

grass which has been elected at the same time with the President convenes in the following December. Thus the country is kept in a state of political ferment and uncertainty from the Presidential nomination in June till the meeting of Congress a year and a half later." Though the country has pronounced so emphatically against the McKinley tariff, that tariff, unless President Cleveland calls a special session of Congress next March, can hardly be abolished and a new one put in operation before two years from the time when the people decreed its downfall. That is slow work for a people who pride themselves on their democratic institutions.

Mr. G. E. Hardy, a New York educator, contending that modern education does not develop the moral sense, says that "fifty years of popular education have had little or no perceptible regenerating influence" on the American people. This is, probably, far too strong a statement. Mr. Hardy says that over eighty per cent. of the convicts in Sing Sing and Auburn prisons are public school graduates, and that the prisons and reformatories are full of them. The Independent argues that if nearly twenty per cent. of the convicts are illiterate, Mr. Hardy's figures are against his own contention, as it would hardly be pretended that twenty per cent. of the population are illiterate. We are not sure that twenty per cent. would be so much above the mark, especially in New York itself, with its vast hordes of low-class immigrants. In fact, we beg leave to doubt whether New York has public school accommodation for more than eighty per cent. of its population of school age. But be that as it may, it does not seem to us that the Independent's answer is otherwise satisfactory. It says: "No one has ever claimed that an educated man is necessarily a moral man, that those who have gone through the public schools are thereby insured against the penitentiary. All that has been claimed is that the training which they there get in discipline of the will and in intellectual aptitude will make them less liable to commit crime." But we can very well remember when it was fondly hoped by many that one generation of universal public school education would reduce the criminal population to a comparatively small minimum. That was too sanguine an anticipation. But the practical question—and it is one of tremendous importance—is, Are the public schools doing all that they are capable of doing, or that may fairly be expected of them, in the way of training and developing the moral nature of the average pupil? How many minutes of the day, or hours of the week, are given to the effective training of this part of the nature, by leading the pupil to distinguish between right and wrong, to reflect on the nature and consequences of the moral quality in actions—in a word, to seeking by the judicious use of means to develop that moral thoughtfulness which Arnold of Rugby deemed so essential a part of education? Ought not this to be the very first instead of being the last and least consideration in the schools? We know the standard objection and admit its force, but at the same time are firmly convinced that a most salutary course of moral training is quite possible without trenching upon the domains of either dogmatic theology or sectarian creed.

The Chinese Restriction Act passed during the last session of Congress required that within one year from the fifth of last May all Chinese labourers in the United States should take out registration papers and furnish photographs of themselves for the purpose of identification. Considerably more than half of the allotted time has now passed, and we are told that out of 107,475 Chinese in the United States to whom the law applies just five have registered. This amusing failure of the law to operate is not due to the neglect of the usual steps to make it effective. The Internal Revenue office prepared forms of application and issued its instructions and warnings in the Chinese language. "What are you going to do about it?" we can imagine the 107,470 who have refused to register, asking with native simplicity in the peculiar vernacular of the country. The question is a hard one. The law provides that those who neglect or refuse to comply with its requirements shall be sent back to China. But, according to a New York paper before us, to carry out this provision would cost over ten millions of dollars and the appropriation for the enforcement of the Bill is only \$50,000. The story contains several useful morals, but these may be left for the reader to discover.

Frenchmen are rather given to extremes. Present appearances seem to indicate that, having gone a few years ago into the "boodling" business in connection with the Panama Canal project, Count de Lesseps and his friends have distanced all competitors in the magnitude and boldness of their operations. There can be little doubt that should the determined efforts which are being put forth to defeat the enquiry ordered by the Assembly fail, the most astounding revelations will be made. Not only Senators, Deputies, the press, and men prominent in various departments of public and private life, but even the clergy appear to have been drawn into the foul maelstrom. If M. Brisson's charges be substantiated and it be shown that speculation in Panama shares went on at the Vatican, and that the clergy in France got heavy commissions for advising the members of their flocks to invest in Panama bonds, the saddest phase of the whole disgraceful affair will be the part played by those who should be the foremost guardians of the people's morals. No wonder that the French are so largely a nation of sceptics if such be the type of the representatives of religion.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES.

Sir John Thompson has at length completed his Cabinet. The fortunes of Canada are now, and for aught that at present appears are likely to be for some years to come, in the hands of a new Administration. The newness consists, it is true, more in the readjustment of old than in the introduction of fresh material, though a not inconsiderable proportion of the latter is incorporated by the appointment of Messrs. Daly, Angers, and Ives to Cabinet offices and of Messrs. Wallace and Wood to the newly-constituted comptroller-ships, and of Mr. Curran to the new position of Solicitor-General. As the three gentlemen last named are not to be members of the Privy Council, they may be left out of the list

of those who will be held immediately responsible for the acts of the Government. Nor is there, so far as we are aware, anything in the previous record of either of the three gentlemen who now take Cabinet rank for the first time, to indicate that their presence at the Council table will materially affect the course or policy of the Administration, at least for the present. Mr. Daly has, of course, for some weeks had the portfolio of Minister of the Interior, but as he has had as yet little opportunity for making his influence felt, he may be counted as, in effect, one of the new Ministers.

The only change of special importance, so far as the constitution of the new Government is concerned, is the appointment for the first time of an incumbent for the office of Minister of Trade and Commerce, created some years since at the instance of the late Sir John Macdonald. Considerable interest will attach to the working of this department. Its sphere is not as yet very clearly defined. What will be its relations to other departments; what part of their duties will be assigned to it; especially what will be the division of labour and responsibility between it and the Department of Finance remains to be seen. But in almost any event it is evident that the new Minister will assume serious responsibilities in matters of administration very closely related to the prosperity of the country. Mr. Bowell is known as an industrious and energetic worker. We are not aware that he has hitherto been conspicuous for mental breadth or originality as shown in ability to forecast the future and devise large measures suited to new occasions and exigencies. Perhaps he has not before had the opportunity to show what he can do in this way. Of the other changes it is unnecessary to speak in particular. The duty of the new officers will be to execute rather than to plan. The arrangement adds, it is true, to the number of officers and to the expense of an Administration which was already almost absurdly large and expensive, in view of the wealth and population of the Dominion. It is well known that the number of Ministers was at the first made much larger than the actual necessities of the work seemed to require, in order to meet, as far as possible, the situation created by the great excess of expectant statesmen in the different Provinces over the actual demand for Cabinet Ministers. Perhaps it is not worth while to enquire too curiously whether the new arrangement may have had its origin in a somewhat similar practical difficulty.

The head and front of the new Government is the Premier. It is not perhaps absolutely necessary to the working of our system that the First Minister should tower in intellect and force of character above all his associates, as the history of the Government since the death of Sir John Macdonald shows. But it is at least characteristic of the system that in the position of Premier a man of marked superiority may become, and almost as a matter of course does become the almost absolute ruler of the country for the time being. Without disparagement of Sir John Thompson's associates, it may pretty safely be predicted that such will be the state of affairs under his regime. His capacity for ruling has already been pretty clearly demonstrated, even without the aid of the opportunity and prestige which the premiership affords. It is therefore scarcely an exaggeration to say that the fate of Canada for years to come, possibly its de-