

we are agreeably surprised as well as heartily glad that under the circumstances those professions stood the test so well. It is greatly to his credit that he was able to rise above prejudices of race and religion, intensified as they are just now by exciting agitations, and to give the Bill the hearty support to which its passage is undoubtedly due. How deeply those prejudices were involved may be seen from the language in which *La Justice* bewails the result, describing it as a national humiliation, and a wounding of the dearest religious sentiments. The success of the Bill at the present juncture may be accepted as an omen of good, and a prophecy of further advancement. The friends of equal rights and liberal culture all over the Dominion will sympathize with the sentiments expressed by Sir William Dawson, President of McGill College. Sir William said at the College banquet the other evening, that he regarded the passage of the Bill as not merely an educational, but a moral triumph, not only for themselves, but for the whole Province of Quebec, and especially for its more capable and ambitious young men. "Permit me," said he, "to be prophetic. I believe that the recognition of the B.A. is the beginning of a new educational era. It will induce many of our young men to devote some additional years to preparatory culture for professional life. It will thus tend to raise still higher the standard of the professions, and to introduce the time when our young barristers and physicians will pride themselves on their academic culture and success, will be friends of liberal education, and will go on to take their higher degrees in art, so that whether at home or abroad they will be recognized as men of academic standing as well as of professional eminence. This is what you are to see in the good time coming."

THE burning of the noble edifice which has been for thirty years the seat of the University of Toronto is a calamity of no small magnitude, not only to the city but to the whole Province. The people of Ontario have been justly proud of the massive Norman pile which, for architectural symmetry and harmony of design and finish, had, probably, no superior in America. But in this, as in most cases of the kind, the loss of the building itself is the least serious part of the disaster. The restoration of that is but a question of time and money, and will, no doubt, be accomplished with the least possible delay. Far more deplorable from the educational point of view is the destruction of that portion of the library which consisted of works which it will be difficult or impossible to replace. The number of such in the University of Toronto was not, we suppose, relatively large or of great value as compared with the collections of older and wealthier institutions, but their loss will be none the less severely felt. Happily neither the buildings, nor the library, museum and scientific apparatus were the University. The institution remains, though its local habitation is in ruins, and its work will, doubtless, go on, after a brief interruption, in such temporary quarters as may be found. In fact, through the prompt and energetic action of the President and Faculty, arrangements have already been made and the work of the classes has scarcely been interrupted, though it will necessarily, for some time to come, be carried on at considerable disadvantage. The better, the essential part of the institution is indestructible, so long as professors and students are able to continue their living relations to each other. Though the sum total of insurance on the property destroyed is considerable, it will, no doubt, fall far short of the amount necessary to restore the structure in a style not inferior to that of the original, and with such additions and improvements as experience and new conditions of University work may demand. While the question of ways and means is up for consideration, the thought suggests itself that here is a fine opportunity for the wealthy alumni of the institution to give practical demonstration of their loyalty to their alma mater, and their appreciation of the great work it is doing for the Province and the Dominion, by coming forward with liberal benefactions. The Provincial Government have proposed the liberal grant of \$160,000 which the Legislature will probably vote without much delay or opposition. This, with the insurance on the building, will make a quarter of a million dollars at once available, but twice that amount will be really needed to put the institution in a position to meet the requirements of the near future. As when originally built it was wisely built for a quarter-century in the future, so now it will be but the exercise of a wise foresight to rebuild with a view to at least another quarter-century in advance. We shall hope to hear of many and large contributions with this end in view.

IT is a pity that some fixed principle cannot be found to guide the Ministers charged with the financial administration of the Dominion and the Provinces in determining what items of expenditure belong rightfully to capital and what to current account. The standing criticism of the financial critics of the Opposition is that Governments deceive the people as to the real state of the public funds by charging to capital account heavy expenditures which should be charged to current account. Whatever may be the force of this criticism as applied to any specific transaction, there can be no doubt that the possession of a certain amount of liberty in respect to this phase of the public book-keeping must be a constant source of temptation to the Minister who is anxious—as what Finance Minister is not—to make the best possible showing. If there is a *bona fide* surplus there is naturally a strong desire to make it as large as possible as an evidence of economy and good management. If there is a deficit, the inducement to hide it by burying it in the ever-ready capital account is still more pressing. The force of the chief criticism made by Mr. H. E. Clarke, upon the statement presented the other day by Provincial-Treasurer Ross, depends, it will be seen, very largely upon this question. It is safe to predict that when, in a few days, the Finance Minister at Ottawa brings down his Budget the same old argument will, rightly or wrongly, be used to shew that his alleged surplus is largely a fictitious one. It might not, perhaps, be easy to lay down a rule capable of application in every case. But, as it is the first condition of financial soundness that an individual or Province should be able to make income as far as possible balance expenditure, it might perhaps be well if all parties should resolve to apply to the public finances the same rule which writers on ethics sometimes advise us to apply in the domain of morals, and give conscience in every doubtful case the benefit of the doubt.

THE speech of Treasurer Ross reveals the fact that the Provincial authorities are on the brink of another struggle with the Dominion Government. The bone of contention is, in this case, a question of money, arising out of different modes of computing interest. An effort made during the year by the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to reach a settlement of their long outstanding accounts has, it appears, failed because of the refusal of the Minister of Finance to pay compound interest on certain large amounts due the Provinces. In the case of Ontario the indebtedness of the Dominion is on account of certain trust funds belonging to this Province which passed into the coffers of the Dominion Government at Confederation. The claim of the Province—a claim based, it is alleged, on an agreement made in 1882—is that compound interest at the rate of five per cent. should be paid on the sums thus held for the Province. This agreement the Dominion Government is now accused of repudiating. The Ontario Government, with a view to the settlement of the question, has, while holding itself entitled to the full amount reckoned on the basis of compound interest on the twenty-two years during which the money has remained with the Dominion authorities, proposed as a compromise an intermediate arrangement, with arbitration as an alternative. The compromise proposition is that the Dominion Government place to the credit of the Provinces, half yearly, interest at five per cent. per annum on the special and trust funds shown by the accounts rendered in January, 1889, to be held on 1st July, 1867, by the Dominion on account of the Provinces; and that simple interest at five per cent. should be allowed on these half yearly credits in the same way as has been done in the same accounts with the interest on the Common School funds, and that the recognized principle relating to interest-bearing accounts should be applied, viz., applying payment first in liquidation of accrued interest before application on account of principal. It is, of course, to be borne in mind that this is an *ex parte* statement, and judgment should be suspended until the other side be heard from, but on its face Mr. Ross's argument seems to be clear and his proposition reasonable. The amount involved in the question as between simple and compound interest is no less than a million and a quarter of dollars. The charge of attempted repudiation to this amount is a serious one to be brought against the Dominion Government.

NOTHING has been known in Canada in a long time of a more painful kind, as affecting the character of a public man, than the series of letters written by Mr. Rykert, which were recently published in the *Globe*, and which have since been the subject of inquiry in Parliament. The letters are so shameless in themselves; both

as revealing the mind of the writer and as casting dark imputations upon men in the highest positions, that Sir Richard Cartwright did a public duty in calling the attention of the House of Commons to them and giving the alleged writer an opportunity for explanation. That explanation has been given. We do not suppose anyone not personally biassed could be found to say that it is in the least degree satisfactory. On the contrary, one of the most humiliating features of the case is that a Member of the Commons can be found who either really is, or pretends to be, unable to see anything wrong in the correspondence and the transaction to which it relates. Can the personal integrity and the sense of public duty have fallen so low in a Canadian politician? We are loath to believe it, and still more loath to suppose that there can be any hesitancy on the part of the great body of Commons, in marking the affair with its appropriate stigma. Indeed, there can hardly be any political incentive for either party to take such a course, seeing that the letters in question do the greatest injury to the political friends of the writer. Nevertheless we await with some curiosity the action of the Government, whose members are so seriously maligned, and of Parliament, in the matter. It will also be interesting to observe how the use and defence of such methods by a barrister will be looked upon by his brethren of the legal fraternity. It would be sad indeed should we be forced to conclude that there is any considerable number of our politicians, or of members of the legal profession, who could even stop to consider whether there is anything wrong or unworthy in a Member of the House of Commons either actually using his personal influence with his friends in the Government, or falsely professing to have so used it, in return for a prospective reward, in the shape of a large sum of money given "as a present" to a member of his family. It is pitifully true that too many persons, who ought to be better informed, or more conscientious, seem to think that a less stringent code of honesty and honour governs transactions with a Government than that which is binding in doing business with a private individual. But lawyers and Members of Parliament should know better.

THE recent disgraceful riots in Hull are incidents of a class which cannot be too strongly deprecated by all good citizens, irrespective of race or creed. Happily or unhappily, neither of our great divisions of race or creed, can be properly severe upon the other in regard to such matters, without involving itself in the same condemnation. If similar occurrences, even in Toronto itself on former occasions, were on a smaller scale and more speedily suppressed, the result was due simply to the fact that the particular class of persons, English or French, Protestant or Catholic, who resort to such means of confuting their opponents, is much more largely represented in proportion to population in Hull than in Toronto. This again is easily explained by the fact that Hull is little more than a manufacturing town, and that its peculiar manufactures are of such a kind as to draw to it a large number of the roughest and most ignorant classes. These remarks are not by any means intended as an apology for the rioting, but as a salutary reminder of the injustice which we are liable to commit in our haste and indignation, of blaming the creed, or the race, for an intolerance which is the outcome of a fanaticism of ignorance, that is common, though let us hope, not in the same degree, to people of every race and creed. In this particular case it is gratifying to know that the turbulence and violence of the Hull rioters have been unequivocally condemned by Archbishop Duhamel and the local Catholic clergy, and that the Provincial authorities are taking prompt measures to prevent a repetition of such outrages as those which Miss Wright and her companion evangelists have suffered. It is but fair to add that the spirit in which Miss Wright has acted and is still disposed to act, as judged by her letters to the press, is admirable and exemplary. It may be hoped that all concerned, whatever their personal views in regard to the work of the evangelists, will see that it is essential, in the interests of civil and religious freedom, that their services be now continued until such time as the rioters have learned the lesson of tolerance, and such meetings can be held without fear of interruption.

THE long looked-for report of the Parnell Commission has been presented to Parliament. Seeing that the Commissioners are mortal men it would, we suppose, be too much to claim that they have been able to divest themselves completely of all preconceived opinions and feelings, but were it otherwise, it would be still more hopeless to expect those on whom their decisions reflect