

Canadians would be prohibited from importing from the United States reprints of British copyright works, and would be shut up to the expensive English editions. The question, it must be distinctly borne in mind, is not so much one of justice for the British author as of monopoly for the British publisher. Canada, by reason of her relations to the British Empire on the one hand and to the United States on the other, is in danger of being ground between the upper and the nether millstone. Even Americans can hardly complain if Canadian copyright is withheld from them until a reciprocal arrangement is made. Nor is it unreasonable, in view of all the circumstances, to ask that British copyright shall be recognized in Canada only when printing and publication are done in Canada. The payment of a royalty would fairly secure the interests of the English author. These proposals, however they may be viewed in the abstract, are clearly, as we have intimated, and as the Minister of Customs seemed to admit, in line with the principles of the National Policy.

WE recently met with two statements in regard to Canadian Indians in an article by a Canadian writer—we think it was by Mr. J. Macdonald Oxley, but are unable at this moment to verify the impression—which struck us as being worthy of serious attention. One was a statement of fact, to the effect that the number of Indians in the Dominion is increasing. The other was a statement of opinion, or inference from past experience, to the effect that there is no hope of their becoming civilized. Putting the two things together, we reach the painful conclusion that our country is to have permanently, as a part of its population, a large and increasing number of barbarians, many of them little, if at all, removed from their condition of primitive savagery. This means that all the resources of our Christian civilization have utterly failed, and will utterly fail through an indefinite future, to reclaim the aborigines of our country—a race endowed with many noble qualities; that tens of thousands of them will continue from generation to generation to drag on a wretched, hopeless existence, the males idle, cruel, degraded; the females doing the drudgery of beasts of burden; all wallowing in filth and misery indescribable.

CAN it be that the conclusion of the writer referred to is the conclusion of the Government and people of Canada? If so it is hard to say which is the greater, the disgrace or the danger. Surely such a conclusion cannot be complacently accepted. If forced upon us as an inevitable necessity of fact and logic, it can be so only after every resource of our civilization has been exhausted, every lawful expedient tried in vain. Has this been done, or is it being done? This question is suggested just now by a letter which appeared a few days since in the *Globe*. The letter purports to be from a teacher in the employ of the Government, amongst the Northwest Indians. A letter presenting a very similar picture appeared in the *Educational Journal* a few weeks since. The gist of the complaint in both cases is the beggarly pittance paid as salary, \$25 per month, and the prohibition of trading and agriculture. Let that pass. The teacher is not obliged to accept the position, and there may be good reasons for the prohibitions. The important thing, from our present point of view, is the glimpse we get of the educational work as it is being done by the Government schools. If the statements are reliable the Indians send their children, or do not send them, as they please, and they generally please to do the latter, except when coaxed or bribed. Is it not time this matter of playing with Indian education should be done away with, and the training, which should be largely industrial, of the coming generation of Indians taken hold of with a vigorous hand? Can the people of Canada sit down with folded arms and clear consciences, and say that the Indians cannot be civilized, before they have, at least, made patient and faithful trial of a thorough system of the compulsory education of every boy and girl on every reservation? Why not compulsory? Surely the Government has the power and the right over those whom it treats as the wards and pensioners of the nation. The increase of expense should not be great, for under an industrial system they might raise much of the food which is now supplied to them. Again we ask, why not?

CANADA must be getting up in years as well as importance when she can boast a Board of Trade half a century old and with fourteen hundred members. The annual banquet of such a body may well be made a grand and important event, as was that of the Montreal Board of Trade which took place on the 23rd inst. However

close-hampered the Governor-General may feel himself to be by the functional and constitutional ligaments which bind him, His Excellency was able to emphasize two prime articles of the political creed which must be common to all loyal Canadians—the infallibility of Parliament, and the future of Canada. The first reminds Canadians of their secured rights, the second of their patriotic duties. Under our free constitution it is no longer the king but the Parliament that can do no wrong. As the organ and mouth-piece of the people its decisions must be regarded as the expression of the supreme popular will. As to the second, amidst the present unrest and conflict of opinion regarding the shape in which Canadian destiny can be best wrought out, the one point on which all true Canadians should be in hearty accord is that that destiny shall be not only great, but that it shall be Canadian. Whatever dispute there may be as to the true meaning of Canadian loyalty, no better tests of orthodoxy could have been selected than the two so happily presented by Lord Stanley. The speeches of Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues, and of the others who were honoured with a place on the programme, in the main chimed in well with one or the other of these two key-notes. The Premier was as usual both witty and wise. Indeed on this, as on many other public occasions, the humorous and the serious are, not undesignedly we dare say, so shaded into each other that the critic is sometimes puzzled to know where the one ceases and the other begins.

THE Protestants of Montreal have two real and serious educational grievances, which it is hoped the Legislature will remove during the present session. The one relates to the manner in which the school taxes paid by corporations are divided between Catholic and Protestant schools. Instead of the manifestly fair arrangement which prevails in Ontario, under which the school taxes paid by corporations whose members are Protestants go to Protestant schools, and those paid by corporations whose members are Catholics go to Catholic schools, the Quebec system divides the whole amount paid by corporations according to population. As it is well known that while Catholics exceed greatly in numbers, Protestants own by far the larger share of the capital in business corporations, the injustice is seen at a glance. The Protestants are petitioning for a more equitable system. Whether Mr. Mercier will be just enough to grant it, remains to be seen. As a contemporary suggests, it will be greatly to his credit if he does so, especially if he should at the same time remove the galling disability under which graduates of Protestant colleges wishing to enter the learned professions now labour in consequence of the refusal of the law and medical societies to accept the degrees of these colleges as evidence of fitness to enter upon the professional courses. Protestant graduates are now compelled to pass examinations in subjects which are taught only in Catholic colleges. Comment is needless to show the glaring unfairness of such an arrangement. A professedly Liberal Government should not be slow to remove such inequalities.

THERE is, it must be admitted, some room for difference of opinion as to the propriety and significance of the banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London to Mr. Phelps, the retiring United States Minister. It is clear that both the exalted position of the Lord Mayor and the representative character and cordial expressions of those who attended, invest the occasion with an almost official and national importance. The unprecedented compliment of a valuable gift to Mrs. Phelps by ladies of the highest rank, has also attracted much attention, and even, it is said, given some umbrage to the friends of other ambassadors whose ladies have never been so honoured. These unusual events admit of but two explanations. The least charitable view is that insinuated by the *Standard*, and, strangely enough, by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to the effect that these demonstrations are a somewhat craven attempt to propitiate the democratic dignities of the New World. The other, and, in view of the manifest spontaneousness and sincerity of the manifestations, more probable explanation is simply that "blood is thicker than water." Indeed there seems no good reason to doubt that, in so far as the demonstrations were anything more than tributes to the personal qualities of Mr. and Mrs. Phelps, they were prompted by the feeling that the people of the United States stand to Englishmen in a different relation from that of other peoples. They are their kinsmen, whom, as a noble lord some time since observed, it is impossible to think of as a race of foreigners. Every noble and generous nature in either nation will understand and sympathize with this view, and rejoice in the pledge it brings of en-

during peace and friendship, in spite of scheming letter-writers, designing politicians and fishery disputes.

THOUGH the German accounts of the disturbances in Samoa are so contradictory in details to those coming through American sources that it seems impossible to determine the facts in regard to these, yet the general features of the case remain tolerably distinct. It is clear enough that German interposition in the affairs of the island was premeditated, and that the ultimate object is to make German influence supreme, either by annexation or otherwise. True, the fact that the United States was not a party to the agreement between Germany and Great Britain for preserving Samoan neutrality materially modifies the situation, from the point of view of treaty obligations. Yet that fact hardly warrants the almost contemptuous indifference with which the German semi-official press seems disposed to thrust aside American claims and interests. So long as the islands are the property of neither nation, and have a quasi-independent status, it is obviously in order for a third party to interpose, if its commercial interests are sufficiently involved. American interests, already considerable in Samoa, seem likely to be largely increased in the future. It is hardly possible that the mighty Republic can much longer continue indifferent to the rush of the great maritime powers, for coaling stations and points of vantage in the Pacific. American Senators seem just now to be awaking to the idea that their country can scarcely afford to remain idle spectators of the game of grab which is being so assiduously played by the European Powers, when the scene is transferred to this hemisphere. It might be argued that Great Britain's interests would afford sufficient guarantee of the enforcement of the terms of the treaty and the protection of Samoan independence. But it seems now to be almost taken for granted, even in England, much more abroad, that Great Britain can no longer be relied on to take a firm stand against German aggression. Moreover England's interests are so worldwide and there are so many means of permitting a great maritime power to compensate itself for concession in one quarter of the world by advantages in another, that its course in regard to a particular locality is increasingly uncertain. It is hardly probable, however, seeing the unprotected state of her coasts and the insufficiency of her navy, that the United States will feel prepared, at present, to protest very resolutely against German encroachments in Samoa.

IT is significant of the undercurrent of opinion with regard to the prospective success of the Panama Canal, or some rival scheme, that its effects upon the world's commerce are already being taken into the account. Much of the newly developed interest in Samoan affairs, has evidently arisen in anticipation of the future opening of a trans-Isthmian route. The probable effect of such an event upon the relations of the United States to the rest of the world is a matter for curious speculation. It would evidently go far towards putting an end to the comparative isolation of the great Republic, and compelling it to identify itself more closely with European affairs. Especially would this consequence ensue if, as is probable, one of the results should be not only to give commercial importance to islands in the Pacific lying along the great routes of travel and traffic, but to transform some of these into strongholds of the great maritime powers. It is worthy of note in this connection that one of the immediate results of Boulanger's Parisian triumph will almost surely be to give a great impetus to the operations of the new Panama Company. It seems certain that the influence of M. de Lesseps was one of the most potent forces in bringing about Boulanger's election.

THERE is a fair prospect, it is now thought, that the proposed American Copyright Act will be passed by the United States Congress before the close of the present Session. In view of this possibility, "An English Author" has written to the *London Times*, making some startling predictions as to the ruin that will be wrought on the English book trade. The condition, that in order to obtain copyright the book must be printed in America, will lead to all the printing being done there for both markets. Nor will this be the worst result, according to "An English Author." As the Americans buy books, while the English only borrow them from circulating libraries, English books will come to find their chief sale in the United States. Hence English authors will write for their new customers—that is, write up to or down to