

a key to the character of our people. The slowness with which they have advanced towards maturity has developed an individuality and type of their own, as distinct from the American citizen as it is from the British subject, and destined, we believe, to achieve a magnificent future by welding the conservatism of the one with the enterprise of the other. Previous to every change that has taken place in the system of government in Canada there have been signs of unrest arising from want of elbow-room under the restraints of the colonial system. That the old strain which led to the establishment of responsible government, the union of 1841, and afterwards to confederation, is again being felt, is evidenced by the present controversy about the three alternatives—Imperial Federation, Independence or Annexation. A fourth alternative, that of preserving the statu quo, has been seized upon by the supporters of the Government, and by some who are not its supporters, as the best. With these in office and the class who are making money through the operation of the protective policy, the *laissez faire* idea is popular. But it is an undeniable fact that the farming class is far from contented. From the Farmers' Institutes originated the movement for Commercial Union, and it is from the farming class that the exodus to the United States is proceeding. Thus, as we have elsewhere observed, a safety valve for discontent is found in emigration. So long as the cities enjoy a reasonable amount of prosperity, which, in reality, is the measure of the burden borne by the farming, mining and lumbering classes, the statu quo may be preserved. But the signs are becoming more plentiful every day that the process of enriching one class at the expense of all other classes has reached its culmination and is tending towards collapse. The expenditure of two hundred million dollars within eight years has given an enormous impetus to business of all kinds, but our Government cannot go on spending borrowed money at that rate. As a consequence there is a contraction and a decline in the rewards of industry, felt most by those who have benefited least by the expenditure, but who have to bear the burdens it entails of taxation and increased cost of living.

If the Federal Parliament had not ceased to command confidence and respect, we might look to it for a wise solution of the difficulties which darken about us. Reflection will show that solution can only be found in a policy which will place the Dominion as nearly as possible in line with the elements of progress and expansion in operation beside us in the United States. Whilst our government has entered into a hopeless contest for empire—five millions of people against sixty millions—thousands after thousands leave Canada annually to cast their weight in that contest against their own country. Yet the contentious territory whether they go is not more inviting than that which they leave. There is little difference in the institutions. What, then, is the cause of Canadian stagnation alongside American progress? Simply this: We have allowed an un-Canadian, un-American Toryism to fence us off from our nearest neighbors and best friends by perpetuating prejudices, erecting tariff barriers and all for the ostensible purpose of preserving British connection, but, in reality, to keep this vast country in bondage to a clique of politico-commercialists. If British connection made this country more free and more prosperous than the States, we could understand the infatuation of clinging to it. But when the reverse is the fact and further threatens to involve us in possible war and inevitable bankruptcy, it seems beyond comprehension.

Some people fondly imagine these things can continue, for they constitute their fourth alternative, that while Sir John Macdonald lives, at least, things may be allowed to run in the old rut. But when, in a short time hence, internal taxation will be abolished in the United States and the conditions of life become more gloriously emphasized even than they are now, the crash must come and the people of Canada will be glad to escape national ruin on any terms the United States may offer.

Such is the catastrophe to which Sir John Macdonald is leading the country.

CHRISTIAN UNITY.

The following letter, which we find in the Halifax Echo of the 1st inst., contains an admirable lesson for those gentlemen who, in the character of Evangelical advocates of Christian unity, do so much to cause sectarian strife and create bad blood between the less intelligent of those who harken to them.

Sir.—There was recently held in Montreal a convention, extending over some days, of a body styling themselves the "Evangelical Alliance." The object was ostensibly to promote Christian unity—a most desirable consummation all will admit, and one towards which all true Christians are looking, hoping, praying.

And how is such a blessed state of affairs to be brought about? One would suppose by the promotion and exercise of all the Christian virtues, especially that of charity, of which St. Paul so graciously speaks. Not by reviling one's neighbor; not by stirring up strife and evil passions; not by denouncing as vicious and demoralizing the religious tenets of a large majority of the people of the city where they are assembled. And this is how a large portion of the time of this assembly was occupied. A small second edition of this gathering has been held in Halifax, with some of the same actors, and where the same sentiments were reiterated. One speaker, if he is correctly reported, denounced all church government as wrong. He would have every man a clergyman, with full power to administer the sacraments, baptize, marry, &c. And the burden of his address, and some others, was abuse of all church authority, whether Reformed or Roman.

This is the unity to which we are invited. Such teachings are most mischievous, not only in a religious point of view, but, what is more, in a worldly one, by promoting hatred, variance and differences among our people, feelings that once aroused may take years to soothe. Thanks to the examples and teach-

ings of Archbishops Connolly and Hannan, Dean Bullock, Rev. Dr. Grant and others, this community has enjoyed for many years freedom from sectarian bitterness.

I trust that some of these fire-brands who would light the fires of discord may be effectually quenched, and their efforts confined to the evangelization of their own flocks and families.

PROTESTANT.

In mixed communities nothing could be more reprehensible than intolerant abuse of the religion of others. Among educated gentlemen such conduct has long been regarded as betraying an uncharitable, narrow, vulgar disposition, and those who indulge in it are ever given a wide berth as mischief makers dangerous to society and the public peace. They are invariably voted cranks and avoided as such. But when they speak ex-cathedra exponents of Evangelical thought they assume the role of social innocents and deserve a rebuke even more severe than the writer of the above letter administers. Possibly some of these "fire-brands," as he quite correctly designates them, may believe that a robust hatred of Popery should be a necessary part of the Evangelical equipment, but a little reflection ought to convince them that such fulminations are the very worst means for advancing the cause they profess to have so much at heart. They never yet made a convert by these wild attacks. The most they ever accomplished was the promotion of discord, seen most painfully in the subsequent conduct of children who learned from them to cherish unchristian bigotry and to regard their Catholic fellows with acrimonious aversion productive of much injustice and unhappiness, besides encouraging a spirit of intolerance inimical to the public welfare.

The law punishes persons who use language calculated to cause a breach of the peace, yet these men defy the law and claim the right to insult good men, unoffending citizens, venerable teachers, on the score of being advocates of Evangelization! Three things they have evidently yet to learn, namely: To speak the truth, to be gentle, to be charitable.

THE CAUSE OF THE ANNEXATION CRY.

Senator Power, in a long letter to the Halifax Chronicle, combats the idea that we are near a crisis in the constitution of the Dominion. He holds that neither Imperial Federation, Independence, nor Annexation is seriously contemplated by any considerable number of our people. He believes "that we may continue to travel on the same path; that we may continue to debate 'such questions as the tariff, reciprocity and provincial rights,' and that when we are 'face to face with the question of what is to be the destiny of our country,' which will be when England gives us notice that the present connection cannot last longer in the existing form, or when some convulsion now unexpected takes place, it will be time enough for us to deal with the question of our future place in the world's assembly of nations. Until that time comes, we may go on trying to see that Canada is governed as well as practicable under our existing constitution and circumstances."

All the ranting we have heard of late about "the old flag," "traitors," "annexation," etc., Mr. Power regards as having been started by the friends of the present Government in their anxiety to divert public attention from its maladministration, and that it is a mistake in fact, as well as in party tactics, for the Liberals to join the cry. That there is a sentiment in the country favorable to annexation the Senator does not deny, and he rightly attributes it to the misgovernment of Sir John Macdonald and his colleagues. On this head he writes clearly and with profound conviction of the truth:—

Sir John's administration during the past ten years has been characterized by all or nearly all the vices which a government could exhibit. It has been negligent, incompetent, tyrannical, corrupt and extravagant, beyond any government of English-speaking people of our day of whom I have any knowledge. I need not go into particulars, but simply call attention to the results. When a Canadian finds the debt of his country accumulating with astonishing rapidity, with few profitable assets to show for it; when, without any increase of foreign trade, he finds the yearly taxation increasing in as great a ratio as the debt; when he finds the government conducted in the interests of monopolists, contractors and office holders, with little regard to the welfare of the bulk of the population; when he finds this government fortifying itself in power by a resort to all the basest devices ever practiced in a neighboring republic, with the addition of the tyrannical scheme of the electoral franchise by which the government is free to count—by which the government practically takes the making of the electoral lists into their own hands; when he hears the general tone of public life debased to a degree probably without parallel in any English-speaking country to-day, it is perhaps only natural to expect that he may begin to long to think this state of things intolerable and to look for some means of escape. What means shall he make use of? Not independence nor imperial federation; for both would leave the administration of Canada in the hands where it was found, and instead of diminishing, would increase the burden of debt and taxation, which is now deemed even too heavy to bear. The only refuge left to Canada would be in annexation. Therefore, the real annexationists are the men who are so conducting the affairs of this country that, after a few years of the like administration, annexation will be a necessary, and the only possible outcome. And I have no doubt that when the time comes—as it must—unless the method of governing this country is altered—the men who now shrink "traitors" and annexationists—as men more loyal than themselves will be found, as they have been found on like occasions in this country, for cries for union with the American Republic.

To my mind, the best and surest means to kill any annexation sentiment which now exists in Canada and to render our union with the neighboring republic at any early day an improbability, will be to render the administration of this country diligent, able, honest, economical and respectful of the wishes and interests of the people at large. So great a change from the present condition of things, without a change of ministry, would involve a moral miracle unprecedented in its character, so that I am justified in saying that the only hope of the opponents of annexation lies in putting the government of the Dominion into the hands of the Liberal party at the earliest practicable date.

LITERARY REVIEW.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

The December number of this leading monthly is alive with discussions of the prominent questions of the day. The problem that surrounds the fate of Stanley, the African explorer, is considered by General Lord Wolseley, Charles P. Daly, President of the American Geographical Society, James M. Hubbard and Dr. Franz Boas. General Sherman contributes an eulogistic monograph on James G. Blaine. "Madness and Murder" is the title of a deeply interesting paper by Dr. W. A. Hammond. The high license question is favorably reviewed by Arthur Miller. A defence, or rather apology, for "The Last of the Mohicans," is offered by "One of them," A. E. Newton gives his reasons for being a believer in Spiritualism. "Lord Beaconsfield and the Irish Question," by Hon. Edmund Pierpont, has already been fully discussed in THE POST. Dion Boucicault discusses Shakespeare's influence on the drama. The short articles are full of suggestion, and are not any means the least valuable portion of a very readable number. Address: No. 3 East Fourteenth street, New York. Allan Thorndike Rice, editor.

THE CATHOLIC WORLD, J. J. Farrell, No. 6 Park Place, New York.

Elizabeth G. Martin, contributes to the December number a very well-written biography of St. Catherine of Genoa. "Shooting Stars" is the title of an essay by Mary J. O'Connell. "The Home Aspect of Irish Affairs" is treated by Rev. Edward G. Brady. "Drink and Brink Sellers the Nation's Bane" is an eloquent temperance discourse by Rev. M. F. Ryan. "French, Rural and Agricultural Orphan Asylums" is a paper of much interest, handled by L. B. Binns. Mary Bannin gives us a bit of autobiography in the two sketches of "Miss Biddy" and "Miss Eliza." "Frederic Ozanam," the founder in France of the organization known since throughout the world as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a lay charity, is a life-story by Rev. J. J. Jenkins. "The Word for a Brave Class of Men," by Richard F. Johnson, refers particularly to the spiritual needs of railway employes. "The Demon Potter" is a poem by Charles Henry Leides. "A Plea for Honest Protestants," arises out of questions started from a perusal of a recent work by Rev. J. J. Jenkins. "The Body of Wood," by Harold Dyer, is still continuing. "Authenticity and Veracity of the Gospel," "On a Christmas Picture," "Italian Liberty" and the usual critiques and correspondence fill out the number.

PARIS ILLUSTRÉ, International News Company, New York.

A charming portrait of the renowned songstress, "Adelina Patti," in colors, graces the front page of the December fourth number. The portrait is by Toussaint, and certainly appears to be a speaking likeness. A two-page illustration, in colors, also represents "The Body of Wood" of the Emperor of Russia. "Paris Gossip," is sparkling even beyond its wont, and some stray hints are dropped here and there concerning winter fashions that are to be, that must prove invaluable to les grandes dames and their modistes. The Day After the Battle of Champagne, after relating the story of the battle, tells us a story better than any words could tell. "Out of Sight," by Pierre Gauthier, is a story of first love, of careless jealousy, ending in the complete happiness of restored confidence. Two representatives of the International Exhibition, 1889—Dome of the Fine Arts Palace and Machinery Gallery—as they were on the last of December 1889, give a fair idea of the preparations now going on in Paris for the event. "Mademoiselle de Bardelys," a brilliant novellette, by Paul Parret, bids fair to sustain the interest it has week by week awakened. "A Good Stroke of Business," by J. Courboin, is a piece of pantheistic meriment rarely equalled even in this mirth-making season.

FIRST COMMUNION. A Series of Letters to the Young. Published with the approbation of the Most Rev. Archbishop of Baltimore by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore, Md.

The pious author of these letters has happily succeeded in giving a fair idea of the preparation for, a series of excellent instructions for all who are preparing for their First Communion. The veneration in which the Blessed Sacrament is to be held, the manner of preparing for a general confession, rules by which young persons may correct their habits and acquire new virtues, are indicated in a manner equally accurate and attractive. Every parent should give his child a copy of this little book.

FIGARO and PARIS ILLUSTRÉ—INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, 29 and 31 Beekman Street, New York.

Specimen copies of Christmas numbers of Figaro and Paris Illustré just received, so far exceed anything that we have ever seen, that we are tempted to send them to an English-speaking public, that one looking at them can refrain from acknowledging that the long world-renowned Figaro and its already well known associate have not only far outstripped all contemporaries, but have even outdone themselves. Indeed, it is difficult to think that even in countries where the excellent and beautiful standard of the original, while beauty and beauty attained could be improved upon. There is absolutely nothing known to us to be brought into comparison with them. The very best productions, literary and artistic, of an intellectual and art-loving people, penmanship, the literatures and artists of France, are here laid before us in a translation that preserves all the domestic charm of the original, while forming to the genius of the language, which, for the convenience of its vast foreign audience it assumes. So much for the literary portion—and art—thank heaven—is the same the world over, needing no interpretation of speech, sinking through the eye into the heart and mind and reproducing its beautiful creations there.

The art lover, like his literary brother, is too often sadly impetuous, and too-grown fastidious needs wealth for its gratification. But in this instance there are not many, even in moderate circumstances, who need reason long with his conscience over the purchase of one of these art treasures. The Paris Illustré, Christmas supplement, offered at 75 cents, and the Figaro at \$1, presents a wonderfully low when the great expenditure incurred in their production, taken into account. That amount might easily be frittered away in something that would not give half the pleasure, while as an educating power, tending to inspire and elevate the taste, nothing could give better results.

Figaro, between richly illustrated covers, gives us the following literary mélange to which are appended some of the best names in French literature: "The Stage Manager," a play by Henri Meilhac, of the Académie Française; "The Garden of Terror," an exciting tale, rigorously exact in the minutest detail, and concerning a well known Russian family, by Jules Garette; and "Hear-Broken," by Julien de la Gravière. These stories are profusely illustrated, some in colors, by distinguished artists. Nor is music forgotten. The popular "Serenade" by Edmond de Launay, and "Aubade," by E. Lalo, form an appropriate finale to the number. Two pictures in faint, delicate tints, but elaborately wrought out in detail, one representing a lady in her sedan having a word by the way with one who is evidently an admirer; and the other picture representing a society belle seated in her carriage conversing with a gentleman, and another representing a lady in the Press, are evidently intended by the painter, Marchelli, to convey a delicate but well merited rebuke to the free and easy manners of our own time, for, whereas the old time gallant is all devotion and

respect, plumed hat in hand, and bowed head before the object of his devotion, the lover of the present not only has his hat on, but stands boldly upright before his fair one, and while conversing with her puff clouds of tobacco smoke into her face from the cigar that he does not take the trouble to remove to her presence. Of the presentation plates that go with this volume "Toussaint," by Bonnet, is a Spanish beauty, with sunset hair and midnight eyes, in undoubtably one of the best. In "The Riverside Inn," by Kammerer, a rustic maid, white-capped and aproned is having her soft round arms to the shoulder, preparatory to lifting out some fish just caught in the brook, for the delectation presumably further on of the gay party under the trees, of whose enmities our village maid casts a backward glance by no means shy, and not at all envious, of the "Married-to-day," by Charles Dabry, is a double page illustration representing the humbling of a young bride, as fair a vision of girlish loveliness as ever lit up the narrow, money old street in which the bride was supposed, as she descends ladder on the shoulder of her newly married husband. "The Flag," by Edmond Dettelle, representing a group of French cuirassiers "color-guard" bearing the tri-color, will, by many, be considered the best in the collection.

Paris Illustré comes to us in the cerulean hues of the firmament, with its stars and constellations, and things within that fortunately are no dream of night. For frontispiece there is a water-color by Geoffroy, entitled an "Intruder." The old old story of "The Three Males" is here told in an original manner by Judith Gautier, with illustrations in Switzerland, by Dabry, is a full page engraving showing how the children are remembered there at the holiday season; "Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense" is a laughable tale of romantic adventure from the pen of M. Girardet; "Before the Fall" is a water-color by Jules Girardet; "Chasseur à Cheval," another of those soldierly studies, in which A. 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