

He sparkles on the surface as does a diamond. His wit effervesces like the bead on champagne. But, though volatile, he is more sensibly so than his American congener—especially in politics.

In the United States, when a President is to be elected, enthusiasm is thrown to the winds of heaven. It permeates every nook and cranny of the social edifice. The presidential campaign is made the occasion of mirth as well as struggle. Still, in the heat of political strife, good nature and sense are apt to be largely supplanted by bitterness and vituperation. Though the law officially recognises no nomination, and every native born citizen, who has not the taint upon him of conviction in the criminal courts of the country, is technically eligible for the Presidency, still parties hold conventions and select the men they regard as the most likely to win the popular vote. In most of the States the tests of eligibility are merely citizenship and the ability to read the constitutions of the State and of the nation, together with a residence of one year within the State, and of six months in the district wherein the vote is tendered. When candidates have been "nominated," the air is for months rent with shouts, the ear delighted (?) with oratory, and party camp-fires burn through the land, politics claiming attention everywhere. When a President is elected, it is for only four years, and he has hardly got a firm hold of affairs before the same performance has to be again gone over. The President of the United States is paid \$50,000 a year for his services in that capacity, and his household expenses are paid by the nation, no definite sum being fixed for that purpose. If he happens to be frugal, he has the opportunity to save a goodly sum in his four years. If, however, he is a liberal entertainer, with high ideas of what befits the Chief of the greatest Republic, and one of the greatest nations on the face of the earth, he will not have much left when he retires from office. Of course, if he has proved himself a wise executive officer, history and posterity will honor his name.

The French way is different. The Senate and Chamber of Deputies, by a majority vote, elect without any nomination, and in very much the same manner that the United States elected its President before political conventions became the style in American politics. There is, however, this difference—that the American Electoral College was created by the Constitution solely for the purpose of making a President and a Vice President, and it has no duties beyond that, while the French Chamber is also the legislative body of that Republic. The Frenchman naturally takes much delight in the event, but there is none of the pyrotechnic display of enthusiasm that is seen in the United States on such occasions. There is more soberness, more solemnity, in this, one of the greatest acts of a Republic—the choice of a chief executive. When France elects a President, it is for seven years. He receives, as salary, \$120,000 per year, and is allowed \$60,000 annually for household expenses. Besides the honor which attaches to his name, if he has been a wise magistrate, he will be a rich man.

The French President is ineligible for a second term, but the American is not, if the people want him.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

The success which has attended the manual-training branch of the schools in the City of Toledo, O., is worthy of the highest consideration and commendation. It was originated about five years ago, and has steadily grown in popularity and usefulness. Space will not permit us to give in full, but from an open letter of the Superintendent of Schools of that city, we condense the following.—

"In a comparatively humble way it began in a small room, with sixty boys and girls as pupils. They were pupils of the public schools, and did their regular school work in connection with mechanical and free-hand drawing and carpentry in the manual department. The second year, a large four-story building was erected and equipped with steam power, benches, tools, lathes, and forges. Ample room was provided for free-hand and mechanical drawing, special prominence being given to architectural and perspective work. A domestic economy department was added, in which girls study the chemistry of foods and their preparation for the table. A sewing class has been organized, in which cutting and fitting of garments is taught. A class in clay-modeling models the forms and designs used in the arts. The students have increased to about three hundred in all departments, and from the beginning have manifested the greatest interest and enthusiasm for the work. The class-room work proper and the manual-training are so adjusted to each other that there is a harmonious blending of the useful and practical with the highest intellectual culture, that the unprejudiced observer needs but to inspect the work to be convinced of its reasonableness and utility, whilst the ease and grace with which savory and palatable food is prepared in the domestic economy department would mollify the most radical opponent of industrial training. Those who take the manual work do the same amount of mental work in the regular class-room studies as those who have no work in the industrial department.

Manual-training is a successful and satisfactory branch of study in the Toledo schools—not because it is theoretically a good thing, nor because it is given undue prominence and special advantages—but because it is in harmony with the nature of things; has a noble purpose in view; has been well managed; has good instructors; and has proved itself of great value to the pupils."

Is not the example of Toledo worthy of consideration in Halifax?

#### IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Three or four years ago," said Mr. Blake, on the 3rd October, 1874, in his famous Aurora speech, "I took an opportunity to suggest that an effort should be made to reorganize the Empire upon a Federal basis." Mr.

Blake went into the subject at considerable length, treating it with great breadth, and with an eloquence in which he has probably no equal in the Dominion. It is not our purpose to quote from his speech at present, but we mention the views he then held, because it has been so much sought to force the question into a party issue. So long as the present party bitterness exists, any great question will, no doubt, be tortured into this aspect though this particular one is of a nature which should tend rather to the modification of political antagonisms, at least the discussion of it, for, as we have more than once pointed out, the idea bristles with so many difficulties that it will be long before its features can pass beyond the stage of initiatory ventilation. "Not now, not this year, not perhaps during this parliamentary term," said Mr. Blake, and what was true in 1874 still holds good after the lapse of fourteen years. We cannot, of course, say what Mr. Blake's present views may be, but we should imagine they are not likely to have changed in this particular subject. Before long, it is to be hoped, he will resume the place in Dominion politics, from which, however much men may have differed with him, everyone feels he can ill be spared. When that time comes, we shall know what his sentiments are.

Meantime, we shall, whenever we allude to the question, continue to point out the difficulties which beset it. The action of the Government of New South Wales in regard to Chinese immigration typifies a class of obstacles which may at any time arise in one shape or another, and are, as Lord Carnarvon, we think, indicated, more likely to arise as the proportion of European born Colonists diminishes, and that of native-born Colonists increases.

The very point here indicated tends to show how little England has in her power to offer to the Colonists any material advantage, and how probable it is that local interests and Imperial policy may at any moment conflict, in which case it is pretty certain that the former would prevail over the sentiment of Imperial nationality.

It is interesting, however, to find that, at the date of Mr. Blake's speech, the stirring nature of the subject was done full justice to in several newspapers. The *Globe*, a day or two after its delivery, spoke as follows.—

"Still, the subject affords material for interesting and harmless speculation, which, in the course of time, may issue in some arrangement which will fuse the Empire more thoroughly into one united whole, and make the inhabitants of all its different parts so entirely one in sentiment and feeling and aspiration, that the only country they will recognize as theirs will be the British Empire, and the only national sentiment they will deem worthy of cherishing will be one that thinks not of 'Canada first,' or of 'Australia first,' or of 'Heligoland first,' or of 'Norfolk Island first,' but of the grand old British race first, and of all who love their Sovereign, and all who swear by the 'Old Flag,' as first and last and midst as well. 'National sentiment,' if that is another word for a narrow Canadian sentiment, is surely as little compatible with a grand federated Empire as would be the inculcation of County or Provincial sentiment in order to a general loyalty to Canada as a whole. If we Canadians are to take our due place in the Imperial Councils, and bear our due proportion of the consequent burden and responsibility, we must rise not only above Provincial, but Dominion attachments, and have no sentiment short of 'British' in its widest and most comprehensive sense. In fact, however, neither a National or Imperial spirit can be secured by mere resolutions or by meaningless recommendations. It must grow, not by individuals every now and then saying to themselves and to each other—'We must be national,' but by the people of a land generally feeling that they have a country, a history, and a destiny in common, of which they find increasing reason to be proud, and for the advancement and exaltation of which they feel increasingly prompted to do noble acts and live noble lives."

We shall take early occasion to allude to more of the newspaper utterances of that time on the subject in question

#### ANNIE LAURIE.

A short time ago, a veracious person, signing himself J. C. Gavin, was inspired—not, we presume, from above—with the idea of informing the public as to the authorship and personality of "Annie Laurie." He kindly explained that he knew "Annie Laurie," her father, and her lover, who was stated to have written the song, personally, with due particulars of locality plausibly set forth. This precious farrago he duly sent to the *Chicago Herald*, which was green enough to insert the rigmorale apparently in all innocence. We waited a little to see if anyone would notice the impudent invention, and presently a letter appears in the *St. John Globe*, signed J. S., which begins with the pertinent remark that Mr. J. C. Gavin "must be a pretty elderly gentleman," Annie Laurie, the daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, of Maxwelltown, Dumfriesshire, having been born on the 16th December, 1682. The inventive Mr. Gavin, by the way, puts them down as ordinary farmers. The writer of the charming ballad was a Mr. William Douglas, of Fingland, in Kivendbrightshire, whom Annie did not reward for his immortal poetry with her hand, as she preferred another and a richer suitor, Mr. Alexander Ferguson, of Craighdarroch. This gentleman must have been the father or grandfather of that Craighdarroch afterwards celebrated by Burns in his song of "The Whistle," which badge of honor Craighdarroch won, according to the song, by his unsurpassed powers of tossing down great bumpers of claret, defeating in the contest two of the most renowned of Scottish toppers of that day, whom he succeeded in laying under the table.

There ought to be an order with a brass star cross, or medal, for distinguished liars, that men might render them due honor. "The Most Illustrious and Infamous Order of St. Ananias" might be a fitting title for it, and Mr. J. C. Gavin would certainly deserve to be among the first to gain its Grand Cross, though we could suggest a few highly fit and proper candidates much nearer home.