

later novels, was induced to read the works of RICARDO, MALTHUS, and ADAM SMITH. Let none then affirm that works of fiction should be excluded from the Association: all really first class novelists aim at something more than narrative for mere narrative's sake.

We must congratulate the gentlemen connected with the Association upon the wisdom they have evinced in endeavouring to establish classes for cultivating tastes other than those commonly consulted for the sake of obtaining a livelihood. Music, vocal and instrumental, drawing, and other accomplishments will not be lost sight of; indeed if the Association under its present management fails to commend itself to the young men of this city, we shall be grievously mistaken. The newly organized establishment will in a few months be something more than a mere seminary—it will also be a club. And in order to accomplish this most desirable end, we would urge upon the Committee the expediency of closing the establishment for a time, in order that the several rooms may be comfortably furnished, the library replenished, and further support obtained. A little extra money judiciously expended would go a long way towards making the new premises a really pleasant resort. The Committee, supported as it now is by several Clergymen, may reckon upon public support towards engaging masters for the various classes (the committee, of course also granting monetary aid), &c., and otherwise giving a fair start to this excellent Institution. Prior to the reopening of the Institution some wise rules might be laid down regarding the management of the library, the policy of enforcing quiet therein, &c. &c. Upon the whole, the recent efforts of the Committee have been singularly successful, and we trust the Association will prosper as it deserves. We cannot conclude this brief notice without acknowledging the services of the retiring Secretary, Mr. FARQUHAR, whose zeal and earnestness in connection with the Association have ensured him the hearty good will of his fellow workers.

ANNAPOLIS.

The dwellers in the Annapolis valley have many points in common with the ancient Jews. Like the ancient Jews they dwell in a land conspicuous for its fertility; like the ancient Jews, a vast faith figures prominently in their character, and like the ancient Jews they appear to outsiders as a most peculiar people. Their patience, their docility, and the child-like trust with which they have so long regarded the so called conservative party is the talk of the whole Province. Through good report and evil report they have hitherto adhered to the followers of Judge JOHNSTON. What mattered it to these good people, if, after his fight against the possible government, that gentleman veered round, and, as a very radical, advocated an elective upper house? What mattered it, if, when the franchise failed in its working and was condemned as unsuitable, Dr. TUPPER plunged madly into universal suffrage, the most radical measure ever introduced into a British colony? The defects of the conservatives were as nothing to the people of Annapolis who prided themselves on belonging to the most conservative county in Nova Scotia. Dr. TUPPER, and Judge JOHNSTON may have erred, but they called themselves conservatives, and that sufficed for the dwellers in the valley. Now, this blind confidence may perhaps be highly commendable. It is just possible, however, that it arose from indolence and an undue straining of the maxim *quies non movet*. Be this as it may, "the last straw breaks the camel's back," and if the last straw has not been laid upon the much wronged people of Annapolis this year, it is difficult to know when it will be laid. If pledges violated, promises unfulfilled, and an unfairly delayed election, have not

assured the electors of Annapolis that their political faith rests on a broken reed, it is difficult to conceive that any thing will ever convince them that such is the case.

Of the many scandals with which the county of Annapolis is unfortunately associated, the greatest in political importance is the improper manner in which its election has been deferred. The extraordinary behaviour of the government in this business is more than a local scandal. It not only affects the privileges of Annapolis, but those of the whole people of Nova Scotia. It is not only in Annapolis that the conduct of the government should be censured, but in every county and town of the Province, since unless things change greatly, the same disgraceful postponement of an election may occur at any time. State necessities require the creation of an extra Judge and Mr. JOHNSTON accepts the appointment. His seat is vacated in May, and a writ for an election to fill it is forwarded to the Sheriff in December! Now, we do not wish to make too much of this extraordinary affair. We do not wish to accuse the government of a direct breach of the constitution. "All's well that ends well," and if the government falls into the pit which it dug for others, and Mr. Ray be returned for Annapolis no great actual harm will have been done. But however the election may terminate a most dangerous precedent has been established and a precedent which if allowed to pass unquestioned, may at some future time lead to most disagreeable consequences. If no protest be entered against the conduct of the government in this case it will be an established thing, that a government has the power to defer an election in any county or town from the close of one session until the beginning of the next, that is to say from April or May of one year until February or March of the next. Now, there is a very wholesome custom which obtains in all countries whose constitutions are based upon that of Great Britain. It is this—The Sovereign, Governor, or Lieut. Governor never prorogue the house over a period of more than three or four months—thus, at the close of the Nova Scotian Session for 1864 we find the following passage at the end of the speech delivered by the Administrator of the Government:—"It is my will and pleasure that this General Assembly be now prorogued until the 14th of July next, when it will here re-assemble," &c. &c.

The value of this custom is obvious. Though it may be highly improbable that any emergency should render an extra session necessary, it is desirable that members should be prepared to take their seats in the Assembly, should such an emergency occur. In England at these formal meetings of the houses, the Lord Chancellor, a few officials, and the Speaker of the lower house represent the two assemblies, and the former pronounces a further adjournment in the name of her Majesty. In Nova Scotia, this office is performed by the Lieut. Governor in Council. In England the law demands that election writs be issued immediately after a vacancy occurs, and in all cases before the nominal reassembly of parliament, after the adjournment during which the vacancy occurred. In Nova Scotia, custom has hitherto, in this matter, supplied the place of law. On what conceivable grounds then can Dr. TUPPER's government justify their extraordinary conduct? Let us suppose that in September it had appeared necessary to the Lieut. Governor to summon his Assembly, that its authority might be given to the despatch of Delegates to Canada. Parliament would have been assembled hurriedly, have sat perhaps for three days, and been then further adjourned. How would Annapolis have been pleased at finding herself but partially represented? Yet this sort of thing may occur at any future time, if the conduct of the government on this occasion is allowed to pass unquestioned.

We believe the Speaker of the lower House is to a certain

extent responsible for hardly possible that raised, or supposed to political party, can lead the party now in power the Government or the remains—Annapolis from May to December electors of the valley pure trouble of all that ed upon them. Other added to the incubus bear upon their shoulders to be to the government. "No Railway extension conservative cries which last election, that the returned, after many Railway extension as for their own county, expenditure in the W considerably damp the a self-styled conservative Dr. TUPPER in particular exhibit their mad love feited all claim to the affection for men who and have infringed upon their own shoulders in which it may suit the Cheerless and rayless toy of Dr. TUPPER stock of Nova Scotia.

But few people were on Wednesday. The streets ankle deep in excusable. But, des streets, the side walk ladies and gentlemen more prolonged than the state of the atmosphere, in order to lead of us have heard discourse this topic would, so minutes conversation in doors until the which period we shall "constitutional." A somewhat heavy fall, ing to prevent a similitude by not less than the sex. Retreat was hoped; but by means possible that (considering pending crisis might it was no use,—there on Monday—h to the Rink this winter, after all,—"But This is the old story.

Well reader, the I than otherwise. To be designed to let in chilling. To be alone pressing; to be in