

The Archbishop seldom loses a chance of giving the weight of his public spirit to the progress of Nova Scotia. His Grace was, it seems, interviewed by a representative of the Press on his return from his trip to Bermuda. His answers to interrogatories are highly significant. As reported the interview in part ran thus:—Where does Bermuda obtain its food supplies? Practically all from the United States. How is that? Owing to the want of enterprise and energy of Halifax merchants. What is the remedy? A sufficient government subsidy to enable the enterprising owners of the present line to put larger and faster boats on the route—boats that would make the passage in fifty hours, and thus compete with New York. With such a line Halifax could supply Bermuda with flour, meat, cattle, hay, army supplies, cotton, furniture, etc. Bermuda, apart from potatoes and onions, lives on imports, and with regard to cotton goods, if Canada can export with profit to China and Japan, why not to Bermuda?

One of the victims of the St. George, (Ont.) railway accident was Surgeon-Major L. H. Swan, of the 22nd Battalion, a gentleman highly spoken of, and the second senior Medical Officer of No. 1 Military District. The notice of this untimely death reminds us of the claims to promotion to that rank of Dr. Codd, of the School of Mounted Infantry, to which we alluded some time ago, and who even as surgeon ought to stand about fifth on the list. But the Militia Department evinces the most impracticable stupidity in matters of rank; notably on the question of a list which should correspond to the simple half-pay list of the regular army. It is an injustice to officers who may serve again, compelled by circumstances to resign from their regiments, to be placed on a "Retired List." There are some notable instances in Halifax. This battle was fought out ten or twelve years ago with the Department by an officer who stuck to his colors as long as was possible, but could make no impression on the density of red-tape.

The Report of the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax for the year ended 31st Oct. 1888, shows a considerable addition to the number of registered pupils during the year. The enrolments are, for the winter term 5,862, and for the summer term 6,238, showing an increase of 592 in the former, and 638 in the latter, over the figures of the previous year, and a larger number of scholars than usual qualified for entering the Academy. There had been no increase in the rate of taxation, and the Board commenced the year with a debit of \$2,089 and closed it with a balance in hand of \$1,596. Good results are reported from the attention the Board has given to Calisthenics and music, and the report is in favor of Kindergartens and a Manual Training School. The observance of an Arbor Day cannot but be productive of satisfactory results which will, of course, be more apparent as time goes on, and the Report embodies some very plain and serviceable directions for the planting of trees. Altogether the Report leaves a satisfactory impression of the progress of education in the city.

There can be no question that our trade with Brazil is susceptible of much greater extension or expansion. The paucity of the exports of Canada to Brazil as compared with her imports therefrom are well calculated to cause surprise. One firm alone in Pernambuco shipped from that port during the past season 12,000 tons sugar to Canadian ports, but many of the vessels bringing the sugar to us went to New York, Boston or Baltimore for return cargoes. These return cargoes consisted chiefly of flour, lard, pork and cotton goods. Just the line of goods that we can furnish as advantageously as can our southern neighbors. The Pernambuco firm referred to above imported from the United States last year 72,000 barrels of flour, 6,000 tierces of lard and a large quantity of pork. If we will only seek it there can be no doubt that we can secure a large share of the export trade to Brazil. Bahia, another large port south of Pernambuco, imports annually a large quantity of cottons from Manchester. It has been demonstrated that our manufacturers can successfully compete with English cottons in China, and they can surely do the same with Brazil. A line of steamers to ply between Canada and Brazil has been often talked of, and even once or twice attempted, but it seems that the right parties have never taken up the matter with the energy and push that its importance deserves. We are firmly convinced that an almost colossal business could be built up between the two countries, and we hope before long to see this done.

We observed the other day a threat of some clerical action tending to the better observance of the Sabbath in Halifax. We really do not see that reverend gentlemen in Canada have much ground for complaint in this matter. They had probably better leave well alone. In the United States even a professedly religious paper writes thus on the subject:—"It is pretty hard to find a thoroughly consistent Sabbatarian. Consciously or unconsciously, our more straightlaced brethren yield their logic or their practice under the influence of the spirit of the age. We know of no Sabbatarian who conscientiously refuses to buy and read papers which are compiled on Sunday and sold on Monday morning. Indeed, we have often been impressed with the desperate efforts which Sabbatarians will make to extricate themselves from this web of inconsistency. But it is not possible for them to get out of it. To have a Monday paper, it is necessary that reporters, editors, compositors, and telegraph operators should give up a portion of their Sunday in order to prepare it. When the Sabbatarian buys the Monday morning paper, he practically sanctions such labor on the Sabbath day. Ministers who preach against Sunday papers are sometimes found using them to communicate their own views. In the last Boston election, a strong Sabbatarian made use of the Sunday paper to influence the vote. It is the exception also to find a man or a woman who refuses to ride in the horse cars or steam cars on Sunday from conscientious scruples. The spirit of the age has greatly modified the rigor of the Puritan Sunday, and no amount of Sabbatarian starch can restore it to its original stiffness."

On the 8th inst. was celebrated the 70th anniversary of Count Von Moltke's entry into the army. This is a long period of service, but it is surpassed by at least two officers of the British Navy, Sir P. W. P. Wallis, who, if he lives to next August, will have seen 70 years elapse since he was made a captain, and Sir W. F. Martin, who was posted in 1824. The former was second Lieutenant of the *Shannon* in 1814, five years earlier than his attainment of post rank.

It is a lasting disgrace to Halifax that she should have allowed the West India and Bermuda trade, which she once had within her grasp, to slip out of her hands. The want of breadth and foresight which have led to this miserable result are phenomenal. One of the false ideas which were brought to bear on the abolition of the subsidy was its adverse bearing on the schooner trade. And what does the schooner trade amount to now? As well might the construction of railways in England fifty years ago have been shut down upon in deference to the clamor of the stage-coach interests. Halifax owes a bitter debt to her old-time merchants who could not brook the decrease of their profits and influence, incidental to the opening and independence of other ports of Nova Scotia.

The statistics of alcoholic drinks and tobacco since Confederation are both interesting and suggestive. Without going into detail for which we have not the space, the consumption of alcohol shows a steady decrease, which should be satisfactory to those who have rational ideas of temperance. In 1868, it appears, the consumption per head for the whole Dominion was 1.604 galls. In 1888 it was only 0.645 of a gallon. The cause of this decrease is evidently deep-seated and is no doubt the result of that general enlightenment, improved habits, and moral suasion to which we have frequently alluded as the legitimate means of eradicating moral evils. Wine figures but very little in these statistics, which is scarcely to be regretted considering how small a proportion of the genuine product of the grape enters into the consumption even of the few who drink wine at all. Beer shows great fluctuations, but on the whole an increased consumption, which, so long as that of spirits continues to fall off, we do not consider an evil.

There will evidently be a lively discussion in the Imperial Parliament on the proposals of the Government for a large increase of the Navy, but the opposition seem to acknowledge, what indeed cannot be disputed, that it is a necessity. It is probable, therefore, that the Government if it do not get the full amount demanded, will get a large proportion of it. Meantime we regret to learn that the agreement by which Australia was to appreciably aid in the augmentation and maintenance of the squadron in her seas, has been vitiated by the recalcitrancy of Queensland. It appears that the Colonial Draft Bill sought to preserve uniformity by providing that the ratification by each and all was a condition to its binding force on any. The seven vessels agreed for will be ready within the year, but it is now mooted whether they will be sent in the absence of a concluded plan of contribution. Meanwhile some contribution, about £35,000 we believe, is reported to have been received, but it is felt that an attempt to patch up the failure would be a mistake, and that the best thing to do would be to bring the matter expressly before the Australian people.

We have read with very great pleasure and satisfaction Professor Alexander's masterly analysis of Browning. No doubt numbers of people who would stand aghast in the face of the Poet's voluminous tomes will be enabled to thoroughly understand him thro' the medium of Professor Alexander's "Introduction," and the copious illustrations he furnishes us with. Dr. Alexander ranks Browning with the first six great poets of the century, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, and Tennyson, and is bold enough to think he will even be reckoned first in that hierarchy, nor would we venture to say he is wrong. Nevertheless he will never be popular. The keynote of his philosophy—that man must look to the hereafter for the reward of his labors—has doubtless the ring of truth, but that truth can be embodied in half a page of vigorous prose, and few there be that will wade thro' volume after volume of rugged obscurity to ascertain the nature of treatment of a truism. Browning is of far too lofty intellect to have ever written for the masses, and just as many as can appreciate Landor, and Bailey's "Festus" will be students (rather than readers) of Browning's intense subjectivity. Dr. Alexander's book places him at once in the first rank of perspicuous and keenly analytical criticism.

We have before us the *Maritime Medical News* for March. This evidently is a valuable medium for the interchange of thought and information between medical men of these Provinces, but we cannot read without repugnance a passage like the following. "Dr. Awtokratoff, of St. Petersburg, detailed some experiments upon removal of the thymus gland. Of twelve dogs only one survived the operation for any length of time. Most of them died in nine or ten days—one in sixteen days—after the operation. Two or three days after the removal of the gland there was a remarkable dullness and slowness in their movement, and a peculiar alteration in their gait. After this came on tremblings, which began in the hind legs and spread gradually over the whole body. The temporal muscles and the tongue were most affected. The tremblings were gradually succeeded by clonic and tonic convulsions. Some of the dogs had epileptoid attacks, and died in the status epilepticus. From the time which elapsed till the appearance of the convulsions, the author supposes that a poisonous substance is produced in the organism by the removal of the thymus gland, which has a cumulative action.—*Journal of Insanity, Jan'y, 89.*" The thymus gland is an organ in the region of the lungs, to speak broadly. What purpose may be served by experiments on its removal we do not know, but it is infinitely painful to contemplate the acquisition of knowledge at the cost of continuous and systematic torture of God's creatures.