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All articles, contributions, and letters on matter pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The address on "Simplification of Land Titles and Transfers," delivered by J. Herbert Mason, Esq., before the World's Real Estate Congress, and reprinted in our last number, suggests the query, why should the Ontario Government and Legislature longer hesitate to extend the provisions of the Land Titles Act to the whole of Ontario. It can scarcely be said that a question any longer exists as to the feasibility and excellence of the Torrens system. The nine years during which it has been in operation in the city of Toronto and County of York must have sufficiently tested its availability for the whole Province. There can scarcely be a remaining doubt that this common-sense system, or some other akin to it in its essential features, is destined to be, sooner or later, the prevailing system in all countries which have free trade in land, and appreciate the stability which is given to the State by the multiplication of

the number of owners and occupiers of the soil. Ontario has in some other important respects, notably in the successful adoption of the single Legislative Assembly, set an example of simplicity and directness to other Provinces and peoples. It would be an additional step in the same direction, and one which would, it can scarcely be doubted, be favorably received by the great body of the people, if the Government should, at the next session of the Legislature or at some early day, introduce a Bill to extend the provisions of the Land Titles Act to the whole Province.

We are glad to see that the discussion of public affairs is not being left wholly to the professional politicians. We have said before that it was of good omen that the party leaders were coming forward to discuss the pressing questions of the hour in the presence of the people, and without the stimulus of a general election looming on the horizon. It is of still better omen that men of education and ability in other walks of life are taking part in the discussions from an independent standpoint. Rev. Principal Grant, in the series of manly and patriotic letters which he has sent to the Globe, has set an example which many others would do well to follow. There is hope for the future in the fact that citizens of this class are coming more and more to the front, and taking their stand upon an independent platform. We do not now discuss the contents of Principal Grant's able letters. Many of his facts and inferences are almost beyond controversy. To some of his views many may take exception. That is their right. The main point is the fact that such letters have been written and published in the Globe, which, by the way, has of late been pursuing a fairer and broader policy than that which is usually followed by party journals. The publication of these letters is another added to the many signs that the country is awaking, beginning to throw off the shackles of partyism, and determining to know what is the cause and cure of the ills from which it is suffering.

A clever reviewer in the last number of the New York Nation says that he has never seen the recent Canadian poetry appear to such advantage as in "Later Canadian Poems" (Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.), edited by Mr. Wetherell. The reviewer mentions the four names, Roberts, Lampman, Cameron, Carman, as those of writers

now well known in the United States. He is pleased to see the pictures of the authors because they look so very youthful. These general remarks are followed by a general criticism which will commend itself to the critical reader as at once truthful and discriminating. "It is certain," he says, "that the Canadian poets have already developed much power in describing the peculiar landscape features of their own land, and that they have in a few cases struck deep human notes; but there is about them an effect of vague longing which might almost seem to be satirized in Mr. Wetherell's motto on his title-page:

'But thou, my country, dream not thou!
Wake and behold how night is done.'

In the opinion of this critic, "Songs of the Common Day, and Ave! an Ode for the Shelley Centenary," by Charles G. D. Roberts (Longmans), "really puts its author at the head of these young Canadian poets." He admits, too, that it "would be hard to find any one on this side the St. Lawrence who could surpass the fine imaginative touch of the 'Epitaph for a Sailor Buried Ashore,' commencing

'He who but yesterday would roam, etc.'

The writer also awards generous praise to "Canadian Melodies and Poems," by Geo. E. Merkle (Toronto: Hart & Riddell), "seemingly by an author too young to be included among Mr. Wetherell's bards," and quotes with appreciation the "delicately cut gem" from "The Dread Voyage," (Toronto: Briggs) by William Wilfred Campbell.

Some conception of the effect that will be produced in England and Wales by the enactment of the Parish Councils Bill, now before Parliament, may be formed by considering the fact that the day the new Bill goes into operation a corporate life will be created in a number of villages, estimated by Mr. H. C. Stephens, M.P., a great authority on such questions, at 13,000, which have hitherto been practically without any such life. They have had, it is true, that venerable institution, the Parish Vestry. But since the days of church rates the interest taken in the proceedings of the vestry has declined until now its proceedings attract little attention. Think of the people in 13,000 rural districts awaking some morning to consciousness of the fact that a Parish Meeting is to be held and Parish Councillors to be elected by their individual votes. Imagine the discussions which will take place in each of these