

learned correspondent, we cannot say that we see the matter, at present at least, in the light he does. The impression first formed upon the mind by reading the words "by such authority," etc., is rather that the constituted authority shall be some person, court, or commission, appointed by Parliament for the purpose indicated, other than the Parliament itself.

It is said that you can only tell what a man is really made of when a crisis or desperate emergency arises in his life. If this be true, a certain legal firm in a town in Eastern Ontario, at one time known as the El Dorado of lawyers, must be in very desperate straits. To say, however, merely that this firm is equal to the occasion but feebly tells the height to which their professional ambition soars. We have before us what they call their annual circular, which is being distributed among the farmers of the surrounding country. Did they not describe themselves in this circular as barristers, solicitors, and notaries, we should not have contemplated the possibility of their being members of an honourable profession. The circular begins by saying that *they* are the people for the public to do business with, and we, as part of the public, propose to have a little business with them, in the hope that it may result in the withdrawal of their circular and an apology to the Law Society before the latter takes notice of it. In the commencement of this circular they say, "Our prayers and best wishes are for mankind in general, but more particularly for the well-being of our honoured patrons." Their patrons are of course much indebted to them, but we fear mankind in general will never know who their best friends are. The next sentence says this firm "trusts in the future (not apparently in Providence, as might be supposed) and hopes for foreign wars." About the meanest man on earth is the man who lives on the misfortunes of others. The first branch of their business introduced to the public is the "loan department." We should judge from the circular that all the money in the country, both public and private, has been entrusted to their management, especially that of a certain "grand, reliable old company, whose liberal, straightforward dealing with its patrons has won golden opinions." (We reluctantly withhold the name of this venerable institution.) The matter of costs is of course entirely beneath their lofty consideration; the welfare of the public is what they alone consider, and herein they stand out as a noble example to the rest of us. The "real estate department" is not forgotten, buyers and sellers being, we are told, highly pleased with their manner of dealing. We presume they charge no fees to either one or the other. In the "fire insurance department" they give entire satisfaction to their customers, and leave nothing undone to merit approval. They are evidently adepts also as canvassers for life insurances, and give some touching advice in reference to this matter, closing with the unctuous remark (one of the firm must be a descendant of Uriah Heep), "Life insurance not only adds to the happiness of this life, but better fits us for enjoyment of the life to come." It is rather a flop, after the last sentence, to be introduced to the next department, which is the Chicago World's Fair. Possibly the desire is to draw a marked contrast between "the