

attach to what are called the learned professions. Why not? Who can doubt that education would tell in such pursuits almost as directly and practically as in those which have hitherto had a monopoly of it? Certainly it would be just as beneficial in regard to its higher end, the elevation and strengthening of the mental nature and the opening up of new and higher sources of pleasure and usefulness. It will be a day of retrogression when any people think themselves forced to discourage higher education, because of the overcrowding of the occupations which have hitherto been thought the only ones suitable for the learned. We ought surely to have by this time reached the idea of education for its own sake, and we should be at least within sight of the time when education shall be the fashion in all the industries and occupations of civilized life.

THE British Government has withdrawn the license compensation clauses of the Local Government Bill. This was inevitable under the circumstances. It was manifestly impossible to disregard a public sentiment so overwhelmingly hostile. There seems, moreover, some reason to think that, however sound the principle of compensation—and its soundness even Mr. Gladstone has, on a previous occasion, acknowledged—the clauses as framed would have proved unworkable, or at least seriously inequitable, in practice. Without accepting the accuracy of Mr. Caine's arithmetical calculations, according to which the compensation provided for under the bill would have amounted to the appalling sum of thirty millions of pounds sterling, it became pretty clear that the system of compensation proposed would have wrought entirely in favour of the very class of establishments which have least to recommend them to the general public, *i.e.* the saloons, or gin-palaces. The more exclusively a house was given up to the sale of liquors, and the greater its profits derived from the encouragement of drinking in its most objectionable form, the larger would have been its claim to compensation. If, for instance, as no doubt was sometimes the case, the conversion of a house into a licensed saloon increased its rental value fourfold, it would seem decidedly unfair that the public should be compelled, on withholding the license, to remunerate the proprietor or landlord in proportion to the increased value which the granting of the license had created. Whether this objectionable feature is inseparable from any scheme of compensation remains to be seen. Meanwhile the Gladstonians and Parnellites have derived fresh courage from the failure of the compensation clauses, and will be stimulated to assault with renewed energy other features of the Government policy.

ANOTHER universal language invention has come to the front as a rival of Volapuk, though it does not appear that Volapuk itself has as yet achieved any success sufficient to be very provocative of rivalry. The probability that any artificial system of speech, wrought out in the study of the scholar, can ever come into universal or even general use seems very small indeed. The really interesting and important question in connection with these toy languages is to what extent the want they attempt to supply is a real want. There is a good deal to be said in support of the view that such a want to some extent already exists, and that it will be more and more felt as the world grows older. But all history and science go to show that when a single universal language becomes a real desideratum it will be supplied by a process of development rather than of invention. The law of survival of the fittest will determine its choice and character. There is, indeed, a good deal to be said in support of the view that the process is already going on, and English rapidly making its way to universal use. It certainly has many advantages over any other existing language in the competition. Among these the fact that it is already the vernacular of two of the most powerful nations on the globe is greatly in its favour. The world-wide diffusion of English colonies and commerce is another advantage of great importance. It is, too, pre-eminently the language of commerce, and the demands of commerce will unquestionably dominate in the choice of a universal speech, should such ever come into use. It is said that even now English is rapidly superseding French on the continent of Europe as the choice of those who wish to learn a modern language in addition to their own. Should British, British colonial, and American influence continue to grow as rapidly in the future as in the past half century, English must come, almost as a matter of necessity, to perform in a large measure the office of a universal language.

MR. JUSTICE NORTH recently delivered in England a judgment upon a point of great interest to the artistic world. The question submitted to him was in effect, whether an order for an exact copy in bronze or marble of an artistic design already fully wrought out in clay or wax, can properly

be considered as the purchase of an original work of art, or is simply a commission for a work of art to be produced to order. The occasion of the judgment being asked was a clause in the bequest of Sir Francis Chantry, a great sculptor who died in 1841, and left practically the whole of his personal estate for the encouragement of the arts of painting and sculpture, by the purchase of works of fine art of the highest merit, executed in Great Britain. In the carrying out of this bequest the executors were expressly forbidden to give commissions or orders for the execution of works to be afterwards purchased. In regard to paintings this restriction gives rise to no difficulty, inasmuch as the picture is the finished embodiment of the artist's idea. But a sculptor on the other hand first develops his idea in wax or clay, and its subsequent reproduction in bronze or marble, may be regarded as to some extent a mere mechanical process. At the same time such reproduction is the expensive part of the business and is, in consequence, not likely to be made until the artist is sure of a purchaser. Sir Frederic Leighton, on behalf of the executors, attests that if the prohibiting clause above mentioned be construed as forbidding the giving of orders for bronze or marble copies of the artist's finished models, the area of choice of the executors is injuriously affected, and the art of sculpture seriously discouraged. Mr. Justice North, nevertheless, decided that the executors were clearly debarred by the terms of the trust from giving such orders, since the thing actually purchased in such a case, even though it be admitted that the whole of the artist's creative work is put into the model, is not the clay or wax model, but the bronze or marble copy. The decision may appear to the lay mind as a holding to the terms of the bequest in the letter and breaking them in the spirit, but it is probably good in law, and if so will, we suppose, have to be accepted.

THE defeat of Lord Salisbury's Government, a few days since, on a question of Admiralty administration, shows how deeply even its Conservative supporters have been affected by the commotion in regard to the state of the Army and Navy. The steps already taken seem to have quite failed to allay public excitement. In fact, the longer the question is discussed the greater are the public unrest and distrust. These are the result of two factors. In the first place the suspicion seems to be becoming very general that the administrative departments are honeycombed with corruption, and hence that the immense sums every year voted for military and naval purposes have been to a great extent wasted or worse than wasted. Probably nothing short of a rigid and searching investigation will now reassure the public in this regard. But apart from that, and accepting the Government assurance that the navy is stronger and better equipped than ever before, the conviction seems to be growing upon the public mind that this is far from sufficient. If the navy has been growing year by year, is it not true that the commerce, the territories, and the general responsibilities of the Empire have grown in much greater ratio? This is the view very strongly presented by a writer—presumably Sir Charles Dilke—in the last *Fortnightly*. The substance of this writer's powerful argument is that however strong relatively the British navy may be, and however able to overmatch even the combined fleets of any two nations, it is absolutely quite inadequate to the task of defending British commerce all over the globe, and at the same time protecting the British coast and conquering the enemy's fleets wherever they might be encountered. "The navy," as the writer referred to puts it, "having all this world-wide commerce and dominion to guard, cannot be everywhere as strong as a navy which it only somewhat exceeds in its total strength." But does not such an argument prove too much? Seeing that the conditions of the problem are what they are, is there any possibility of putting the navy in a condition to do all that is required of it, without, at the same time, putting upon the nation a burden of taxation greater than even Great Britain could bear? Would not the attempt to follow out the line of policy suggested make the condition of the British people even worse than that of those of the most army-ridden nation of Europe?

WITH the nearer approach of the day for the Republican Convention, the uncertainty in regard to the candidate to be chosen increases rather than diminishes. It is useless to speculate on an issue which will, probably, have been decided by the time these notes are in the hands of the reader. It is, however, somewhat curious to observe how the plot thickens as the *dénouement* draws near. The old favourite names seem to fall off in strength and new ones begin to attract attention. More correctly, perhaps, it may be said that their chances of the old familiar ones are discounted by their very strength. Mr. Depew is announcing the withdrawal of his name, but in a manner so hesitating as indicates no great unwillingness to be forced to the front. Mr. Sherman is expected to lead on the first ballot, but afterwards to be left behind. It will not be at all surpris-