

to hate labour. Religious instruction, it is to be feared, seldom by itself does a prisoner much good : he listens because he has nothing else to do, but he is not changed, and the best effect of these kindly ministrations usually is to make the man feel that he is not an utterly neglected outcast. Toronto, among her other industries, has an active manufactory of criminals. In her City Gaol, prisoners of all kinds are left to lounge away the whole day in corridors with nothing to do but infect and harden each other. Of the number some are serious offenders, others are mere tramps or men out of work, consigned to prison under a nominal charge of vagrancy, as a mode of keeping them off the street. The Governor does his best to separate the vagrant from the criminal and to prevent moral contagion ; but without the power of employing the convicts, his efforts cannot produce much fruit. Everyone sees what must be the results of such a system economically as well as morally and socially ; yet a member of the City Council would have to take his municipal life in his hand if he dared to propose the introduction of labour into the city prison.

THE high qualities of Lord Wolseley are a little marred by an apparent seeking after theatrical effect. There was something of this kind in his high-sounding invitation to his Canadian voyageurs to join his standard in Egypt. The conqueror of the Red River, it seemed to say, is now marching to victory on the Nile and he summons the companions of his former glories to share his coming triumph. The result of a hasty requisition might have been foreseen ; indeed the British authorities might have been warned of it by their representatives here, if they would only insist upon knowing the plain truth. Voyageurs to the required number were not forthcoming, and the contingent was made up with amateur boatmen, some of them, it seems, inexperienced, who enlisted either for the sake of the pay or for that of the trip and the adventure. Hence a train of untoward events : boats upset or wrecked, supplies lost, British officers writing angry letters to military friends at home, and Canadians complaining of ill-usage here. There seems also more than once to have been difficulty in maintaining discipline, and this is a fact which the heads of the British War Office will do well to lay to heart. England in spite of all the extensions of the political suffrage is not yet socially democratic ; the masses of her people are still very much the reverse, and they obey their officer as they have before obeyed their squire. But Canada like the United States is socially as well as politically democratic, and our people, though capable of being led by those who understand them, are not likely to submit with a good grace to the stern and mechanical discipline of a British regiment, enforced by officers between whom and their men there is understood to be a difference of class. In truth, if the War Office wishes to introduce insubordination into the British army it can hardly do better than recruit upon this continent.

ONCE more the everlasting \$5,000 ransom with which the names of M. Mercier and M. Mosseau are connected has come to the front. The Royal Commission of enquiry has reported, and a libel suit against the *Minerve*, arising out of hostile comments on M. Mercier's conduct in the premises, has been decided. Three of the Commissioners, M. L. G. Desjardins, M. N. L. Anselin and M. G. A. Nantel, report strongly against M. Mercier, while M. F. X. Lemieux is even more strongly in his favour. The majority of the Commissioners find that the demand for the invalidation of the election of M. Mosseau was chiefly instigated by M. Mercier "with the object of procuring personal advantages, political or pecuniary," and that the \$5,000 received by him, on the abandonment of the demand for disqualification, was \$2,000 in excess of the proper charges, including the extrajudicial. M. Lemieux replies, in his minority-of-one Report, by pointing to the fact that several members of the bar, who were heard as witnesses, said the charge of \$5,000 was not unreasonable. Still no impartial person can doubt that the charge of crookedness in the transaction is true ; but the crookedness was not all on one side. If M. Mercier was willing to drop the demand for disqualification for a consideration, the friends of M. Mercier were willing to pay that consideration, in the shape of hush-money. In the libel suit, the jury found the defendant "guilty of libel without guilty knowledge," and Judge Ramsay, in measuring the damages at \$50, substantially affirmed all that had been complained of as libellous. "The fact is," he said, "that the complainant having the control of an election petition containing personal charges against M. Mosseau, the Premier Minister of Quebec, had abandoned those charges, and that the condition of this abandonment was the payment of a sum of money in guise of costs." The counsel for the defendant contended that the verdict was not legal and ought not to have been received ; and it is probable that a writ of error will be moved for to set it aside and obtain a new trial.

COUNTER charges were made against M. Mosseau, apparently in retaliation for the attack on M. Mercier in connection with the election protest in the County of Jacques Cartier, and the same Commissioners were directed to enquire into the charges made on both sides. While M. Mosseau was at the head of the Government of Quebec, a contract for the erection of the new Legislative building was let to M. A. Charlebois and Co. Before the contract was awarded, Charlebois and Co. stipulated to pay to Jean de Beaufort \$10,000, at three different dates, in the event of Alexander McMillan or Charlebois and Co. obtaining the contract. It is quite evident that the prospective contractors believed that they were purchasing the influence, which they must have believed to be effective, of Jean de Beaufort. When the facts became known, M. Mosseau was charged with being privy to the \$10,000 transaction and even with personally profiting by it. The Commissioners exonerate him from all blame or knowledge of the arrangement. They find that Beaufort exercised no influence over M. Mosseau or his colleagues in awarding the contract ; that M. Mosseau received no part of the money, and that the alterations of the conditions of the deposit required from the contractors was made in the interest of the Province. The two parties to this political and personal quarrel were playing a mutually destructive game. M. Mercier fought in person ; M. Mosseau depended for his defence upon his friends, he having meanwhile retired to the bench. Each party demanded a commission and each got what it asked ; though the Government, which did not love M. Mercier more than M. Mercier loved the Government, as happens in all such cases, took care to put a majority of its friends on the Commission. M. Watts, one of the Commissioners, abandoned the inquiry before all the evidence in the Mercier case had been taken. Happily there is no reason to believe that a former Premier of Quebec, who is now a judge, dishonoured himself by taking a bribe from a contract broker ; though this broker took from contractors \$10,000 on the pretence that he was able to influence the first minister to give a heavy contract to his nominees.

In the County of Simcoe, where the Scott Act was carried by a not very large majority, the victorious party, we are told, is preparing to enforce it against the minority with vigour, and has engaged a skilful detective for that purpose. This, surely, is not very neighbourly work or such as is likely to fill the community with the good will which the Christian ministers who head the Scott Act movement would admit that it is their calling to promote. The detective, like the hangman, must sometimes be employed. He may be generally employed with safety and propriety when he is set by authority to track the perpetrator of a crime which has been undoubtedly committed ; though a detective has been known, even in a capital case, either from desire of the reward or under the influence of professional propensity, to fabricate evidence for the purpose of securing a conviction. But the use of a detective or informer as a decoy to tempt a man into committing the act which will bring him within the grasp of the law, even if it is sometimes warranted by necessity, is a practice from which all that is best in us recoils. Readers of "Oliver Twist" will remember that Mr. Noah Claypole, having escaped the halter by turning approver, went into business, with his Charlotte, as an informer. His plan was to walk out once a week during church time, attended by Charlotte in respectable attire. The lady fainted away at the doors of charitable publicans, and the gentleman being accommodated with three pennyworth of brandy to restore her, laid an information next day and pocketed half the penalty. Sometimes Mr. Claypole fainted himself with the same result. This, in strictness, can be justified ; but a man must have parted with the last vestige of self-respect before he could ply the trade of Noah Claypole. Yet those who employ Noah Claypole stand in an equally questionable position ; indeed in one, if anything, more questionable, since a double responsibility is incurred by setting another man to do what you are ashamed to do yourself.

LIKE the people of Kingston, the people of Cobourg oppose University Confederation. Their ostensible reasons it would scarcely be very profitable to combat. What ground can there be for believing that the centralization of University Education in Toronto would debar many of the youth of the Province from its benefits ? Is it possible that the few hours journey between Cobourg and Toronto should make a great difference in this respect ? The real objection, we may be sure, is the unwillingness to lose a source of local dignity and profit, combined with a little jealousy of the aggrandizement of Toronto. Nothing can be more natural. It may as well be frankly confessed that in this matter there is a certain antagonism between local interests and what every competent judge believes to be the interest of University Education. That the people of Cobourg and Kingston will in course of time be amply repaid for any present sacrifice