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The election of Mr. N. W. Trenholme to the office of *Bâtonnier* by the bar of Montreal, at the last annual meeting, while on personal grounds a well deserved compliment, was something more than that. The election of a gentleman prominently connected with the law faculty of McGill University was significant that the opinion of the largest section of the bar favoured the changes in lectures and examinations advocated by that University; and implied that the influence of that election would be felt in the General Council. The event has fulfilled the expectation; for we find that the General Council has now acquiesced in the proposed reduction of the number of lectures, and has approved of the bill on the B. A. question introduced by Mr. (now Justice) Lynch.

An important paper on Matthew Arnold by Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, has appeared in the *New Review*. The comments of a personal friend upon so remarkable a man as Arnold, would, in any case, invite attention: when they emanate from a Chief Justice distinguished as Lord Coleridge is for eloquence and frankness, they are doubly attractive. The article is of some length, but there is so much ground traversed that the topics are necessarily treated with considerable brevity. The putting on paper of one's impressions of a departed friend is not in itself an agreeable task. As the Chief Justice observes, "Life does not need fresh melancholy; but to live long is to survive our friends, and to write about them is to bring back the memory of delights which can recur no more, and to look from the western sky into the east behind us which seems cold and grey now that the light of the sun has forsaken it. . . . Do what one will, it must be a melancholy business." Lord Coleridge's estimate of Arnold as a poet need not be specially referred to in

this place; but incidentally his lordship gives us a list of the immortals, which, from such a source, will be of greater interest than Sir John Lubbock's hundred books. The "greatest" are Homer, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare—"their laurels are as fresh as when they wore them, their verses as living as when they uttered them." Then the "very great men" are the Greek tragedians, Lucretius, Milton, Jonson, Ford, Racine, Molière, Spenser, Dryden and Pope. The prose writings of Arnold are divided into literary, political, and theological. While paying a high and deserved tribute to his powers as a literary critic, Lord Coleridge differs from Arnold's political conclusions, and points out the reason why his suggestions, as they seem to him, were inadequate and unpractical. The Chief Justice, for example, is forced to differ from what Arnold wrote about "America"—meaning the United States. His lordship makes a comparison which, though it may be unpalatable to some of his readers, is probably just. "Some of his (Arnold's) quotations from American newspapers are absurd and contemptible enough; some of their popular habits and customs bore an Englishman; the national swagger offends the taste; the national literature, *exceptis excipiendis*, does not perhaps reach the European standard; the worship of mere money is vulgar in both senses of the word. But who are we, to throw stones at others for these things? They are undesirable as much in England as in America; and an American visitor can find them in England as easily as we find them in America. The French are constantly dwelling on the *brutalité des journaux anglais*; and apart from this charge an American might make his countrymen merry with extracts judiciously culled from papers popular in drawing-rooms. Some of our habits, depend upon it, seem as senseless and tiresome to foreigners as the handshaking receptions do to us. Can anything be more absurd than evening parties and those who frequent them, so far as they do frequent them? Is the American swagger one whit more offensive than the cool insolence of the Briton?"