

Mrs. McKay, wife of the California millionaire, now living in London, has again attracted public attention to herself by her attempt to run to earth those malicious gossips who, by the circulation of certain slanderous reports are throwing obstacles in the way of her social ambitions and plans. Just what the rumor is which has aroused her vengeful feelings is not stated; but is generally supposed to be the old story, that in her younger and less prosperous days, and before she married Mr. McKay, she performed the duties of washerwoman on the Pacific coast. Two hundred pounds is the amount of reward which is now offered to any person or persons who shall furnish within one calendar month, sufficient evidence to lead to the conviction in England of persons circulating these false statements. This action seems so inconsistent on the part of an American, thousands of the most influential and respected of whom have risen to their present position from humble surroundings, as to lead one of Mrs. McKay's fellow-citizens to remonstrate with her on the unreasonableness of her course. After expressing surprise that she should pay any attention to the malicious stories which advertise the envious spirit from which they proceed, he goes on to say: "Washing clothes is as honorable as digging gold, and the employment was one of the few in which a self-respecting woman could engage in California at that period. Women of the region who have since become the possessors of great fortunes, were once vigorous laborers at the washtub, if not for others, at least for their own families. Would it be charged against them as a reproach that they did the family cooking? In what respect is the family washing less creditable? It may be less agreeable, but it is necessary, and there is nothing low or degrading in keeping clean. If a housewife cannot hire servants for the labor because of the lack of supply or because of her lack of money, of course she must herself preside at the washtub. If she was a poor woman and had to earn money for her support, washing probably was the most remunerative business to which she could resort in the gold-digging days of old, especially if she knew no trade. Therefore, even if Mrs. Mackay had been a washerwoman, she would have no reason to blush over that episode in her career, and no one except a snob or a malicious gossip would seek to bring it up against her in her days of affluence. Everybody in the aristocratic society which she enjoys, knows very well that she is not of aristocratic birth herself. She could not be, for there is no aristocracy in this republic into which she could be born; and such social gradings as we have here are of no consequence in an aristocratic country. The distinctions are merely between wealth and poverty, breeding and vulgarity; and if the heredity of the most highly bred and the richest were traced back, it would be found in very many cases that the line led to the washtub."

In this opinion that Mrs. McKay (supposing the story true) is no less worthy of honor and respect because of her former humility, now that her financial condition has changed, many on both sides of the sea will heartily join. The conviction is growing, though truth to tell, the contrary view is far from being extinct, that the only basis of distinction that will stand the test of reason is that which is found in character, in the intrinsic quality of the individual himself. He is a member of the true nobility, and in the sight of heaven the heir of royal honors and possessions, who *lives* nobly, who *practises* justice and mercy and whose heart is free from deceit and guile. And this, whether his lot is humble or exalted according to mere human distinctions.

The signal failure of the Salisbury govern-
ment, which ostensibly commands a major

ity of about one hundred, to carry out the programme set for itself at the beginning of the session will give the present parliament a unique place in the records of parliamentary experience. Not one of the leading measures announced at the outset will be carried through, though the Tithes Bill, according to the declaration of the Premier at the early part of the session, was considered indispensable. But this has been abandoned, as also the Land Purchase Bill of Mr. Balfour, and Lord Churchill's Local Taxation Bill, which contained the obnoxious clauses providing compensation for the liquor sellers unable to secure a renewal of their licenses. No doubt there is a cause for this terrible failure. It might be supposed that owing to the mixed character of the Government's following the source of the trouble, was to be found in a lukewarm support on the part of the dissident Liberals who forsook their old time leader because of his stand on the question of Home Rule. This, however, does not appear to be the true explanation, which is rather the silent, sullen dissatisfaction, of the Tory party itself. How strong their feeling of dissatisfaction really is, may be inferred from the stormy scenes that took place at the Carlton Club caucus which was held a few weeks ago, and where some of the principal supporters of the government threatened to withdraw their allegiance in case their leaders persisted in carrying out certain features of their programme. Naturally this fruitlessness has had its influence on the popular thought and feeling. The recent bye election of Barrow-in-Furness, in which the Gladstonian candidate was returned in the place of Mr. Cairns who had been a supporter of the government, has been interpreted as showing a feeling of dissatisfaction with the present administration. Nor are the members of the Government ignorant of the discredit into which they have come. It is an open secret that a reconstruction of the cabinet is being seriously discussed—a proposition which would never have been thought of, had everything been going on satisfactorily.

In proportion as the Government's difficulties have increased and the popular discontent has grown the hopes of the Opposition have been encouraged. They have made no attempt to conceal their belief that the days of the present ministry are nearly ended, and that the reins must soon pass into other hands. That this will actually transpire, however, is rendered less probable by the unexpected and unaccountable conduct of Mr. Parnell, the Irish Leader, who in his remarks before the House the other evening proposed a measure providing for the appointment of a board of arbitration for the settlement of disputes between landlords and tenants in Ireland. This proposal, made without consulting his followers, and practically giving their cause a-vay, has filled the Irish members with consternation and disgust; while according to a London correspondent, the English Radicals were so furious at being thus hamstrung by the Irish leader, just at a critical time, when the Ministry were trembling on the point of being put to rout, that Mr. Labouchere could only with the greatest difficulty be restrained from a public denunciation of Mr. Parnell. On all sides it is regarded as a godsend to the Ministry which is now in a position to announce an early adjournment of the House, and to address the country during recess as relatively successful politicians instead of defeated and discredited hangers-on to the posts which their incompetency had justly forfeited. What this rash act will cost Mr. Parnell and the Irish cause, or to what extent it will actually condone the shortcomings of the present administration in the estimation of the English people, future events alone can prove.

The criticism by Marcus J. Wright of the prevailing custom of passing "eulogistic resolutions" is one that must commend itself

to thoughtful men who are in the habit of making their words harmonize with their thoughts and feelings. That there is nothing intrinsically wrong in "counting the virtues and excellencies of a great and good man whose life has been to his fellows an inspiration and a blessing is too manifest to need any defence. It is the abuse of what in itself may be a very wise and proper thing to do that is condemned. So wide spread has the custom grown that it would now seem a reflection on the deceased man's character if something complimentary was not said of him in this regular and formal way by the society, or club, or guild, etc., to which he had formerly belonged. If all the members of these organizations were distinguished for their virtues and goodness there would be no ground for complaint, but unfortunately, seeing that most men can claim some relation of this kind, this is not the case. Consequently when those who have known the deceased read the glowing tribute to his memory and find him credited with the possession of qualities of which in his life he was so economic as not to let others know of their existence, they will be ready to vote all complimentary resolutions an hypocritical form, no matter how worthily applied they may sometimes be. As Mr. Wright well remarks. "The fact that complimentary resolutions are expected in the death of every member of any society of which the deceased may have been a member, without regard to merit, makes them not only useless, but damaging to those who really deserve them. It is certain that in the course of events all members of the various organizations will die. We cannot conscientiously say that all of them came up to the conditions demanded by the rhetoric of the commendatory resolutions which are usually adopted, nor is it proper to draw the line strongly between those who do and those who do not deserve a great tribute." Therefore, his counsel is "to refrain from florid platitudes and undue praises, which are alike superfluous, meaningless and impertinent, and instead of seeking occasions for exhibiting our grief in public, determine to wait until a public demand requires it."

Sub-magistrate Baxter had a peculiar case to deal with the other day. Several women who had been using their tongues in a manner not recognized by Canadian law, were called upon to answer for their sin. In order to work upon the tender feelings of their judge and array his heart against his head, these users of Billingsgate each borrowed a baby, and thus armed, came into court. Suspecting the reality of the professed relation, the magistrate closely questioned them concerning the ownership of the babies and exposed the hollow and cruel sham. What the future of those babies will be, unless their surroundings are greatly changed, requires no gift of prophecy to foretell. It will be strange indeed if, in the coming time and in a more important character, they do not figure in the court whose acquaintance they made under circumstances so peculiar.

It may have been purely a mistake that in the returns brought down last session, showing the amount of subsidies to the respective provinces for railroad purposes. Confederation, a million dollars paid in Scotia should be charged in the return, Ontario. It is conceivable that my deception was intended, though many will have their own opinion. But whether unintentional otherwise the public will be interested knowing who got the money, and how much. Following is the corrected return, the subsidies to railways, existing those in the Pacific main line and branch lines distributed as follows, the 1860-1861, Quebec, \$2,429,344, and, and, 1862-1863, Nova Scotia, of 1864-1865, 1866-1867, 1868-1869, 1870-1871, 1872-1873, 1874-1875, 1876-1877, 1878-1879, 1880-1881, 1882-1883, 1884-1885, 1886-1887, 1888-1889, 1890-1891, 1892-1893, 1894-1895, 1896-1897, 1898-1899, 1900-1901, 1902-1903, 1904-1905, 1906-1907, 1908-1909, 1910-1911, 1912-1913, 1914-1915, 1916-1917, 1918-1919, 1920-1921, 1922-1923, 1924-1925, 1926-1927, 1928-1929, 1930-1931, 1932-1933, 1934-1935, 1936-1937, 1938-1939, 1940-1941, 1942-1943, 1944-1945, 1946-1947, 1948-1949, 1950-1951, 1952-1953, 1954-1955, 1956-1957, 1958-1959, 1960-1961, 1962-1963, 1964-1965, 1966-1967, 1968-1969, 1970-1971, 1972-1973, 1974-1975, 1976-1977, 1978-1979, 1980-1981, 1982-1983, 1984-1985, 1986-1987, 1988-1989, 1990-1991, 1992-1993, 1994-1995, 1996-1997, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023, 2024-2025, 2026-2027, 2028-2029, 2030-2031, 2032-2033, 2034-2035, 2036-2037, 2038-2039, 2040-2041, 2042-2043, 2044-2045, 2046-2047, 2048-2049, 2050-2051, 2052-2053, 2054-2055, 2056-2057, 2058-2059, 2060-2061, 2062-2063, 2064-2065, 2066-2067, 2068-2069, 2070-2071, 2072-2073, 2074-2075, 2076-2077, 2078-2079, 2080-2081, 2082-2083, 2084-2085, 2086-2087, 2088-2089, 2090-2091, 2092-2093, 2094-2095, 2096-2097, 2098-2099, 2100-2101, 2102-2103, 2104-2105, 2106-2107, 2108-2109, 2110-2111, 2112-2113, 2114-2115, 2116-2117, 2118-2119, 2120-2121, 2122-2123, 2124-2125, 2126-2127, 2128-2129, 2130-2131, 2132-2133, 2134-2135, 2136-2137, 2138-2139, 2140-2141, 2142-2143, 2144-2145, 2146-2147, 2148-2149, 2150-2151, 2152-2153, 2154-2155, 2156-2157, 2158-2159, 2160-2161, 2162-2163, 2164-2165, 2166-2167, 2168-2169, 2170-2171, 2172-2173, 2174-2175, 2176-2177, 2178-2179, 2180-2181, 2182-2183, 2184-2185, 2186-2187, 2188-2189, 2190-2191, 2192-2193, 2194-2195, 2196-2197, 2198-2199, 2200-2201, 2202-2203, 2204-2205, 2206-2207, 2208-2209, 2210-2211, 2212-2213, 2214-2215, 2216-2217, 2218-2219, 2220-2221, 2222-2223, 2224-2225, 2226-2227, 2228-2229, 2230-2231, 2232-2233, 2234-2235, 2236-2237, 2238-2239, 2240-2241, 2242-2243, 2244-2245, 2246-2247, 2248-2249, 2250-2251, 2252-2253, 2254-2255, 2256-2257, 2258-2259, 2260-2261, 2262-2263, 2264-2265, 2266-2267, 2268-2269, 2270-2271, 2272-2273, 2274-2275, 2276-2277, 2278-2279, 2280-2281, 2282-2283, 2284-2285, 2286-2287, 2288-2289, 2290-2291, 2292-2293, 2294-2295, 2296-2297, 2298-2299, 2300-2301, 2302-2303, 2304-2305, 2306-2307, 2308-2309, 2310-2311, 2312-2313, 2314-2315, 2316-2317, 2318-2319, 2320-2321, 2322-2323, 2324-2325, 2326-2327, 2328-2329, 2330-2331, 2332-2333, 2334-2335, 2336-2337, 2338-2339, 2340-2341, 2342-2343, 2344-2345, 2346-2347, 2348-2349, 2350-2351, 2352-2353, 2354-2355, 2356-2357, 2358-2359, 2360-2361, 2362-2363, 2364-2365, 2366-2367, 2368-2369, 2370-2371, 2372-2373, 2374-2375, 2376-2377, 2378-2379, 2380-2381, 2382-2383, 2384-2385, 2386-2387, 2388-2389, 2390-2391, 2392-2393, 2394-2395, 2396-2397, 2398-2399, 2400-2401, 2402-2403, 2404-2405, 2406-2407, 2408-2409, 2410-2411, 2412-2413, 2414-2415, 2416-2417, 2418-2419, 2420-2421, 2422-2423, 2424-2425, 2426-2427, 2428-2429, 2430-2431, 2432-2433, 2434-2435, 2436-2437, 2438-2439, 2440-2441, 2442-2443, 2444-2445, 2446-2447, 2448-2449, 2450-2451, 2452-2453, 2454-2455, 2456-2457, 2458-2459, 2460-2461, 2462-2463, 2464-2465, 2466-2467, 2468-2469, 2470-2471, 2472-2473, 2474-2475, 2476-2477, 2478-2479, 2480-2481, 2482-2483, 2484-2485, 2486-2487, 2488-2489, 2490-2491, 2492-2493, 2494-2495, 2496-2497, 2498-2499, 2500-2501, 2502-2503, 2504-2505, 2506-2507, 2508-2509, 2510-2511, 2512-2513, 2514-2515, 2516-2517, 2518-2519, 2520-2521, 2522-2523, 2524-2525, 2526-2527, 2528-2529, 2530-2531, 2532-2533, 2534-2535, 2536-2537, 2538-2539, 2540-2541, 2542-2543, 2544-2545, 2546-2547, 2548-2549, 2550-2551, 2552-2553, 2554-2555, 2556-2557, 2558-2559, 2560-2561, 2562-2563, 2564-2565, 2566-2567, 2568-2569, 2570-2571, 2572-2573, 2574-2575, 2576-2577, 2578-2579, 25

but not the main lines as originally constructed :—Quebec, including purchase of Riviero du Loup branch, \$5,420,322.26 ; New Brunswick, \$2,371,854.47 ; Nova Scotia, \$7,821,070.10.

The enlargement of the conditions upon which pensions will be granted to those who received in incapacitating injuries in the late American Civil War and to those widows and parents whose only support was slain, will go far towards preventing an accumulation of surplus in time to come. Last year the amount paid out for pensions was over one hundred and nine million dollars, an amount which will be greatly increased during the present year. In order to impress upon his fellow country men what this increased grant involves, the New York *Herald* compares this item to their expenditure with that of the first European powers. Great Britain, he says, pays for her army, her navy—the largest in the world—and her pensions \$160,000,000 annually. France, armed to the teeth, with a navy second to that of England, pays annually for army, navy and pensions \$183,000,000. Germany is mistress of the Continent, with an army that is the envy and the terror of modern civilization, and yet army, navy and pensions cost \$114,000,000 annually. Russia, for the same service, pays every year \$123,000,000. In the United States we have two or three divisions we call “an army,” the merest *germ* of a navy;” but our army, navy and pensions cost \$210,000,000 a year.”

Not since the fatal 24th of May, when on the little Thames at London, two hundred and fourteen of our fellow-citizens met their death, has there occurred on this continent a calamity so appalling as that which happened on Lake Pepin, near St. Paul, Minn., on the 13th inst. Between two and three hundred excursionists were on their way home from Lake City, when a cyclone came down upon them, carrying destruction and death in its path. At this writing it has not been ascertained exactly how many were lost, though it is generally believed that not less than one hundred and twenty-five must have perished. Many pathetic incidents of the disaster are related. Several entire families were drowned. One of these went down wrapped in each others arms, and were picked up floating together in the embrace of death. Great indignation is felt for the captain who, in opposition to earnest remonstrances, put out to sea after the signs of the coming storm had appeared. This latest calamity foots up a terrible list of deaths throughout the valley of the Mississippi. Well-butted bread, here is a comment.

Maui remarks you wish you were dead! year 1890 to the home town. Mr. friend, United States slave and be free. The cause a friend could give thee have been there you in till the eye, cyclopes world a friend seeing, that in God you will live.

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