

feeling of *The Bystander*, which is manifested on every page of his essay. "Nothing will keep the world right but righteousness," and "let righteousness prevail in the councils of England," are sentiments which a British subject might be expected to furnish rather to other nations than to his own, especially as his own is precisely the one which least requires such advice.

IMPERIAL AGGREGATION.

This subject was fully treated in our last issue, for the accusation is founded solely on the interference of the Imperial Government in our public works; and, if the charge were really as true as it is the reverse, the chief blame would rest on our own ministers and our own Parliament.

SIR LEONARD TILLEY AND HAROUN ALRASCHID.

The *Bystander* admits that Sir Leonard Tilley "has been very properly making a tour of commercial inspection," but we are told that the Caliph "made his tour of inspection in disguise," from which the obvious inference is that Sir Leonard should have done likewise.

SIR ALEXANDER GALT'S MISSION.

It is admitted that Sir Alexander Galt "has been distinguished as a champion of Canadian self-government," but so little confidence does *The Bystander* repose in him that there may be "need of watchfulness to prevent Canadian questions being settled in the parlours of Downing street. And this because the chiefs of our government have been drinking Imperialism at the fountain."

We candidly confess that we are ignorant of the precise meaning of the term "Imperialism," as applied to English politics. It is, we believe, synonymous with "Jingoism," and we are elsewhere told that the late John Arthur Roebuck was an "Ultra Jingo," and that Sheffield is "an outpost of Jingoism in the North." We are unaware of any attempt to change the constitution of Great Britain and Ireland, and we have always understood that "Imperialism" was a system of government adopted in dependencies of the Empire, in which the people were not fit for self-government. The late Lord Macaulay was the most eloquent advocate of Imperialism that we are aware of.

THE NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We frankly acknowledge that if we held *The Bystander's* views as to the manifest destiny of Canada we should subscribe to all he has said about our Western Provinces. It would be unprofitable and wholly useless to discuss our policy regarding those territories with one who not only believes that the whole Dominion

will be absorbed in the neighboring republic, but who does not believe that the North-West, "when it is out of leading strings," will continue its connection with us. It is satisfactory to have an admission that it was "a happy day in our annals" when the representatives of English farmers came to see Canada.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD AND VICTORIA.

The paragraph on this subject is the unkindest cut of all. British Columbia "is not yet morally in the Confederation." She is treating Canada "as an adverse party, whom she is trying to hold to the terms of a ruinous bargain," and it is consequently "unfortunate," that the Prime Minister should sit for a constituency in such a Province. Considering that "the ruinous bargain" has been ratified by Parliament, and that the leaders of both the political parties are pledged to carry it out, and moreover considering that British Columbia is represented in the Dominion Parliament, we fail to comprehend what process is to be adopted in order to bring her "morally" into the Confederation. However, *The Bystander* has made the notable discovery that Sir John Macdonald's constituency is "not only in the moon," but "it is in the domain of the plaintiff in a suit for a prodigious sum in which we are the defendants." It is no wonder that *The Bystander* wants Sir John in West Toronto, but we may be permitted to doubt whether that constituency would be a Tamworth or a Tiverton "or the safest and quietest" that could be found.

THE FARMERS AND THE LOAN SOCIETIES.

The fable of the boy and the nuts illustrates the present condition of a great many of the farmers of Ontario in their relation to the Loan Societies. The existence of these institutions, while largely promoting the agricultural development of the country, has of late years tempted the farmers beyond their usual prudence. Everybody knows the farmer's disposition to regard a long time debt as no debt at all, a happy condition which, however, he shares here and there with the mercantile classes, and the Loan Society is extremely lenient in this respect—as long as he pays the interest.

The state of affairs among a large number of Ontario farmers to day is far from encouraging. In their greed for more land, through careless habits, or extravagance, they have placed themselves in the condition simply of tenants on their own farms. The man who borrows \$2,000 from the Loan Society, or from

some prudent, thrifty neighbor (the nucleus of a future Loan Company) is simply paying a fair rent, in the shape of interest, for his farm, and he has examples in plenty to prove that cases are not frequent where it has been found possible to save much money on rented farms; or in case of incumbrance, where there has been much laid by as a sinking fund towards the payment of the principal due the Loan Society. Not only this; every country storekeeper knows how difficult it is even in seasons of fair crops to collect his account from owners of farms thus encumbered, who must first of all provide for the payment of interest.

Under such circumstances it requires little foresight to predict the future of the agricultural classes in Ontario. The tendency is slowly but surely towards large holdings, and a system of farm rents which becomes more threatening every year according as the land is deprived of its original strength and fertility. The winter seasons are also becoming less and less profitable to the farmer according as the country becomes cleared of wood. In former years he found employment in preparing and hauling wood or logs for market or mill, and in that manner often realized more than from his crops; now this source of revenue is almost entirely gone, and he deems himself fortunate if he has preserved sufficient wood for domestic use.

Instead of adding to his acreage it were much better for the farmer who is in debt to the Loan Society to dispose of part of what he already holds and pay off his mortgage. By devoting his exclusive attention to what he may safely call his own, he can realize more than is now possible with such a yearly load of interest to pay, besides being free from the danger of losing all in the end. The covetous boy, who, having put his hand into the jar containing nuts, could not withdraw a whole handful, fairly illustrates the case of many of our Ontario farmers, who by grasping at too much may lose all.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

We noticed in our last number that the annual meeting of the Board of Trade was held on the 13th inst. The President, Mr. Henry Lyman, delivered an interesting address in which he noticed some of the principal events that have occurred since the organization of the society, fifty-two years ago. Among the subjects to which the President thought the attention of Parliament should be directed was the system of banking, and he intimated an opinion that the American system was