term of years at hard labor in the penitentiary. The judge grades the time to deal justly, that is to administer the proper punishment! But why do we punish? Is it for the good of the individual, or society? Nature never punishes for the sake of punishment. To do so is the height of cruelty and folly. It cannot change the results of thecrime, and at most can only by fear prevent its recurrence. The unfortunate criminal remains the same, or is made worse. He expiates his offence and is then free He was at first a dangerous individual to trust at large, he has become still more dangerous. He was systematically brutalized. His hair was cropped, his clothes changed for prison stripes, he was compelled to labor for others, his diet reminding him of his ignominous position, cut off from all news of the world, literally buried alive. This has not tended to reform him. Now he is again free the mark of Cain is on his brow. He goes into the world, moneyless, friendless, characterless, unless it be with an evil repute. No one will employ him, he must steal or starve. He may go forth with high resolve, but it will be blown away by the rude contact with heartless life, and in desperation another crime will blacken the dark annals, and again punishment will avenge injured rights.

The law and the theology on which it rests have no faith in man, nor belief in his immortality. Is he an immortal being, with the grand and infinite possibilities which form the horizon of such a being, his earth-life one of growth and reform from the bondage of desires, or a vicious brute to be hung or branded with infamy, to deter other brutes from like cause? If anything is self-evident, it is that this system has completely failed, as appeals to the lower nature always must, for in their spirit they degrade instead of elevate.

If there is any law of moral duty written in letters of light, so that he who runs may read, it is the obligation we owe to the unfortunate, and the undeveloped. Picture to ourselves a pure and loving angel in the judicial chair, sentencing a wretched being to prison or the gallows! The picture would be branded as a falsehood. We anticipate the estate of the angel; to become as pure and loving we feel is our birth-right. Is it not that which every instinct revolts against referring to the angel equally abhorrent when practiced by ourselves?

Do not say this is idle sentimentalism. We advocate the most practical system, which will give certain results of the highest order. We by no means would allow the criminal the freedom which he forfeits by his disregard of the rights of others. He is incapable of self-control, he must be controlled. How? By temporary imprisonment and compulsion to work for others? By branding with infamy? Rather by confinement so that he cannot injure others, and intellectual and moral education. This confinement not to be a definite punishment for a certain crime, but the crime indicating incapacity of control, he is to remain until he gives assurance of being able to govern himself, be that time one year or a lifetime.

Under the present system, when a convict emerges from the gate of the penitentiary, does any one claim that he is reformed? Is it not known that with rare exceptions the punishment has hardened him in crime, and he is more dangerous than before? Why should he be reformed, when there has not been the least effort made to reform him? Deprived of books, of papers, of conversation even with his fellows, often confined in a solitary cell, how is it possible for the higher faculties to gain that activity which alone can assure him of a better life?

There are asylums in which the blind, by patient instruction learn difficult arts, and to read with their delicate sense of touch. There are others where human men learn the deaf mute to converse by signs, and thus unbind the fetters of the struggling spirit. And others yet undertake the almost hopeless task of instructing the idiotic, and are rewarded by seeing the dormant intellect quicken and gleam with inspiration of thought. Numberless asylums for the insane are conducted, without stint of cost, that reason dethroned may again assert her rule.

Is the case of the criminal more hopeless? Why treat him with such vindictive hate? He, too, is capable of culture, and in a far superior measure to any of the others. His is a species of moral idiocy and insanity, requiring the same benevolent training, and loving charity.

The prison should not be a rack of torture, but a school of reform. By this means life and prosperity would be far more secure than present, for at least one-half the crimes are committed by those who have been set at liberty from your prisons. The portion of life these convicts spent outside the prison walls is brief compared to that during which they are incarcerated. Nor would the prisons be more overcrowded, for those who were sent out would not return, and the influence of the whole system would be to lessen crime.

If Government attempt, as it does, to assure protection, let it make its assurance good. Now if robbery is committed, the robber is convicted and sentenced, but Government attempts no restitution of the lost property. It taxes the loser for protection and grants none. Justice demands such restitution, and that the Government look to the robber for its rendition. He should be employed and the proceeds of his labor used to make good the amount he appropriated.

The last crime we have to consider is the capital offence, which has been unflinchingly punished with death. While we maintain that society has the right to employ such means as are necessary to protect itself, we hold that it cannot justly resort to severest means when others will answer the same purpose. By capital punishment it ignores the sacredness of human life, the very offence it strives to punish. It does not lessen crime, and hence cannot plead intimidation. As conducted in the jail yard with priestly confessors it is a ghastly farce, little removed from a brutal butchery.

The sacredness of human life should be upheld firmly that even the murderer should not forfeit it. He should lose his liberty, and safety may demand the ferfeit perpetual.

If the death penalty is for the purpose of vengeance, or, if it is for intimidation, hanging is too mild a form of execution. The most terrible tortures and excruciating methods should be used so as to appal the stoutest heart. This was done in olden times, and resulted in stimulating instead of frightening. Crime grew out of the punishment of crime. In those States that have abolished capital punishment, crime has decreased. These, however, have not gone far enough.

They have only reached what may be called a passive stage, which simply places the criminal where he can do no harm, and do not trouble themselves with his culture. The priest is their reliance to work a change of heart, which when pronounced, is practically denied by the fastened bolts of the prisoner's door.

Humanity can know but one duty in the premises. It may shrink from it now, but the future is full of promise. Even the murderer is immortal, and sometime will begin an advancement which shall culminate in angelic excellence. The laws of the universe work out their own purpose. We must not trouble ourselves to *avenge* their trangressions. We can, with justice, protect ourselves, and in doing so, work directly in their channel.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.—"Our reception was in the true Highland fashion. The pipers walked before the carriage, and the Highlanders on either side as we approached the house. Outside stood the Marquis of Lorne, just two years old, a dear, white, fat, fair little fellow, with reddish hair, but very delicate features, like both his father and mother; he is such a merry, independent little child. He had a black velvet dress and jacket, with a sporran, scarf and, Highland bonnet."

So wrote Her Majesty in her description of a royal visit to Inverary Castle, in 1847. An eye-witness of the same incident has left the following account of it:

"The Queen, on ascending the steps, recognized the little Marquis of Lorne, a graceful child, about three years old, in Highland costume, when Her Majesty stepped down and took the little fellow by the hand, and lifted him up and kissed him."

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

MR. EDITOR,—The *Reporter* in its last issue having devoted a column and a half of its *valuable* space to me, and as I am obliged to be absent from the city for a few days, I hope to be permitted to answer Mr. Geo. Frederick Fisher's *communications*, and also Mr. C. H. B. Fisher's editorial in your next issue.

Yours very truly,

JOHN RICHARDS.

Fredericton Aug. 10, 1878.

For the "Agriculturist."

MR. EDITOR,—I troubled you last week with a few remarks, with regard to the assessment. I wish now to point out, that, by the present law, a great injustice is being done to many of the rate-payers. The law requires that any person liable to be assessed in the city of Fredericton, may within thirty days after the publication of the Assessors notice, give to the Principal Assessor a statement in writing, under oath, before the Mayor, City Clerk or Principal Assessor, of his or her property and income, according to a form provided. Now, sir, it is stated by the Assessors, that, not a dozen of the taxpayers make a statement previous to the Assessment Roll being handed to the City Treasurer; but as soon as notices are served, then comes in the appeals. In 1877 $120,000 was sworn off, and this year, 1878, up to the present time, $100.000 of personal property has been sworn off. Is this fair and just to persons who pay taxes. Do the persons who appeal and have their assessment amended pay a just proportion of the city taxes? I think not. Should not parties be compelled to make a statement, and neglecting to do so, they should have no appeal, if their assessment was not increased beyond their assessment of the previous year.

Those persons who appeal, and in some instances have their assessment reduced one-half, do not pay to the city a fair proportion of the city taxes, besides giving to the Assessors more trouble to alter and amend the assessment than to make up and apportion the Assessment Roll in the first instance.

AN OBSERVER.

Fredericton, Aug. 10, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST 10, 1878.

CONTEST IN YORK.

According to the statements of the friends of Mr. Pickard and Mr. Fisher both of these gentlemen stand sure to win in the coming election. They are themselves each confident of success. There is sure to be sore disappointment on one side or the other. There is a great difference between well-grounded confidence, and the assumption of confidence. Mr. Pickard, who after ten years' service during which he has done his best for the county and Province, is not now made to feel conscious that he has forfeited the esteem of the greater body of the electors, has some grounds for confidence that he will be again sent to Ottawa. Mr. Fisher has the confidence of his ambition and abilities. He goes on the assumption that the bulk of the electors desire, as he desires, a change in the representation of the county and a change in the Government of the country—and he feels that he is the man to give the electors the impulse to vote on the side he wishes. His confidence cannot be called well grounded. It is the confidence of the adventurer, which as often brings grief, as success. He has himself to create the opposition, for it is pretty certain, that if the mass of the electors of York were left to themselves they would make no demonstration either against their present representative or the present Government. But the ballot box will prove whether Mr. Fisher has the power to change the one or shake the other.

THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR FOREST LANDS.

Nothing can be said, it may be asserted, regarding the settlement of the forest lands of the Province that has not been heard over and over again. And practically much has been done to bring about their settlement; if no inspiriting success has crownrd the endeavours that have been made, it may be argued that New Brunswick does not present sufficient inducements to attract and retain a good class of settlers. But that New Brunswick possesses both the lands that will repay the labor of clearing and cultivating them, and the men capable and willing to undertake that labor, if such lands were made accessible to them, is the firm belief of those who know the country and "its bone and sinew." The question is how to open up the right sort of land to the right sort of men. It will not, perhaps, be denied that emigration schemes, entered into with a great deal of enthusiasm have failed to fulfil all the expectations raised, because those who have had a chief hand in carrying them out, have not had practical experience in the work they have taken in hand, and because too many of the immigrants have been of a class totally unfitted by their precious lives and callings for the hard and vigorous labor demanded of the settler. People in the country—not indisposed, perhaps, to make bad a little worse, have vented their discontent on hearing of some of the failures of such colonization schemes—in some such words as, "oh, they know the settlement would not succeed—the government are ready enough to help strangers and foreigners, why can't they do as much for their own people who understand the work, and know how to clear and cultivate land?"

But, it may be said that there is nothing to hinder the young men of the country from settling on the forest lands. The Free Grants Act of 1872 offers them sufficient inducements if they are determined to settle and found a colony and the terms on which they can obtain a free grant of the lands that may be assigned to them, are not very onerous. There is nothing to hinder a number of young men joining together and obtaining contiguous lots and forming a settlement: inducements are now held out to them to do so. What hinders them but want of will? But much as the government has done, might it not, with great benefit do more to retain in the country of the most energetic of the young men who are accustomed to the life of the woods and the fields and who can weild the axe and all implements, deftly.

The first consideration, in order to make a good and thriving settlement, is to secure the best lands, and the best means of access to them. There are now, we are informed, no reliable records in the Province of the situation of all the best lands: all that can be found, are the results of the desultory examinations of some land surveyors, and these are not very often of the most trustworthy character. Might not government employ some reliable and experienced persons to make a rough survey, and embody the results of their explorations in a map of convenient size, which should be easily accessible to intending settlers. The map should not only give a rough idea of the physical features of the country, and the capabilities of the soil, but also show the relative position of the railways and navigable rivers to the various tracts of farming land shewn there. After the selection of sites fit for agricultural purposes, good and suitable roads should be constructed, which should be properly grubbed and graded a year or two before being used, and these roads should be properly provided with substantial bridges, connecting with some railway. "A correspondent" writing to us on this subject says: "Ample time should be taken for road exploration and persons employed to take levels and make estimates of the cost of construction—a work that should by no means be entrusted to ignorant and incompetent men. Our farming lands can never be quickly and profitably settled, under the old system—when a few desultory settlers have gone into the woods, carrying their provisions on their backs, and suffering most serious trials and hardships at the very time when they should have had but the one thought—how to make themselves a home;—Heretofore the settlers greatest trouble has been *his road*: good settlers will rather seek the fertile west, where lands adjacent to roads can be had, than undergo the trials attending the location of a family in the woods, on lands unprovided with the proper means of access. To the plan of roadmaking proposed, the cost may be objected. This difficulty must, however, be met in some way or other, otherwise the country cannot be settled for a century. Would it not be better to expend $20,000 or $30,000 in the construction of first-class roads to suitable lands, which shall be open equally to settlers or emigrants, than to allow poor people to locate themselves on sandy, spruce or pine lands, which in two or three years become exhausted? If lands of that character are excluded from settlement not only will useless labor be saved the settler, but the soft wood forests from which the Province derives a large revenue, will be preserved from destructive fires caused by clearing." The question of the settlement of our forest lands is one that will bearing returning to again and again.

GERMANY.

Germany is described as being in a very gloomy disquieted condition. Suspicion is abroad. Prince Bismark has fully entered upon the re-actionary policy which seems congenial to his stern autocratic mind. His spies go everywhere throughout the land, in every disguise, and practice contemptible deceit to entrap the unweary to commit themselves to saying something that may be interpreted as disrespectful to the Emperor or offensive to the government. In the restaurants and places of like resort in Berlin, the frequenters, it is said, are tongue-tied in fear of the ubitquitous spy. "Whatever of liberties the German people have enjoyed," a writer says, "since the organization of the Reichstag have been killed by the bullets of Hoedel and Nobiling to such a fearful extent that thousands have already left the country for British and American shores, while about being incarcerated. Seven hundred persons, among whom are two hundred editors, have already been thrown into dungeons for terms varying from two, three, to five years; aged women and young maidens form no exception to this rule and despair and misery, depicted on everybody's face, have already led to numerous cases of suicide on the part of those who could not escape. These arrests are not made among so-called Socialists and Communists, but among all classes of people, not for any suspicion even of having been in some way connected with the murderous attempts on the Emperor, but simply for words either carelessly spoken or misconstrued." This account probably is overcharged, but there is sufficient fact in it to indicate a very bad state of affairs.

Prince Bismarck may find the new Reichstag more pliable or easily managed than the one that was hastily dissolved for opposition to his re-actionary policy. The general elections have taken place and the returns show, if correct, that 73 conservatives; 110 Liberals of all shades; 61 Ultramontanes, and 3 Socialists have been elected. The socialists it is said, expected that the results of the election would be to double the number of their representatives in the Reichstag, but they have failed to keep up the number to its former mark. So the terror of the times has had its effect. But the discontent in Germany reaches further and deeper than to the socialists, who it may be supposed are a comparatively small and ill-esteemed party. Prince Bismarck is estranged both from his old friends the National Liberals, and other Liberals, by whatever named called—"mixed pickles;" or what not—by his protectionist trade policy, by his unconcealed resolve to render the Government independent of the yearly money votes of the Reichstag, and his restrictions on the press and the liberty of public meetings—and by his hatred, generally, of that free and constitutional Government which they ardently desire to see established. Hitherto he has had the Ultramontane party against him, and their votes with the votes of the united Liberals would make a majority against his policy. But, if late reports are correct, the German Government have come to terms with the Vatican. Concessions must be made, amounting almost to a reversal of the policy that produced the Falck Laws, which imposed Governmental inspection on Catholic schools and Governmental examination, in prescribed subjects, in all candidates for the priesthood, and Governmental approval of all espiscopal appointments, and which resulted in the shutting up of schools, seminaries and of religious institutions, the expulsion of the Jesuits, the "interning" and banishment of recalcitrant bishops, and depriving whole districts of the care of the cures and of religious institutions. It will be strange if, in his zeal to fight liberalism, and socialism, Prince Bismarck should give the church a virtual triumph. But it would seem as if he must either allow that, or take a resolve to govern the Empire, over the heads of the Reichstag, by arbitary decrees, and armed force, and to do that would be the beginning of revolution.

Who will say that John Pickard is not a man of his word? Plans and specifications for the new Post Office and Custom Building have been sent from Ottawa. Are tenders to be asked for and advertised here?

Leo XIII. has taken a bold step in filling the See of Naples, which has been vacant since the death of Cardinal Storza. King Humbert, as Monarch of the Two Sicilies claims the rights of royal patronage of all bishoprics in that kingdom. The Pope will maintain that as the concordat with the kingdom of the Two Sicilies no longer exists, the right of nomination to ecclesiastical benefices reverts to Rome. To the new archbishop, personally, no objection is made. Don Guglielmo Sanfelice dei duchi di Aquavella belonges to a noble, although decayed Neapolitan family. He was born on April 15, 1834, and was educated at the Benedictine Monastery of La Cava, of which he is dean and vicar-general. He is said to be extremely pious and deeply read in theology. The Italian Government is already in possession of the episcopal palace and revenues in Naples.—*Ex.*

THE ELECTION PETITION CASE.—On Monday forenoon, Geo. B. Seely, Esq., the attorney acting for the petitioner, Dr. Dow, and C. Allen, G. F. Gregory, and Henry B. Rainsford, Esqs., the attorneys of the respondents, Andrew G. Blair, Frederick P. Thompson, J. J. Fraser, and George J. Colter, Esqs., respondents, appeared before Judge Duff, in his Chambers, St. John, on a summons for particulars calling on the petitioner, his attorney, or agent, to give the said respondent particulars of the acts of bribery, treating, and undue influence charged against them; also the names of the persons alleged to have been bribed and unduly influenced, and the names of the bribers and intimidators, and the names of the treated and the treaters, a list of the places where the alleged treating took place, and all other such particulars as will ensure the respondents a fair and effectual trial of the matters charged against them. The gentlemen acting in this case for the respondents, returned from St. John last evening, and they will probably be furnished with the information they require, early next week. The trial will come off either in October or November.

PICNICS.—On Tuesday next, the St. Dunstan's C. T. A. Society holds its annual Picnic on Sheehan's Island, near the Fredericton Junction. This, without doubt, will be the best Picnic this season. Among the sports of the day will be a Base Ball Match, between the second nine of the "Mutuals," and the "Originals," and among the other attractions will be a Tub race and a Fat Man's race. Bryson's Band will furnish the music.

Bryson's Band intend holding a Picnic at Kenney's Grove, on Wednesday, the 21st inst. An efficient committee will have charge of the Sports of the day, who intend introducing several new and novel ones. Dancing will be kept up during the day and evening until 11 o'clock, so that those who patronize the Band on this occasion will get full value for their money. The Band is deserving of every encouragement, and we hope they will receive it on this occasion.

The members of St. Paul's Church intend giving the children of the Sabbath School their Annual Picnic next Friday. As usual, a large number of the congregation and others will seize this opportunity to have a pleasant time.

The Irish Friendly Society picnic that was held in the "Pine Grove" was a most enjoyable and successful one. The party from St. John arrived about twenty minutes after eleven, but Mr. Kenny's grounds which were in fine order, did not begin to fill until after dinner. The racing, jumping, the Irish gig and real dancing and archery were well contested, and enjoyed both by participants and onlookers; about six the party from St. John took their departure well pleased with the day's amusement.

A freak of nature more astonishing that which linked the Siamese Twins together for life, is exemplified in the case of the St Benoit Twins. These two female children perfect in every respect above the lower rib at that point literally join into one. The perfect lower body of one child belongs to the perfect upper bodies of two. One of the children appears perfect in its formation, but has another child from the waist up attached to its side. They present no monstrous, repulsive appearance, but are described as a pair of exceedingly pretty, healthy, wide awake babies remarkably well developed for their age, and to all appearance possessing as good a chance for continued existence as any single infantile member of the human family, so says the *Scientific American* of July 13. The twins were born in January, 1878, in the parish of St. Benoit—about 40 miles north of Montreal. Their parents, Drouin by name, are French inhabitants, and stout, healthy people. The twins are now being exhibited in the New York Aquarium.

We have been requested to publish the following resolutions that were passed by the "Bloomfield Reform Club" at a meeting held on the 24th ult.

Whereas the Bloomfield Reform Club considers themselves indebted to certain parties for the amounts so liberally subscribed and willingly paid by them in aid of the club building now in the course of erection in this place; therefore

Resolved, That the thanks of this society are due, and are unanimously tendered to the said parties; also:—

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the AGRICULTURIST for publication.

Signed in behalf of the club,

WM. HINCKEY, *President*,
GEO. PARKER, *Secretary*

NORMAL SCHOOL.—Last evening, for the first time, the Normal School building was lighted up gas, with most brilliant effect. The gas fixtures were imported by Mr. Limerick, and the work of laying the pipes, and adjusting the gasaliers was performed by his foreman, Mr. Wm. Reed. The gas-fitting has been executed just in time, as the Teacher's Institute meets next week, and there will be evening sederunts.

EXHIBITION BUILDING.—A portion of the frame work of the Exhibition Building—the western nave—is now in position. There is also a quantity of fitted timber lying ready to be elevated in form. The whole framework will probably be up in a week, it will not be the fault of Mr. J. A. Reed and the workmen if it is not. The new building promises to be as fine looking, and fully as commodious as the old "Palace."

We are requested to announce that the Photograph business lately carried on by Segee & Co., will for the future be under the management of Mr. George W. Schleyer, who has for some time been engaged in the business. The reputation of this establishment will be kept up under the new proprietor who hopes by strict attention to business to still receive the patronage so liberally bestowed on it heretofore.

SUICIDE IN ST. JOHN.—Lewis H. Davis, commedian, was the actor in a terrible tragedy, last Saturday evening, in Dockrill's Hall. Shortly before the curtain rose, he cut his throat in the dressing room, inflicting a mortal wound. He died twenty minutes after committing the ghastly deed, without a word to explain the motive.

The Fire Committee have been ordered by the City Council to purchase a span of horses, waggons, &c., for the use of the department. In selecting a person to take care of the horses, we hope they will secure the services of a steady, active young man, who will be able on all occasions, night or day, to turn out for duty promptly.

Twenty-third of November, it is stated in some American papers, is the day on which the U. S. Government will pay the Fishery award, if Secretary Evart's argument do not make the British Government ashamed to take the $5,500,000.

Brysons's Band gave one of its popular open air concerts in front of the leader's residence, on Thursday evening last. A large number of citizens were present, who seemed to enjoy the really good music of this Band.

FREDERICTON GARDENS.—A correspondent writes us an article on "our Fredericton Gardens progressive," which reminds us of old Jack Falstaff's halfpenny worth of bread to an intolerable deal of sack! The most of his letter is devoted to a running commentary on the 2nd and 3rd chapters of the Book of Genesis, and he only devotes a few lines to his proper subject. It may be all very well for him, as a Gardener, to express more than common sympathy with Adam, for his expulsion from the beautiful and well kept garden of Eden, but it is hardly to the purpose. When he comes down to the flower gardens of Fredericton, he still has paradise in his mind; but he simply says:—"Morrisons is delightful, there never was so much rich material in the beds; they are well dressed, and kept as in the first garden; also Ketchum's and Fenety's—there is something admirable about progress—these are better this year than in the year previous—and citizens and others are not deprived of the pleasure of seeing them." If our correspondent would forget all about his fellow-gardener—Adam—and write a full discriptive account of the gardens of Fredericton, noting the improvements, &c., he would do something that might prove interesting.

The *Traveller*, a New England paper, has some very hard remarks on what he calls "The New Brunswick Mob," in reference to the rowdyism that was rampant in St. John during the notorious week of the Ross-Hanlan race. "Its masses are like the little girl in the rhyme; when they are good, they are very, very good, and when they are bad, they are horrid. Now New Brunswick needs a state constablary, and it always stood in need of a general force of that character." Instead of denouncing the New Brunswick mob, If the *Traveller* had been content to pitch into the rowdies of St. John, who evidently want an iron hand to keep them in decent order, it would not have been amiss; but, we don't think that *Traveller* is justified in saying that the same crowd which ran riot along the Torryburn road, "went into ecstacies" at the time of the Tyne-Paris crew race because Renforth lost his life at the start and enabled the St. John crew to win. *Traveller* does not know what he is speaking about, he says that such outrages as were witnessed on the shores of the Kennebecasis would not have been tolerated during the late Governor Wilmot's time.

Miss Charlotte Thompson's Theatrical Company whose first performances gave so much satisfaction, will give three entertainments, in the City Hall, commencing on Monday evening.—See Advt.

The Marquis of Hartington, leader of the opposition, in the course of a speech on Intermediate Education, delivered lately, on the occasion of delivering prizes to the successful students in Eastbourne district, in connection with the Cambridge University Head said:—

He was pleased to see that the examinations turned so much on the subject of English literature, this being of paramount interest at the present time. So much was written in the daily newspapers, and written so hurriedly, and without time for careful composition, and so much of one's every-day reading consisted in perusing these journals, that unless some care was taken he was afraid before long we should be in danger of losing some of the purity of our beautiful language. It would be invidious, he went on to say, to compare the authors of the present with those of past generations, but he was happy to say we had still many amongst us who were still great masters of the English language. After some allusion to those he turned to the field of politics, and found that liter