

danger in applying it in its honest sense without warning. This safeguard established, we have to say that in our opinion Mr. Thompson's poetry at its highest attains a sublimity unsurpassed by any Victorian poet—a sublimity which will stand the hideous test of extracts, e.g.—

"The calm hour strikes on yon golden gong,
In tones of floating and mellow light
A spreading summons to even-song ;

See how there
The cowed night

Kneels on the Eastern sanctuary-stair.
What is this feel of incense everywhere ?
Clings it round folds of the blanch-amiced clouds,

Upwafted by the solemn thrifer,
The mighty spirit unknown,
That swingeth the slow earth before the embannered Throne !"

—The Speaker.

THE "HARMONIOUS BLACKSMITH."

In the churchyard of Little Stanmore, in Middlesex, is a tombstone which was erected to the memory of William Powell, the "Harmonious Blacksmith," at whose forge, in Edgeware Road, Handel is said to have taken shelter from the rain one afternoon. The story goes that when Handel entered the smithy, Powell was singing a melody which chimed in with the strokes of his hammer on the anvil. Handel caught the idea, and worked out his well known theme. The anvil and hammer were sold by public auction in 1879, and its tone, when struck, was found to be in exactly the same key as the "Harmonious Blacksmith." The little Stanmore Church is full of memories of the great composer. The organ case is elaborately carved by the celebrated woodcarver, Grinling Gibbons, whose beautiful work at Chatsworth excites the greatest admiration. The organ was built by Father Schmidt in Queen Anne's reign, and on this instrument Handel played during his three years' residence at the Canons, the magnificent mansion of the Duke of Chandos. During this period Handel produced his "Acis and Galatea," the "Chandos Anthems," and the oratorio of "Esther." Several fine stained windows in the church are illustrative of Handel's life and works. —*London Million.*

CANADA'S INTELLECTUAL GROWTH.

Dr. Bourinot's latest brochure contains a short historical and critical review of literature and education in Canada. We have already stated the substance of this sketch and need dwell upon it no further at present. The work under notice is not the first essay in this sphere. The author here enters upon a field long since occupied by another distinguished Nova Scotian, the late George Renny Young, brother of a former Chief Justice of the province, whose work on "Colonial literature, science and education ; written with a view of improving the literary, educational and public institutions of British North America," was issued in 1842 and was long an accepted authority. If we mistake not, it was referred to and quoted by Lord Durham and successive governors under the old regime. At a later period McGee traversed the same ground in his "Mental Outfit of the New Dominion," a paper of exceptional merit conceived and expressed in a fine spirit. The late Hon. P. J. O. Chaveau, superintendent of Education for the Province of Quebec, and the late John Charles Dent, the historian, have likewise more recently touched upon the same subject ; while the monumental volume of Mr. Henry J. Morgan, the "Bibliotheca Canadensis" published in 1862 was the pioneer of Canadian bibliography. —*Ottawa Citizen.*

Mutability of temper and inconsistency with ourselves is the great weakness of human nature. — Addison.

It is by imitation far more than by precept that we learn everything ; and what we learn thus, we acquire not only more effectually, but more pleasantly. — Burke.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Ottawa Citizen : Mr. Meredith suggests that the Ontario Legislature shall hold biennial sessions only so as to save expense and avoid the temptation to tinker with the laws, that the number of Ministers shall be reduced, and that a return shall be made to the old system of governing the schools on a non-political basis as under Dr. Ryerson. These are all reforms that should commend themselves to the good sense of the public.

Montreal Gazette : A new House of Representatives is to be elected in November, and if the present depression continues and the present trend of opinion is not checked, the Republicans will have an easy victory. If the Democrats cannot act in such time as to give the country a chance to suit itself to the new circumstances they propose to create before the active campaign commences their hope of success will be nil. It is do quickly or die with the cause of free trade tariff reform.

Halifax Chronicle : Why should Premier Fielding be opposed ? He has proved himself to be a man of tact, ability and unswerving integrity. He enjoys the unwavering confidence of the entire Liberal party and of hundreds of Conservatives as well all over the Province. Many Conservatives who have in the past voted against him frankly bear testimony to his many personal good qualities, his tact and ability and his fidelity to duty. Why should any intelligent Conservative even dream of replacing so faithful a public servant by an absolutely unknown quantity ?

Quebec Chronicle : The P. P. A. . . . is a body of men whose only aim in life is to foment religious discord and to create ill-feeling between the creeds and races of the Dominion. It is a United States institution and the branch established in Ontario has copied the oath, which all members must take, from the parent organization across the border. There is no room in Canada for the P. P. A., and the sooner it is wiped out the better it will be for the future welfare of our Dominion, which pleads for harmony and union. Neither side dare take the P. P. A. under its wing, but the P. P. A. is capable of doing a good deal of injury.

Manitoba Free Press : If the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one has grown before is to be much commended, as we are frequently told he is, the praise we suppose is to be extended to the cultivation of wheat, although this activity on the part of South Australians is not precisely what Manitobans are panting for. We would rather, for instance, that they produced more gold wherewith to buy our wheat, timber, etc. If, however, India, Australia and other places are extending their wheat areas it is well that we should know it, that we may turn over in our minds the safety and other advantages of diversified agriculture.

Moncton Transcript : The Ontario Liberal Government has a practical way of breaking up combines. The farmers were oppressed by a binder's twine combine fostered and protected under the Dominion tariff. Sir Oliver Mowat, recognizing the evil, started the manufacture of binder's twine at the Central Prison, which the Provincial Government controls. Last year the prison produced \$100,000 worth of twine and this year the output will be \$300,000. Now the Dominion Government has started the production at Kingston penitentiary and in this respect imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Sir Oliver is consistent, but the Tory Government is inconsistent—it seeks with its left hand to counteract the evil work of its right.

Edward Eggleston says that he used to feel compunctions about neglecting to answer requests for autographs when stamps were enclosed, until he told Lowell of his scruples and Lowell said : "I asked Emerson what he did about autograph letters and he replied : 'They are my main dependence for postage stamps.' After that," said Lowell, "I was demoralized." —*New York World.*

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