

public schools of the city. Looking back not quite half a century one beholds wonderful changes. In 1844 the registered attendance at the schools was 1,194, while in '89 it was 28,287. The most rapid increase, as would be supposed, has been during the last decade, the attendance in '80 being only 8,997 and in '70, 4,106. Thus it appears that while in ten years from '70 to '80 the attendance little more than doubled, between '80 and '89 it considerably more than trebled. At present there are 47 Public Schools in the city, with a seating capacity for 24,086 pupils, and with a cash value of \$1,214,088, including \$1,175, the value of furniture in nine temporary buildings rented by the Board. There is only one frame Public School in the city, viz., the Island school. All the others are solid brick. The value of the school sites is \$453,230, and the furniture is valued at \$41,375. Some of the rules of the old Boards are interesting. For instance, rule 28, "Corporal punishment must be applied only on the hands, and with the strap supplied by the Board." Rule 30, "One or more slaps given for the same offence, to the same pupil at the same time constitutes a case of corporal punishment." Rule 33, "The strap shall be kept in the Principal's room and sent for as required." Rule 34, "The pupil to be punished shall not be sent for the strap." Rule 36 is a wonderful one, "Corporal punishment shall not be inflicted on any pupil unless he or she is willing to submit to it." When we read this last regulation we are amazed at the spirit of submission to authority possessed by our fathers of the former generation. Had they been like their sons of the present the strap would have mildewed in the principal's room through lack of use. Not many offences submit to the strap nowadays because they want to, but because they must.

There is a "great big" interrogation point which will persist in obtruding itself before the mental vision of many lay minds when they begin to consider the subject of Unrestricted Reciprocity between Canada and the United States, the policy which is being somewhat definitely avowed by Opposition at Ottawa. And the question takes this form: Supposing for the moment that Unrestricted Reciprocity would promote the prosperity of our country, and that the government should adopt this as their policy, what then? Until the government of the United States shall adopt a like policy, it would be madness on the part of Canadians to open their ports and to invite all and sundry to come in bringing whatsoever they might choose. And certainly, present appearances give little encouragement to hope that the United States would consent to any such arrangement. Whatever suspicion Canadians may entertain touching the motives which actuated the administration at Washington when framing their tariff bills, their speeches in defence of their policy are not flavored with the idea of retaliation, but with the notion that protection is absolutely necessary for the benefit of their own people. If this profession on their part is sincere, Unrestricted Reciprocity does not appear to have come, as yet, within the sphere of practical politics; for the Hitt resolution, though it looks in that direction, has yet to be approved of by the House. Will some political genius inform the public, seeing that none of its advocates appear to have deemed it necessary, how this policy can become practical without the consent thereto of both parties concerned?

How far the party press is responsible for

the unfavorable opinion entertained by many of what is popularly understood by the term politics, it would be difficult to say. There can be little doubt, however, that the practice of magnifying the faults and minimizing the virtues of leading men in the opposite party, has done much to lower the popular estimate of our legislators, and to create the impression in many minds that those who make our laws are a lot of boodle hunters, knaves and rogues. Of course, the instructed know better, know that though there may be and are some who have more respect to the honor or to the "loaves and fishes" than for their country, there are not wanting honest, upright men, who for their country's sake are making large sacrifices every year in a financial way; in order that they may attend to the duties which their fellow-citizens have imposed upon them. They know, too, that the representations of the party press are always partial, and that while the statements concerning the actions of a given member of parliament may not contain falsehood in what they affirm, they are false to fact in that they do not represent the man in his integrity by faithfully exhibiting his whole conduct, the praiseworthy as well as the unpraiseworthy. But while the instructed are aware of these things, and are therefore prepared to appraise the onesided representations at their proper value, there is a large section of the community with whom the case is very different. Being ignorant of the tactics employed by the partizan, they are disposed to over estimate the charges of incompetency, selfishness, etc., with the result, that politics come at length to be regarded as a questionable occupation in which no respectable and truth loving man will consent to engage.

It would be unjust, however, to lay the blame for this state of things altogether at the door of the party journals. Without controversy they are sinners in this respect and sinners exceedingly; but they are not the only, if indeed, the greatest transgressors. The churches are not entirely free from censure in this matter. "Many ministers," says the *Chautauquan*, "and not a few prominent laymen, seem to have lost all respect for our present political methods. They claim that it is a sacrifice of one's good name to enter political life; that no man can become a legislator, use political machinery, represent his fellow-citizens in the halls of legislation, and breathe the air of political life at the capital without being contaminated, soiled and spoiled for any work of moral reform or Christian activity thereafter. It is an admission that politics are so intensely demoralizing that the average Christian character now building cannot stand up against it. This logic teaches us that good men should keep out of politics, have nothing to do with it. We should hand our legislation over to men of weak conscience and damaged character. Besides it is an insinuation that men in our public service are of doubtful reputation." Unfortunately this charge as against many ministers and members is too patent to be denied. They have fallen into the mistake of condemning all political methods and politicians because some methods have proved defective or been abused, and some politicians have basely betrayed their trust. It does not seem to have occurred to them that without some political method society is impossible; that if wholesome laws are to be secured, men of character must help to make them; and that if justice and equity are to be maintained, we must have lawmakers who "do justly and love mercy." If politics, as they say, are degraded, they

must be lifted up; if they are corrupt they must be purified. And the only way in which the reformation can be accomplished is by the introduction of good men with conscience and character, men who recognize their responsibility to Him who has ordained that politics must be, and our duty to their fellowmen whom in love they are bound to serve. On this matter the church must herself become converted.

The difficulty of framing a law so as to preclude all possibility of the original intent being disregarded, is forcibly illustrated in the case of Major-General Laurio and the mileage allowance. The provision touching the allowance to members of parliament for travelling expenses reads thus: "There shall be allowed to each member of the House of Commons ten cents for each mile of the distance between the place of residence of such member and the place at which the session is held, reckoning such distance going and coming, according to the nearest mail route, which distance shall be determined and certified by the Speaker." No doubt the supposition of the framers of the law was that the representative would live somewhere within the bounds of the Dominion, and generally within the limits of his own constituency. Nothing, therefore, was said concerning those members who might choose to take up their residence abroad. This Major-General Laurio, who represents Shelburne, N. S., has done, having gone to reside in England. He is said to have declared that his residence is London, and to have drawn \$600 as his mileage between London and Ottawa, instead of \$190 which he received last year as his mileage from Shelburne. Though it is not to the credit of the Major-General that he should have insisted upon the larger sum, as it exhibits a mercenary spirit not to be envied, it is doubtful whether he could be compelled to disgorge seeing that the letter of the law is on his side. But that it happens not again, the law should be altered so as to cover such cases.

Were it not for the circumstance that marvelous events are transpiring every day, and that it is the unexpected that always happens, the credulity of Canadians would be overtaxed by the report of a resolution about to be introduced into the Senate at Ottawa, touching the constitution of that body. The man who is likely to get his name into history is Senator Poirier who has given notice of the following resolution: "That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying for the amendment of the B. N. A. Act so that Senators shall henceforward, as their seats become vacant, be appointed by Provincial Legislatures; the Crown to retain the right to the appointment of three or six additional Senators, as now exist under the Constitution." When Senators themselves, whom the outside world have been regarding as the most highly favored of the nation, receiving a handsome indemnity for a work so light that the session can be compared to nothing but a continuous picnic, begin to find fault with the Constitution of their Chamber, the electorate generally will be disposed to listen. It is a pity that Senator Poirier had not gone further and asked for such modification of the Constitution as would have placed the appointment in the hands of the people. It is certain that the proposed change will not satisfy the popular demand, which will, before long, insist upon it that legislators irresponsible to the people shall be done away with in a country which claims to have a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

The promoters of anti-Chinese legislation at Washington have not yet been found to be of a centenary age, but they are certainly by the best ship in the world.

the members of Congress. This time it is the religious bodies of the country that are beginning to move. Alarmed at the prospect of retaliatory measures on the part of the Celestial government, they realize that not only are the foreign Christian missions there in danger of extinction, but that the doors may be permanently closed against them so as to prevent further evangelistic effort on behalf of the L. athen Chinese. This would certainly be a great calamity, viewed from a Christian standpoint, and must be prevented if possible. The first gun was fired at the New England Methodist Conference, which passed a resolution the other day denouncing the anti-Chinese policy of the Government, and calling upon Congress to defeat the pending Deportation bill. An understanding, it is stated, has already been reached between the Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Baptists throughout the country to inaugurate a simultaneous political crusade against Chinese restrictions, and to compel Congress to permit them more free access to the country, as once here it was easiest to convert them. Considering the numerical strength of the churches mentioned it is not likely that the government at Washington will have the temerity to disregard their united prayers. There is such a thing as greed overreaching itself, a fact which these western politicians are likely soon to find out to their cost.

An interesting reference to the early home life of the German Emperor, than whom no man living is attracting more attention from the civilized world, is found in an article in the *Illustrated American*. Says the writer: "From his birth the young prince enjoyed the affection and care of parents, conspicuous by their love of democratic simplicity and purity of home life. No mother ever watched over the sleeping and waking hours of a favorite boy more intelligently and conscientiously than the Empress Victoria. She inspected the nursery at unexpected hours, tasted the food, saw that the ventilation was sufficient, followed nurses and governesses into every detail of their work, and seconded her husband in his ambition to have their son respected for his own worth, and not merely because of the crown he might some day wear." We are not surprised at this statement when we reflect that Empress Victoria is the daughter of our own beloved Sovereign, who, peerless among earth's rulers, is one of the wisest and most judicious of mothers. Did all parents, and especially those whose worldly position offers the temptation to dismiss their children to the care of hirelings, exercise the same loving supervision, and have the same ambition to have their children respected for their own worth and not because of any adventitious circumstance, the number of families disgraced by profligate sons would be greatly diminished, and character would soon come to be esteemed at its proper value, as that which is above all price.

The constitutional amendment proposed by Mr. McDougall, concerning the Rykert investigation, may be disposed of off-hand, that Parliament has cognizance of a member's conduct, and that no member can be expelled until the Senate has been notified of the charges against him, and that the Senate may amend the Constitution.