

ceiving. Indeed, the dampness of the quarters, which are situated in a basement, is not only injurious to the health of the staff, but also to the preservation of the valuable documents which are under its care."

The Council hope that the Government of the Dominion will soon find itself in a position to provide suitable accommodation for books and manuscripts, collected at such large expense, and so invaluable to the country, and indeed to the world at large. If it were possible to build a National Museum, worthy of the Dominion, then a section of it could be properly devoted to this service. In the meantime care should be taken to prevent any damage or deterioration to these valuable manuscripts, and to enable the staff to make the best possible arrangements for purposes of reference. THE WEEK most heartily joins in the prayer of the Council and trusts that the Government will not further withhold adequate protection from these invaluable historical records.

OTTAWA LETTER.

What is the use of sending a letter from Ottawa this week? No one in Toronto will read it while the big fight between the Kingston heavy-weight, Professor Cleary, and the London light-weight, Professor Meredith, is in full swing. Mowat is not in it at all. Was there ever a better application of the trite old saying, "Save me from my friends."

The Hon. Mr. Mowat came down from the bench 23 years ago to govern Ontario, and he is now about retiring, after governing the Province for that period. Why does not Archbishop Cleary come down from the penitent's bench, throw off his gown as Mowat did, and take his place. It does not look well for a distinguished prelate to be crossing swords in the political arena, and like a mediæval knight deciding the fate of a cause by a single combat. The lookers-on can enjoy the fun, but what is fun for them is death to Mowat, and he's a loyal man.

Archbishop Cleary received his political education in Ireland at a time when the Home Rule was planned and carried on by means of the boycott, agrarian outrage and other violent methods that have now happily subsided there. His people have no Home Rule to fight for in Canada; they have religious liberty, and enjoy all the privileges of their fellow-countrymen, under free government; therefore it must be Rome rule that the Archbishop is fighting for; a rule that would be as oppressive to his own people as it would be to the rest of the population, and it well may be doubted if his bold utterances reflect the sentiment of his people. Some of the Liberals see the danger of being drawn into this crusade against their liberties, and are, therefore, contesting their elections as independent men—a role assumed by Mr. A. F. McIntyre in this city.

Notwithstanding the statement of Sir John Thompson, that it would be some weeks before an adjournment of Parliament, signs are not wanting that the Government hopes to shorten up the session. The tariff is no longer a "piece de resistance" for your correspondent: so far as that is concerned, "it is at present all quiet on the Ottawa." It has yet to go through its third reading. The estimates are on the "tapis," and in that connection the Finance Minister announced the contract for the fast Atlantic steamship

line and a subsidy of \$750,000 a year to secure it. This will, in all probability, lead to a hot discussion; its practicability, its necessity, its cost and its advantages are all moot points.

Mr. Mills placed Sir Charles Tupper in a difficult position by asking what steps the Government were taking to assert the sovereignty of the country over Hudson Bay and for ascertaining what foreign vessels were exploiting the resources of this "mare clausum" to Canadian enterprise. As Sam Weller, in giving his evidence on the Bardell vs. Pickwick trial as to whether he saw Mrs. Bardell in Mr. Pickwick's arms, promptly replied that if he could have seen through a brick wall, up two pairs of stairs and through a double door, he might have seen the kissing going on, so the Minister of Marine finds a difficulty in seeing through the obstacles that intervene to obscure his vision of the Bay, but, like Sam Weller, were he so disposed, he might if he chose. It is easier work to catch a poacher off the Pelee Islands, and there is more glory in it. If Canada's rights in the Hudson Bay are being tampered with, the matter should be seen to without evasion or delay.

As the fur seals of the Pacific go all the way down to the warm waters in the latitude of San Francisco, the waters of the Bay might be too cold for them, the waters of the Behring Sea are modified by the warm currents that flow from the West, so that Mr. Mills' suggestion to transplant a colony of seals from the Pacific to the Atlantic might prove abortive, though the experiment would not be an expensive one, when we have some means of getting them there.

An article in the Montreal Star, under the heading of "What would the Liberal tariff be," suggests that the Liberal party should on the third reading "move a series of salient amendments to the leading features of the tariff and then vote solidly in support of them." This is to show the country what they mean by "a tariff for revenue only," for the Star says: "The Opposition may be sure that whether their tariff programme be good or bad, the electorate is in no mood to buy a pig in a bog. Very good advice from an independent journal; the only thing is that, moving amendments to the tariff in detail might prove a tedious operation. A twenty or twenty-five per cent. reduction of the old tariff all round would be quite as effective and more equitable. A twenty-five per cent. reduction would appear to be lowering the revenue by five million dollars; but Sir Robert Peel when he was engaged in lowering the English tariff in 1845, prior to the adoption of free trade, said that it was a fact, that when he wanted to increase the revenue he lowered the tariff, so that instead of a falling off of five million dollars there will, in all probability, be an increase of the revenue. Under protection the Government collects one dollar, and monopoly collects two dollars, so that three dollars' taxation is imposed where only one is wanted. Any reduction of this triple burden is sure to increase the revenue paying power of the people.

Whether authentic or merely suggestive, the Evening Journal of this city gives a list of the subjects for discussion at the Colonial Conference to meet on the 22nd of June. It commences with: "The better development of trade between the Mother Country and Colonies, even if present tariff policies must continue." How can we have

better trade if we have protection? Protection is a tax upon trade, internal as well as external. "Why must present tariff policies continue?" Because the people cannot get out of the net so skilfully laid by monopoly! Even so—are our powers of suction greater than our powers of vision? These are questions for self-examination before we appear before this conference of world-wide interest and importance. The spectacle of all parts of the United Empire dealing with one another upon the broad basis of free trade, not that selfish free trade that blindly works inside of a ring fence, but that self-reliant free trade that defies the competition of the world, would be a spectacle to astonish the world in the magnitude of its operations, the marvellous purchasing power of its population, and the growth of its power for good. To the extent that we tax the product of the British labourer, to that extent do we reduce the value of his market to us for the sale of the product of our industry. By making our market free we increase our own purchasing power and his, and offer so much greater inducements to British labour in the British Isles, or isles over the sea, to sell to us and to buy from us in return. That is the better development of trade between the Mother Country and Colonies!

The members indulged in the social amenities which their fighting over the floor of the House of Commons is popularly supposed to prevent, by accepting the hospitality of Mr. Edwards, member for Russell, who organized a picnic for them to his pretty place on the Ottawa. A pleasant day was spent, and the shyness of party warriors towards one another for once disappeared.

VIVANDIER.

Ottawa, June 4th, 1894.

AT THE KING'S PLAYHOUSE.

(The Mourning Bride. A tragedy.)

"Music has charms to soothe a savage breast,
To soften rocks or bend a knotted oak."
Such were the words (who ever heard the rest?)
Which, as the curtain rose, Braccigirdle spoke.

There in the Lincoln's-Inn-Fields Theatre
"His Majesty's Servants" laboured through
the part,

And Mr. Congreve dropped a tear with her,
For she could even cheat the author's heart.

Perhaps Selinda sat beside him too,
Sad, pious saint,—in boxes near perhaps,
Belinda and Lady Mary Montagu
Took up their great fans archly from their
laps.

Such smiles and sidelong glances as they threw!
While atmosphere and stage-plot grew more
warm.

"The Mourning Bride"—Ah Beaumont, where
were you

When Mr. Congreve took the town by storm?
Thus through the five acts, while the ladies
cry

And link-boys at the door the dull hours
pass:

Thus till Alphonso reaches by and by,
"Ill-fated Zara! ha! a cup? alas!"

To their sedan-chairs then the ladies rush,
Empty and dark are all the playhouse boxes;
Then cards and ombre until morning's blush
When My Lady with tears turns home, My
Lord with "poxes."

"Ged man, how dare you waken me so soon?"
Roars Mr. Congreve, "Slife, you dog, who's
there?"

"Your pardon, sir," the valet calls, "'tis noon.—
A certain Frenchman waits—Monseer Voltaire."