

has done so to the independent press, which, while shrinking from following up so distasteful a subject with a persistency that might seem vindictive, yet could not permit the affair to drop without proving recreant to its trust. The Government can have now no alternative but acceptance, though, had the resignation been prompt, and atonement to the injured parties ample and spontaneous, there might well have been hesitation in the matter. Still, even in that case, it would have been impossible to forget that the wrong which is being tardily redressed was actually committed years ago, and that the accusation has again and again been made in a manner which no man, with a proper sense of what was due to his own reputation and to the service, could have disregarded. The question now suggests itself, What about those who advised the act which has brought this disgrace to the commander and who were to have been sharers in the spoil? Can they be permitted to retain important public offices, while the chief actor suffers the penalty? That would hardly be justice, British or Canadian; and it would greatly lessen the moral impression which it is desirable to make. As to the choice of a successor, it is evident that the occasion is opportune for making the change which many have long advocated, by the appointment of a Canadian officer to command the Canadian militia. It can hardly be that there are not now Canadians well qualified by military training and knowledge for the position. Admitting a degree of inferiority in the best Canadian officers in certain qualities which can be imparted only by long drill and active service in the regular army, it is still believed by many that any such deficiency would be more than offset, should any occasion arise requiring active service, (*Detestabile omen avertat Jupiter*) by the greater flexibility and power of adaptation to the genius and habits of Canadians, which a commander to the manner born would possess.

IF the circumstantial story told by the Washington correspondents may be relied on, the Behring Sea difficulty is likely to be permanently disposed of at an early day. The statement is that the *modus vivendi*, which had been proposed and at least tacitly agreed to by Mr. Blaine and Sir Julian Pauncefote, was peremptorily set aside by the President, at the demand of the new lessees of the United States' sealing privileges in those regions, and that the revenue cutters were ordered to Behring sea with instructions to seize as heretofore all vessels found catching seals in the disputed waters. The further statement that these orders were suddenly suspended before the cruisers had reached their destination, in consequence of the announcement that the British Government had at last resolved to protect British fishermen in the pursuit of their calling in neutral waters, accords with the fact, as we believe it to be, of the detention of these cruisers at Puget Sound to await further orders. The conduct of negotiations is said to have now been once more put into Mr. Blaine's hands, with the result that a temporary arrangement will be shortly reached, and a permanent settlement sought by arbitration at an early day. There is a verisimilitude about this story that leads us to believe that it will be found to contain at least a large admixture of truth. Though the United States' lack of jurisdiction in the disputed waters had been distinctly admitted, the expectation in sending the revenue cutters was that England would content herself with a mere protest as heretofore. This is without doubt, as we have always contended, precisely the assumption on which the American policy has been hitherto based. The statement that that assumption was ruthlessly upset by an intimation from Lord Salisbury agrees well with the decided tone suddenly assumed by the *Times* and other English papers, which are supposed to get their cues in such matters from high quarters. The result has been just what we have always maintained it would be. There was never the slightest danger that the American people would go to war or allow their Government to do so in defence of a claim which they know to be untenable and absurd, and which their best journals and publicists have frankly admitted to be so. Our neighbours have too much conscience as well as too much discretion to do that. They might look on and say little while their Government was playing a game of bluff. Many of them, no doubt, have been rather pleased with the success of that game in the past, and ready to applaud the cleverness of their Washington players. The British protests they could afford to smile at, so long as they believed, as they and we have had too much reason to do, that Great Britain would not assume any serious risks in the defence of colonial rights.

We may now earnestly hope that the by-play is ended and that the representatives of both nations will set themselves seriously and honestly to the task of finding a peaceful, friendly, and mutually honourable solution, not only of this but of all outstanding difficulties.

THE movements of the United States Congress in connection with the McKinley Tariff Bill are not without interest for Canadians. The recent intervention of Mr. Blaine, with a view to the furtherance of his scheme for Pan-American reciprocity, has given a new and unexpected turn to the discussions. The whole business is not a little complicated. The Bill itself, as the world knows, proposes on the one hand to raise the protective wall to an almost unprecedented and virtually prohibitory height against all foreign commodities which may be supposed to come into competition with the products of American labour. On the other hand, with a view probably rather to the diminution of the surplus than the cheapening of the article for American consumers, the Bill proposes to put sugar on the free list. This is, after all, we suppose, the only consistent protective policy. But Mr. Blaine intervenes with a message in which he uses all his influence to have the sugar tax re-imposed; for what purpose? Simply that he may remove it again as a concession to the South American States with which he desires to make treaties of reciprocity. "If sugar," he exclaims, "is placed upon the free list, the greatest results sought for and expected from the International Conference will fail." This is probably correct, sugar and wool being the only South American imports on which duties are now levied in the United States. Will Congress, then, modify the free sugar clause, in order to make possible a reciprocity treaty with South America? That remains to be seen, but is thought rather unlikely, as many of the tariff reformers will probably vote with the high protectionists against Mr. Blaine's proposal. And yet it must, one would think, be deemed a very desirable thing to obtain the South American market for all the varied products of the United States, in return for a concession which must tend to make sugar cheaper to all her consumers. Of course Canada, not being able to pose as an American nation, is not included in Mr. Blaine's proposal, and has only an indirect interest in the matter. It is not even easy to determine on which side our interests lie. The establishment of Pan-American free trade would, no doubt, be a deathblow to any hopes we may cherish of working up a profitable South American trade. But, on the other hand, it is plausibly argued by some of the advocates of revenue reform among our neighbours, that the Pan-American treaty would really be a first step toward freer trade, and that it would almost surely be followed by others, since the people finding themselves benefited thereby, would soon begin to ask, "If reciprocity is good with the Latin races to the South, why should it not be also good with the Anglo-Saxons to the North?" The whole campaign must be educating the people. Though the McKinley Bill seems to indicate that the progress is backward, there is yet a good deal of reason for thinking, as many do, that it is but a desperate attempt to stave off the inevitable, and that its very ultraism will cause a recoil which will carry the country a long way in the opposite direction.

A GOOD deal of interest has been awakened in educational circles in the United States by the recent announcement of certain changes contemplated by two of the leading institutions, Harvard University and Columbia College, with a view to reducing the length of the combined collegiate and professional courses of students entering those institutions. The Harvard authorities, instead of requiring, as heretofore, a regular four years' course as the only mode of proceeding to a degree will henceforth make its degrees dependent on the result of examinations, without reference to the length of time spent in preparing for them. Thus if one student is capable of doing in three years the work which another can barely accomplish in four, the first will no longer be compelled to regulate his pace by the slower movements of his fellow-student, but may save the fourth year, or half-year, as the case may be, for his purely professional studies. The same result will follow where the faster pace is the result of better preparatory training prior to entrance. Columbia proposes to reach the same end by a somewhat different route, viz., by adopting the system of options so far as to enable the senior to take in his fourth year professional studies, thus reducing by one year the length of his subsequent professional course. The latter more nearly resembles the

English, the former the German practice. Both resemble, it will be observed, the methods which have long been in use, to a certain extent, in the University of Toronto. In the latter University, as is well known, there are several courses. Harvard will, we suppose, be able to offer a much larger variety of courses. The options in Toronto are available on certain conditions at the end of the second, rather than the third year. There is, moreover, this further difference. The successful Toronto student, no matter what option he takes, whether, say, the classical, the philosophical, the modern language, or the mathematical, receives, on passing the prescribed examination, the degree of B.A.; while, on the Harvard plan, if we rightly understand, he will be accorded a degree corresponding to and indicating his speciality. We have said that our own Provincial University combines with this system of options, which permits and encourages the student to adjust his course with reference to his expected professional career, also to some extent the German plan, by enabling him to enter at any stage of the course on condition of passing the regular examinations for students at that stage, with, if we remember aright, additional examinations in a few specified subjects belonging to an earlier part of the course. We have the impression, however, that this latter mode of proceeding to a degree has been of late years taken advantage of by few. If this impression is correct—and if not we shall be glad to be set right—we do not know whether the plan of entering at advanced stages is simply falling into desuetude, in consequence of the lack of institutions corresponding to the German gymnasias, in which the requisite training can be had, or whether it has been discouraged and virtually discontinued by means of regulations requiring attendance at a certain minimum number of lectures during each year of the course.

TOUCHING this question of higher education, Mr. Andrew Carnegie has raised an interesting discussion by a sweeping assertion to the effect that, as a rule, a collegiate or university course is detrimental rather than otherwise to success in business. The American newspapers, with that readiness for appeal to practical tests which has become an instinct with them, have been sending out their reporters to collect the views of successful business employers on the point. The verdict of these men, speaking from years of actual observation and experience, is strongly opposed to Mr. Carnegie's statement. Some of them go so far as to say that, other things being equal, the young man who takes a four years' course at college before entering into business will soon overtake the one who, with untrained mind, has spent that four years in a business office. This is just what reason and common sense would lead us to expect if the college course is a course of genuine mind-training. Much, it is clear, depends on what is meant by business success. It is quite possible that it is just at this point the divergence in the opinions of the business men in question begins. Is the man who succeeds in making an income of one hundred thousand dollars a year necessarily more successful than his neighbour who, while doing an equally extensive business in the same line, clears but ten thousand dollars a year? Our readers will, we are sure, agree with us that if the chief value of a collegiate course to a business man were to make him more successful as a mere money-getter, irrespective of his discharge of his duties to employees, to society and to the State, it would be a thing of very questionable value. On the other hand it would be incredible that a young man could have spent four years in an institution which was anything like what a college should be—a gymnasium for thorough training of the intellectual faculties, and at the same time a school for the discussion of literary, philosophical and moral themes—without being vastly better fitted for any pursuit, requiring not only developed brain-power, but all the other qualities which mark the highest and truest manhood.

WE referred to the matters dealt with in the two foregoing paragraphs, mainly for the purpose of making one or two observations, which must now be put within the briefest compass. Perhaps this can best be done by putting them in the form of questions. Is there any good reason why the college or university course should be fixed at four or three or any other arbitrary number of years, irrespective of the means, abilities or inclinations of the student? A correlative query would be whether there should not be a complete divorce between a course of training which is purely educational, and one which is in part professional, but that we need not now propound. Should not the aim