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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

WE drew attention a few weeks since to an appeal made to the Dominion Government by Mr. S. J. Ritchie, of Akron, Ohio, in which the writer proposed, on condition of liberal aid being given by railway bonus and otherwise, to engage in the business of smelting iron and copper on a large scale in Ontario. Very large results were promised in the shape of employment for labour and other large disbursements. In a recent letter to the *World* Mr. W. H. Merritt, mining engineer and metallurgist of this city, follows up the subject, and adduces cogent arguments based on statistics, to show that the matter is well worth the serious consideration of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments. Some of the figures quoted by Mr. Merritt are striking and suggestive. He shows, for instance, that while the exact mineral production of the United States for the year 1888 was \$591,659,931, of which enormous sum more than one-half was composed of coal and pig iron, the mineral production of Canada the same year was \$16,500,000, or about one-third per capita the value of the total mineral production of the United States. It is clear, as Mr. Merritt intimates, that no corresponding disparity exists in the natural mineral resources of the two countries. He further points out that just what the process of converting the raw materials into finished goods is to the manufacturer, that the extraction of the metal from the ores is to the smelter, and that, consequently, the latter is as much entitled, in the interests of the country, to be adequately protected, as the former. In reply to the familiar assertion that the population of Canada is too small to admit of the successful carrying on of this industry, and that one blast furnace would glut the market, Mr. J. H. Bartlett is quoted to the effect that our present annual consumption is equivalent to 230,000 tons of pig iron per annum, which would necessitate at least sixteen blast furnaces of 100 tons in twenty-four hours, allowing for some being out of blast for repairs, etc.; and if some are reckoned as charcoal furnaces of a smaller size, the number would still be increased. The

subject is certainly worthy of being carefully investigated. Would not the Government be justified in appointing a commission of reliable experts to report upon the whole question?

AMONG the candidates for the Chair of Metaphysics and Logic now vacant in Toronto University, is, we perceive, Rev. E. J. Hamilton, D.D., S.T.D., now Professor of Intellectual Philosophy in Hamilton College, New York. From the imposing list of testimonials furnished it appears that Professor Hamilton has taught Mental Science with much success in several colleges in the United States, and is regarded by those who have had the best opportunities for judging as a sound and efficient instructor. Among the distinguished names appended to his testimonials we notice those of Hon. Theodore W. Dwight, D.D., LL.D., of Columbia College Law School, New York; James McCosh, D.D., LL.D., Ex-President of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton; W. D. Wilson, D.D., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of Mental Science in Cornell University, and other scholars of high standing in the United States and Canada. Dr. Hamilton is the author of a book entitled "The Human Mind," and other smaller works which have received favourable notice from many competent critics. Not having before us a full list of the names of applicants (probably numerous) for this important chair, we are not in a position to express any opinion in regard to the comparative merits of candidates. We are glad, however, to see that the chief difficulty of the Minister of Education in making the appointment is more likely to arise from the embarrassment of riches than from that of poverty. The chair is, both from the purely educational, and from the moral and religious point of view, one of the most important in the University, and the task of making a selection will be difficult and delicate. We have no means of knowing, though the public might claim the right to know, what general principles are to govern in the appointment, and especially whether it is deemed indispensable or desirable that the incoming professor should belong to the same metaphysical school as his lamented predecessor. Dr. Hamilton, though regarded as an independent thinker, is conservative in his views and may be classed with intuitionists like McCosh and Porter. Personally he is held in the highest esteem, and, in the opinion of Dr. Caven and others by whom he is recommended, "his doctrines and his personal influence would be equally favourable to all that is good."

MANY independent and thoughtful Canadians are hoping that the first fruits of the "Equal Rights" agitation will be its indirect effect in breaking up the old party organizations which have done so much to retard the progress and corrupt the politics of the country. But we are sorry to observe, on the other hand, that the new Association is in no small danger of itself being split upon the rock of partyism. There are, beyond question, among the leaders of the movement many single-minded and patriotic men, who are in downright earnest in seeking the proposed reforms, and who are quite ready to sacrifice old party preferences and affiliations for the sake of the higher objects in view. It is equally obvious, however, that many members of the Association still cling tenaciously to their respective parties, and are chiefly anxious that the new movement may be so manipulated as to further the interests of their own party leaders and defeat their opponents. By way of illustration, we may refer to the resignation of the Secretary of the Ottawa branch of the Association, on the ground that it is being made use of for political, that is partisan, purposes. It is not always safe to take too literally the expressions put into the mouths of those who are interviewed by the reporters, but, if we may give credence to a seemingly straightforward account of the reasons given by this gentleman for resigning, the case affords an amusing and suggestive example of the warping influence of partisanship. Mr. Bradbury is represented as rightly holding that both political parties should unite and sink mere party objects in the national welfare, and regretting that this is not being done by the Ottawa branch of the Association. The first object of this branch seems to be, he avers, to attack and destroy the Federal Government and place the Liberals in power; thence his

resignation. But the next minute he relapses into a violent denunciation of the Mowat Ministry, declaring that Mowat is a catspaw of the Jesuits and has been for years in the hands of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto, and that he holds power by pandering to the Jesuits and encouraging the growth of French nationalism. Unless the party spirit can be more effectually exorcised, the outlook for the Equal Rights Association is far from hopeful.

IF it be true, as Rev. Principal Grant said in his address at Niagara the other day, and as is being constantly said on the platform and in the press, that the present state of things in Canada cannot continue, it follows that no subject is more worthy of thought and discussion by Canadians than that of the future of their country. Rightly or wrongly the conviction has taken hold of the minds of many of the most far-seeing amongst us, that the present Confederation is but a stage in the course of Canadian development, and that current events are bringing near the period of the next transition. The great majority of the more thoughtful will also agree with Dr. Grant's further proposition that the only means now left of escaping from the position of a dependency is to assume the responsibilities of national life, either alone, or in conjunction with the rest of the Empire. These are practically the alternatives. The conditions of the problem, as thus given, are brought within comparatively narrow limits. The great end to be kept in view is emancipation from the disabilities and dwarfing tendencies of dependency, and entrance upon a new era of growth and progress under the healthful and energizing stimulation of a sense of national responsibility. Dr. Grant's address, if we may rely upon the summaries given in the newspaper reports, consisted mainly of a *résumé*, first, of the chief objections to Independence, and secondly, of the advantages which would ensue from Imperial Federation. In view of the well-known ability of the speaker and the enthusiastic attention he has given to the subject, his views cannot fail to deserve careful scrutiny, and may be fairly taken to represent the most that is to be said, within so small a compass, in support of the scheme he advocates.

SOME of the considerations urged by Dr. Grant in favour of Imperial Federation, as opposed to Independence, are as follows: The days of small nations are over. Canada is a trading nation, and wants a share in the management of the British fleet, for the defence of her trade. She wants a voice in determining her foreign relations, that she may be in the best position to extend her commerce, and that it may no longer be possible that she might be plunged into war through no fault of her own. In regard to the first point, even if the general statement be accepted, it may be urged that the objection can lie only against a small nation which has no room or capacity for growth, and so must in the nature of things remain small. Otherwise the proposition is absurd. Every great nation was once small. No nation ever sprung suddenly into being, Athenalike, full grown and fully equipped. If as Dr. Grant himself points out, Canada's influence in the federation would grow with the increase of her population, would not the same argument hold good, *a fortiori*, with respect to Independence? Who shall deny the right of nationality to five millions of people with the best blood of both hemispheres in their veins, and with half the North-American Continent, rich in all the resources of the North Temperate Zone, as their patrimony? The remark concerning the need of a great fleet to defend her commerce is very familiar, but no one has yet told us what enemy is lying in wait to attack that commerce. Indeed it might not be difficult to construct a plausible argument to show that the commerce of Canada, independent, without a fleet, would be exposed to less risk than that of Canada federated, with the mighty army of ironclads which is now manœuvring off the coast of England to protect it, just as in case of the threatened European war, the commerce of the feeblest state of Europe or America will be safer than that of France or Germany, or even of Great Britain should the latter be drawn into the struggle. And as to treaty-making power, not much reflection is necessary to make it clear that the slight influence she could bring to bear amidst the weighty and complicated interests of a great Imperial Federation