

It is to be feared that a large proportion of our farmers are behind the times. It is not unfrequently matter of comment in the Press that so many of them pay so little attention to the vegetable garden. Not one farmer in a hundred has anything like a rotation of vegetables, yet an acre of garden thoroughly cultivated would exceed in profit ten acres devoted to anything else. The farmers of the New England States find a ready and profitable market in their canning establishments; but in Nova Scotia a canning factory would find difficulty in getting raw material. There is a strong conviction setting in in favor of a more liberal vegetable diet as preservative of health, and our farmers ought to place us beyond any difficulty in the matter. There is, again, an outcry about the recent increase in the price of meat consequent on the recently enhanced duty on the foreign product. This ought also to stimulate stock-raising both to the profit of the farmer and to the benefit of the consumer. We certainly ought to be able to supply our own meat, while the duty should keep out the competing American article.

The great explorer availed himself of his reception at Guildhall to give England what might be called "a piece of his mind." After returning the customary thanks, Stanley observed that "the Congo might have belonged to England had Englishmen listened to his lectures between 1878 and 1884. Belgium was reaping 100 per cent, England might have had Africa (Mr Stanley is reported as putting it), but her journalists see everything through opaque glasses. Germany to-day has the lion's share, and cannot fail to win in the long run. The Germans have a wide-awake Monarch. Major Wiseman had no notion of Quakerism, peace societies, anti-enterprise companies, and namby-pamby journalism, all of which were clogs to every hearty endeavor. He hoped the Government would remember his companions, and not chill their young souls with the neglect which first warped poor Gordon after his heroic achievements in China." Perhaps if any man is capable of penetrating English apathy Stanley is that man, and it is to be hoped that his words may have some effect, not only with regard to African affairs, but in such matters as the very serious questions of the rights of Newfoundland, and those of the Fisheries and Behring Sea.

The *St. John Globe*, commenting on the case of General Middleton, observes, with justice, that that of General Luard, "who was recalled merely for an unfortunate speech made at a military dinner, could in no way be compared to General Middleton's." We had occasion recently to express our opinion that the fault from which the public suffers is careless or interested selection. Probably the best Commander of the Militia we have ever had was Sir Patrick McDougall when he was Adjutant-General, then the Commanding Officer of the Force. Col. Robertson Ross, though much liked and much disliked, was also an able Commander. Sir Selby Smyth, though a good officer, was not remarkable. General Luard was the first man who dared persistently to tell the Force plain truth. But General Luard had the unfortunate drawback of an imperious and violent temper, and an utter want of tact, whence ensued his downfall. General Cameron owes his appointment to the Royal Military College to his connection by marriage, and General Middleton is probably more indebted for his to the fact of his having married a French-Canadian lady than to his Service record, though the latter was good. Selection should be made with a view to the fitness of the officer to his peculiar, and not very easy duties. In view of the inevitable difference between Militia and Imperial Force discipline, suavity and temper, combined with firmness and great common sense, and the faculty of noting shortcomings without offensiveness, are the desiderata. Such a man as Colonel Lane, for instance, would probably make a successful Commander of Militia. The position, however, is a somewhat thankless one, unless the Minister is a man of the stamp of Sir George Cartier, who selected his department because he was proud of it, and his heart and soul were in his work. The Ministry of Militia is no berth for pettifogging politicians.

There appeared in the *Fortnightly Review* for March an article on marriage by Mrs. Mona Caird, the outspokenness of which astonished many, displeased some, and was only seen to be reasonable by those who are perhaps ahead of their day in thought concerning justice and reform. Mrs. Caird, a lady who has all the courage of her convictions, is criticised in the April number by Clementina Black, with great penetration, moderation and grasp of the conditions. On the whole the reviewer does not disagree with Mrs. Caird to any considerable extent. She places in contrast the nature of the marriage relation between persons who "are not controlled by any sense of equal rights on the part of their neighbors" and the higher "class of self-controlled men and women imbued with respect for one another's freedom of action." It is, no doubt justly, surmised that a high standard of education—and, it might also have been said, the increased facilities of women for earning their own subsistence—makes them more independent of marriage, and at the same time raises their standard of marriage. This position is illustrated by reference to numerous marriages of Cambridge Fellows since the restrictions were relaxed, in which the wives have been "highly cultivated women, in the truest sense the equals of their husbands," and out of which a lady who lived among them testifies that she had not known one unhappy union. It is impossible to enter, within the compass of an editorial note, into many interesting points of the subject, though we may briefly refer to it again, but the key-note of the advanced tone of thought struck in these articles is that marriage should be made "a companionship of equals without any predominance on either side." It is a curious fact that the French, in their reasonably happy marriages, have been somewhat in advance of British sentiment and practice. The French wife is often the trusted business partner of her husband, and also often the managing one, while the nature of the tenderly confidential personal relation is emphasized by the term "mon ami," (my friend), by which the French wife is accustomed to address her spouse.

The correspondent of *Imperial Federation* whom we quote in another note on the Newfoundland question next addresses himself to that of the right of Canada to defence, and in this also we agree with him. "In July last," says Mr. Lyman, "you suggest that the Colonies, and therefore Canada, get quite as much defence as they pay for. Though you waived this point, I, at least, am not prepared to do so, and reply that Canada has paid every penny that she was entitled to pay under the constitution as it exists, and more. If the constitution is anomalous that is Great Britain's fault, not ours, as she made it. I said that Canada has paid more than she was bound to pay, and, as an instance, I recall the Fenian raids, when Canada was invaded by those who were England's enemies rather than her own. The expense of repelling them fell chiefly on us; and when, in the negotiations for the Washington Treaty, the one Canadian representative, Sir John Macdonald, one among ten, suggested that the claims for losses inflicted by the Fenian raids were, so far as they went, a fair offset to the Alabama claims, the American Commissioners simply refused to acknowledge them, and the English Commissioners hadn't backbone enough to press the matter."

We have not seen the Franco Newfoundland question anywhere, or by any one, more clearly set forth than by Mr. H. H. Lyman in a letter to *Imperial Federation* of 1st May. As it seems to us a question not to be paltered with by the Imperial Government, and, as we take precisely Mr. Lyman's view of it, we cannot do better than re-produce portions of his letter:—"While I write, the most ancient Colonial possession of the British Crown, the island of Newfoundland, is in a blaze of indignation over what the people believe to be a further sacrifice of their rights to French aggression, and talk is heard of an appeal to the United States for annexation as a way of escape from an intolerable injustice. This whole question of the French rights and aggression in Newfoundland must be settled, and that speedily, by an extinction of these rights, or grave disaster may result. England is solely responsible for this trouble, and must remove it if she does not wish to lose the Colony. What matters it to a rich country like England if the buying out of the French rights should cost a few millions sterling? She is responsible for the blunder, and must pay for it, and will do so, if not in gold then in Empire. For if the British flag is replaced by the stars and stripes in Newfoundland the loss will not stop there, but the process, once begun, will not be stayed until Britain's Empire on this continent has passed away."

From the more general question of defence Mr. Lyman passes to that of the Behring Sea outrages, and with forcible plain speaking sets forth the simple facts of the case; and if the summing up has an ugly look we may be sorry, but we cannot dispute the application. "As to the Behring Sea dispute, permit me to draw your attention to the extraordinary difference between Great Britain's treatment of this question and her action in regard to Portugal. For years past the British flag, which is as much ours as yours, has been no protection to Canadian vessels upon the high seas, but has been insulted with the utmost impunity, vessels seized and confiscated, crews imprisoned, and other outrages too numerous to mention, and when we appeal for protection—and, mark you, we have no power to send armed cruisers to protect our own vessels upon the high seas—we are told to have patience, that the Government is in communication with the Government at Washington, and is not without hope of arriving at a satisfactory settlement, and this farce goes on from year to year, and our seamen are prevented by these acts of piracy from following their lawful calling. But a Portuguese officer in a remote corner of Africa ventures to commit some aggressive act, not as serious as those perpetrated on our vessels by United States revenue cutters, and instantly Lord Salisbury sends the Portuguese Government a sharp demand for reparation, enforcing it by a threat of a naval demonstration in the Tagus. Now, what is the reason for this difference? Your suggestion of 'votes counting four on a division' will not apply, as Africa is no more represented than is Canada in the House of Commons. Americans say that England is a coward and a bully, bullying small nations which she knows dare not fight her, and cringing to big ones that she fears may do so. Is this true? It looks like it."

The doubts which have been raised as to the efficiency and humanity of execution by electricity have again stimulated controversy as to the expediency of abolishing the death punishment altogether, and a new impetus has been imparted to the advocacy of humanitarians by the execution of Rd. Davis in England for the murder of his father, while the clemency of the Crown was extended to his younger brother. The murdered man had for years pursued a course of inconceivable brutality towards his wife and children, and the young sons were exasperated to compass the unnatural husband and father's death. The older was the executive party, but the younger the deeper plotter in the conspiracy. Petitions poured in for commutation, but Mr. Matthews, the Home Secretary, was inflexible, and his action has drawn down upon him the indignation of a large portion of the British public. It is clear that isolated cases and novel considerations ought not to influence men's minds, but they do, and there is a large body of people who have it to say that the relaxation of extreme severity in criminal law has never been followed by increase of violent crime. On the other hand the State of Maine found it expedient to revert to capital punishment after having abolished it. We should be glad to feel convinced that the death punishment, which we look upon only in the light of a deterrent, could be safely done away with. Our doubt is whether the average murderer would not be less deterred from his purpose by the outlook of penal servitude than by the certainty of death, or whether his mind is not rather of the cast of that of the ruffian who commits minor brutal offences, on whom the prospect of the lash is unquestionably the most efficient preventive.