

Grit, or Independent, will be sent to the Federal House from this province at the coming election who is not pledged to strenuously oppose the policy of Disallowance at Ottawa. Even Mr. Scarth, Sir John's trusted friend and ally in this country, who is a candidate in Winnipeg in the Conservative interest, was forced to give a solemn pledge, before receiving the nomination, that he would oppose Disallowance, and would even go so far as to support a motion of want of confidence in the Government upon that question. So thoroughly in earnest have the people of Winnipeg become upon the subject, that a secret league of Conservatives was formed some time ago to advocate in every possible way a cessation of the policy, and to promote this object by extracting pledges from all candidates upon the subject. It was, doubtless, the existence of this league that forced Mr. Scarth into the position he now occupies in regard to the matter. My impression is that the feeling is now worked up to such a pitch that, in the event of further pursuance of the policy, the people are ready to turn out themselves, and build a road to the boundary, despite Disallowance.

It is difficult to conceive why the Dominion Government persists in pursuing a policy which, beyond a shadow of doubt, restricts the progress of the country by lessening the immigration, and preventing the development which would assuredly follow the adoption of a liberal railway policy. If Manitoba succeeds, and it is certainly in the interests of the whole Dominion that she should, it can never be under the present restrictive policy. The inducements to settlers must be as liberal as those offered in Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana, else the immigrants will not come to us. It seems to me that the Dominion Government has always had ill-advisers in this country: men who, in order to accomplish some selfish purpose, have been willing to sacrifice the interests of the country by misrepresenting it at headquarters.

There is not a shadow of doubt that we have been set back five years by the pursuance of a restrictive policy. What Manitoba has always wanted, and what, I fear, she will continue to lack, is an advocate in the Commons who will fearlessly tell the truth about our wants, and who has the ability to place them before Parliament and the country in such a light as will attract general attention, and in the end secure to us our proper redress.

From private information I have strong reasons for believing that the letter from Archbishop Taché to Mgr. Lafleche, of Three Rivers, which has created a sensation by its publication in the East, was not written last March, as the date it bears would indicate, but was the production of the Prelate's brain less than a month ago. I know, as a matter of fact, that Mr. Montplaisir, M.P. for Champlain, visited the Archbishop at his room in the St. Boniface Hospital, where ill-health has detained him for a considerable period, several weeks ago. It was then rumoured that Mr. Montplaisir's object was to secure from the Prelate a letter, if not endorsing the Government, at least recommending that it be not overthrown. A very few days after the return of Mr. Montplaisir to the East, appeared the letter. In view of the recent tactics resorted to by the Tories in Ontario, and in the face of the race agitation in the East, such an epistle written at present would come with exceeding bad grace from Mgr. Taché, and would fail of accomplishing the object for which it was designed, and hence the deception practised. Judging from the action of other dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, the conviction forces itself upon me that Sir John has secured to some extent the intercession of the Church in his behalf, as an offset to the assistance rendered Mr. Mowat in the recent Ontario elections, and which has proved such a blow to the present Government.

GARRY.

THE ART OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

MR. OMAN'S tract on the Art of War in the Middle Ages will be found very interesting by students of military history, and by the students of general history also, for military and general history interpenetrate each other. Mr. Oman describes in succession the transition from Roman to Mediæval forms in war, the Byzantines and their enemies, the era of the feudal cavalry, that of the Swiss infantry, and that of the English archer and his opponents, showing both the general method and how some of the most famous fields were lost and won. The Byzantines have received scant justice. We have thought of them always as a declining power, and have forgotten how slow was the decline, and how protracted was the resistance to the various forces by which, from different quarters, the Eastern Empire was assailed. A defence which lasted ten centuries was not discreditable to the garrison. The Byzantine army was evidently a fine army, well organised, and animated by a good spirit, the military profession being held

in honour and embraced by men of the highest class in society, which, after all, is the root of the matter. It had a regular science, both of strategies and of tactics, adapted to the military habits of the different tribes of barbarians with which it had to cope and far superior to anything else of the kind which existed at the time, though it is true that some of the stratagems prescribed in Imperial manuals are of a highly Byzantine character. By valour, discipline, and science, the Byzantine army seems to have held its ground. The Greek fire, which is supposed to have done so much for it, appears not really to have played a very important part. Its weak point lay in its subjection to a feeble and jealous government, which regarded successful generals with apprehension, and could not bear to see a united and strong command. A feudal host could hardly be called an army, inasmuch as it was not organised, much less had it any strategy or tactics. It was commanded not by military, but by local rank; in other words it was not commanded at all. Its infantry were worthless, and all that its mailed cavalry could do was to make headlong charges as soon as they came in sight of the enemy, without regard for tactical considerations of any kind, and frequently with such results as were seen at Crecy and Nicopolis. The military science of the Middle Ages was shown in the construction of castles, such as Chateau Gaillard and Carcassone, which are models of skilful design as well as of building, and formed the impregnable strongholds of territorial aristocracy. The Swiss infantry was a tremendous power in its day, and won a number of splendid victories. It consisted of deep columns of pikemen and halberdiers, which advanced in échelon, and for some time bore down all before them. But the system, like all such systems, became stereotyped, its weak points were discovered by scientific generals, and the improvement of field artillery was its death-blow. At Marignano the Swiss columns were prevented from advancing by repeated charges of cavalry on their flanks, to receive which they had to form square, while the French artillery played on them with fatal effect. The feats of the English archers at Crecy, Poitiers, and Agincourt were even more brilliant than those of the Swiss pikemen; but their system also, which was essentially defensive, and consisted in receiving the feudal cavalry in position, became stereotyped, and when mechanically adhered to by commanders who had been entirely trained under it, in the end exposed them to defeat. On the fatal field of Formigny the archers, being galled by two pieces of French artillery, gallantly charged and took the guns; and had Sir Thomas Kyriel then advanced with his whole force it appears that he would have won the battle; but the veteran clung to his defensive tactics, and allowed the archers, unsupported, to be taken in flank by cavalry, and driven back upon his line, where all then became confusion. The successful opponents of the English, at last, however, were not the French chivalry, which had precipitated itself into ruinous defeat at Crecy and Agincourt, but smaller bodies of more regular troops under professional leaders like Dunois, who studied their art and the situation. Justice is done by Mr. Oman to the generalship displayed in the Wars of the Roses by Edward IV., who, as his career of victory commenced at nineteen, must have had a remarkable genius for command. The series is closed by the appearance of the Janissaries, whose triumphs over the hardy valour of the Christian chivalry once more proved the irresistible ascendancy of discipline in war.

Having spoken of the Military Architecture of the Middle Ages, we may remark that there appeared not long ago a very elaborate treatise on the subject in its relation to England, with abundance of illustrations, by Mr. George T. Clark. Mr. Clark may well say that the study is comparatively new. Sir Walter Scott was the best mediævalist of his day; yet in "The Lay" he not only puts a feudal fortress of the first-class where there could be nothing more important than a border Peel, but he makes Lord Dacre order his billmen and archers to the assault of this great fortress without breaching or siege operations of any kind. He might as well have made him order it to be charged by cavalry. These fortresses were in their day tremendously strong; their lords, who dwelt in them, were always studying their defences; the rudimentary principles of modern fortification are distinctly seen in them; and the siege of one of them before the days of artillery was a most serious operation, and one which tasked ingenuity to the utmost. At the sound of the cannon their massy walls fell to the ground like the walls of Jericho at the blast of the trumpets, and with them fell the social system of which they were the bulwarks. England is not the land of castles; the sea always formed her defence against enemies from without, and within there were not in her, as in feudal France, great local principalities and powers such as would fortify their own domains on a large scale. Naturally, while the religious buildings of the Middle Ages have been kept up, the castles have gone to ruin: as fortresses they were obsolete; as dwellings, though some of them