

The Colonist

FRIDAY JANUARY 26 1892

THE SITUATION IN QUEBEC.

The election in Quebec is to take place on the 8th of next month. The campaign is not so lively as one would expect. Mr. Mezier still poses as the champion of constitutional Government and the defender of French Canadians from the enemies of their race and their religion. He treats the accusations of the Conservatives as matters that do not deserve serious consideration. As far as we can see from this distance, his corrupt administration of the affairs of the Province has not lowered him in the esteem of his compatriots or of his party. We recognize among those who carry his standard and support his party the names of the men, both English and French, who were prominent in former elections. None of them seem to be missing. Crowds assemble to hear Mr. Mezier wherever he goes, and we read that he is enthusiastically received.

The Conservative papers declare that their party is certain to be victorious on the 8th of March, but the Liberal journals boast quite as confidently and optimistically. The truth seems to be that robbing the Treasury is not considered a very heinous crime by the great majority of electors in the province of Quebec. It is surprising how a man with Mr. Mezier's record can have the effrontery to face the electors. One would suppose that he would be hooted off the platform whenever he attempted to address the people. But he is not. He is evidently taken by very many as what he represents himself to be—the assessor of the rights of the people, and the undaunted champion of French Canadians.

It does not appear that either party really feels at all confident as to what the result of the election will be. Much dependence was placed by the friends of honest government on the attitude that the Roman Catholic clergy would assume. But they, as a body, do not seem to have taken any decided part. The Bishops have published a mandament on the subject of bribery at elections, which contains much wholesome advice, and in which sound principles of political morality are laid down; but, as no sides is taken and no names mentioned, it is not likely that it will have any injurious effect on the prospects of the Mezier party.

HEARTLESS PHILOSOPHY.

Although so much has been said and written about the famine in Russia it is surprising to observe how little has been done by other nations to relieve Russian distress. We hear of the efforts that are made by individuals in some parts of Europe and America to raise money to purchase food for the starving people, but as yet there has been no national movement to effect that purpose. Yet it might be thought that the very large area over which the famine extends and the immense number of sufferers, by some twenty-six millions of our fellow creatures, would justify national efforts to relieve the distress and wide-spread destitution. Still the nations, as nations, are to all appearance indifferent to the sufferings of the Russian people.

France, although she is not Russia's nearest neighbor, is, in a national sense, her best and closest friend, yet France has made no effort to assist starving Russia. Germany and Austria are Russia's near neighbors but they appear to contemplate the sufferings of the famine-stricken Russians unmoved. Great Britain, though ordinarily far from being deaf to appeals for her benevolence and her humanity, regards starvation in Russia without feeling that it is her duty to do what she can to feed the perishing millions. The United States has enough and to spare, and is, besides, on the most friendly terms with Russia, yet her citizens have not thought the crisis serious enough to make a general effort to relieve Russian distress necessary. How is this? Have the nations become hard-hearted and selfish? Are they too far away, and have they too little in common with their fellow-men of other countries that they are not touched by their dreadful sufferings?

The London Times discusses the famine in Russia with a coldness that almost amounts to cynicism. It says:—"In another column will be found a further instalment of the correspondence which we have published from time to time, giving an account of the state of the famine-stricken districts, which is, indeed, bad enough to awaken compassion and to silence criticism. At the same time, we see no reason to recede from our opinion, that the crisis is not one that justifies a national movement here to collect subscriptions in aid of the sufferers, who, it must be remembered, are the subjects of a paternal despotism that undertakes the whole burden of responsibility for those under its rule, and is peculiarly resentful of the interference, however well meant, of other people. The Russian Government raises an enormous revenue and borrows largely for military and other purposes. It is unquestionably capable of providing for the elementary wants of a population to whom the elementary rights of citizenship are denied. This duty is much more incumbent upon an autocratic Power than upon the Government of a free state, where men are expected to help themselves and are able to do so."

This seems to us very much like offering a stone to those who are piteously asking us for bread. The Times tells those who are waiting for a good opportunity to contribute to a fund to purchase food for the starving millions in Russia. "Let them look to their own Government for help. That Government can raise money by pay and to feed soldiers, it ought to be able to do so. It means to give the starving millions the necessities of life. The Russian Czar, when since are good, treats his subjects as if they were children, let him care for them now as children crying for bread ought to be cared for." This may sound well to some people. But what if the Russians are suffering dreadful distress, what if they are dying of starvation, and of diseases brought

on by starvation? Is the Englishman to button up his pockets and keep down the lump that rises in his throat when he reads accounts of Russian suffering, because the Russian Government can alleviate it, but does not? The ability of the Government to raise money by taxation and loan will not succor those who are ready to perish, and who will certainly perish if some one besides the Czar does not bring their relief. We have to go no further than the number of the Times, which contains the article from which we have quoted, to get a very clear idea of the nature and the extent of the suffering in Russia. Here is a description of a little bit of the country which may be taken as a sample of whole provinces:—"The parish of Matsari embraces seven villages, which contain among them 254 courts or families, representing the total population of 1,532 persons. Of these there are at the present moment, in a condition of absolute want, 200 families, comprising 559 children and 560 adults—in all 1,119 souls out of a population of 1,532. Fifty-eight of these destitute families have no live stock of any description; 39 have a cow or a pig, but no horse, while 86 still have one horse, and 17 have two. Since September last more than half the live stock in their village has been sold or killed."

In a community where 1,119 out of 1,532 are in a state of absolute destitution how are the starving peasants to get relief? What is the good of begging when there is no one to give? We do not read that the Government is doing anything to help these poor people. We read, too, that food is not the only thing that the inhabitants of many Russian villages want. Though the weather is bitterly cold they have no fuel, and they have burned their barns to keep themselves warm. They are also in want of clothing, tools and fodder as well as seed grain. From all that we can learn there are millions in Russia in the most pitiable plight that can be imagined. Yet we are told by Great Britain's greatest newspaper that "a case has not been made out for a national movement to raise contributions," and that "it will not, perhaps, be in the long run, a disadvantage to Russia that she is left to her own resources." To teach Russia this lesson of self-reliance the Times expects the nations of the earth to look coldly and passively on, while millions are enduring the most horrible sufferings and hundreds of thousands are actually perishing for lack of food.

It is not surprising that the Roman Catholic clergy would assume. But they, as a body, do not seem to have taken any decided part. The Bishops have published a mandament on the subject of bribery at elections, which contains much wholesome advice, and in which sound principles of political morality are laid down; but, as no sides is taken and no names mentioned, it is not likely that it will have any injurious effect on the prospects of the Mezier party.

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THE RECIPROCITY DELEGATION.

Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Railways, have been discreetly silent since their return from Washington. The Opposition newspapers and editors will, no doubt, put the very worst construction possible upon their reticence. They will be ready to declare that their mission to Washington has been a miserable failure. They would have said this in any event. They predicted this before they started, and they kept on saying it while they were away. The wish, no doubt, was father to the thought in this case. It is hard to imagine men more unpatriotic than are these mouthpieces and agents of faction. They would much rather see their country suffer any kind of ill, than that it should be benefited by the party in power. We verily believe that they would declare that even unrestricted reciprocity, about which they have been raving so long and so loudly, would be of no value to Canada, if it had been obtained for them by the Conservatives on the most favorable terms imaginable.

But the silence of the delegates, under the circumstances, is only what was to be expected. They were not in a position to settle anything. All that they could do was to make proposals, and to listen to the proposals made by the United States negotiators. Whatever understanding they arrived at could not be final, and it would be most injudicious to say anything about what had been done, until the Home Government was communicated with, and its decision had been received. If everything had gone on swimmingly, and if Mr. Secretary Blaine had been as accommodating and compliant as he was frank and courteous, the Ministers would find it just as necessary to be as uncommunicative as they are now. The proceedings of the conference would have been confidential, and they would have been obliged, in honor, as well as by official etiquette, to keep their own counsel.

It is quite a mistake to suppose that statesmen and diplomats are always ready to take newspaper correspondents into their confidence, and reveal to them everything that takes place behind closed doors. We know that there are some of them who desire that the public shall be under this impression, for they do not hesitate to publish as news, alleged information that they could not possibly have obtained. Washington appears to be full of these gentlemen who are ready at a moment's notice to weave romances on any subject which occupies the attention of the Government and is of interest to the public. One of them guessed about what had taken place when the Canadian delegates and the American negotiators were closeted together, and he telegraphed his guesses to Toronto and elsewhere. We find that these guesses were so absurdly wide of the mark that they were not worth contradicting. In the same way other correspondents fancied what was likely to be said by the Behring Sea Commissioners while they were in secret council, and they did not hesitate to telegraph the creations of their imaginations to the respective papers as news. What they sent over the wires, besides being altogether unreliable, was the greatest nonsense. Yet, as it occupied space, and could not be proved to be false in a day or two, it was published. The intelligent reader knows that the correspondent could not possibly get any information on the subject, but the unreflecting and unintelligent reader was deceived. These imaginative gentry in Ottawa are now, no doubt, busy

supplying the public with information which they could not get from the Cabinet Ministers.

A STRANGE REPORT.

A rumor comes from Ottawa that the Hon. Edward Blake will kindly consent to take the leadership of the Liberal party provided it takes for its policy commercial union instead of unrestricted reciprocity. There are many who think that there is about as much difference between these two kinds of reciprocity as there is between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. Besides, we have a dim remembrance of a certain letter written by Mr. Blake to the electors of West Durham, in which he gave those electors to understand that in his opinion the man who advocated unrestricted reciprocity was working for annexation behind a mask. If this is truly of unrestricted reciprocity it is equally true of commercial union.

To offer to take the place of the Hon. Mr. Laurier without consulting that gentleman or his supporters would, we submit, be neither fair to him nor courteous in Mr. Blake. As we have a higher opinion of Mr. Blake than to think that he would advocate a policy which would not only make for annexation, but which would be virtually annexation itself, and as we do not think that he would act towards a political friend in an underhand and a dishonorable way, we have come to the conclusion that there is no truth in the report, —that it is—not to put too fine a point on it—one of the inventions of the Ottawa liar.

SUNDAY CLOSING.

We are glad to find that the Sunday-closing section of the Act respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors has been declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of the Province. The law is a good one, and it is in the true interest of liquor sellers, as well as of the rest of the community, that it should be generally observed. It was, in our opinion, a mistake to contest the law, but now that it has been pronounced valid by the highest court of law in the province, it is to be hoped that hotel and saloon keepers will submit to it with a good grace. They need a day of rest as well as their neighbors, and there is no reason why they cannot make a living by working six days in the week as well as men who follow other callings. Besides, permitting places in which intoxicating drinks are sold, to be open on Sunday, gives Victoria a bad name in the East, and leads people to believe that it is a very much worse place than it is. Victorians should never lose sight of the advantage to them of their city having a good reputation in other parts of the Dominion. Its prosperity and its importance in a very great measure depend on its being considered by people in the East a desirable place to live in, but it will not have this reputation while it is known that its public house bars and its saloons are open "Sundays and Mondays."

BALFOUR'S BILL.

Mr. Balfour's Irish Local Government Bill met with a pretty hot reception, in the House of Commons, on Thursday evening. As it was not framed to please the Opposition, their ridicule and their denunciation will not count for much with such a cool and determined man as the leader of the House of Commons. If he himself is pleased with the measure, he will care very little for the disapprobation of the Home Rulers, both Irish and English, no matter how violently they may be expressed. But this is good news to conclude that the bill is not such a one as would have drawn up if he were not tampered and restricted by the objections and the scruples of many, to whose opinions and prejudices the exigencies of party compel him to defer, to a greater or lesser extent.

A HAPPY SOLUTION.

We heartily congratulate the Senators of the University of British Columbia on the amicable adjustment of difficulties which seemed, at one time, almost insurmountable. And we have special pleasure in noting the fact that the Senators and members of Convocation on the Mainland took the initiative in bringing about this happy result. At a meeting held in Westminster, a deputation was appointed to confer with the Senators in Victoria, and, on Tuesday evening last, a conference was held in the parlor of the Driford. At this meeting, it was unanimously resolved to make the University, in the meantime, merely an examining body, after the model of the University of London and the University of Manitoba, leaving the various localities to take whatever steps they might deem fit to provide teaching institutions where students could be prepared for University degrees. Already Whetnam College in Vancouver and Corrig College here are prepared to give the necessary training to students in Arts, and, no doubt, in the near future, several fully equipped colleges will be established in the province, in the various faculties in which the University is empowered to grant degrees. The Senators waited upon the Government on Wednesday, and were very cordially received, the Premier expressing his entire approval of the course proposed, and promising the assistance of the Government in meeting the expenses, which, to begin with, will be very light indeed.

The first step, then, of providing higher education in this province has been taken in the line of the very latest theories with regard to University extension. The Senate will place before students of both sexes in this province, a curriculum equal if not superior to that provided by the other Universities on this continent, and will provide a staff of expert examiners, so that degrees will be as highly prized from our University as from the older institutions. The value of a degree, notwithstanding the opinion lately expressed by a local authority, does not depend on the prestige of the institution or the number of the students, but entirely upon the educational standard required in order to obtain it; and to call an institution as equal to a tenth-rate grammar school, because at an early period of its history it had but 70 or 80 students in attendance was as great a mistake as it would be to judge of the ability of a Chief Justice from the population of the province in which he held his commission. The University of British Columbia will publish to the world the terms on which it will grant degrees, and sound scholarship will be necessary to obtain its honors.

The effect of this University movement will be felt at once in our public and High Schools. Bright boys and girls will now find that poverty will not shut the door of higher education against them. The various cities

of the province will emulate each other in providing colleges and schools of science which will attract students from far and near, and our province will become more attractive as a place of residence for those who have families to educate. The self-denying and gratuitous labors of those who have brought this movement to its present position, deserve the warmest recognition, and we doubt not that they will be more than rewarded by seeing the glorious fruits of their labors.

IS IT NEAR?

The conviction in Great Britain is general that the dissolution of Parliament is not far off. This is not the opinion of mere quidnuncs who are always ready to snap at and make the most of the latest rumor, but it is the conclusion at which men conversant with public affairs and who are skillful in reading the signs of the times, have arrived. For instance, speaking of the then approaching meeting of Parliament, the London Daily Telegraph, of the 27th ult., said:—"We are assuredly entering on the last session of the existing Parliament, and the only doubt in the mind of any one is whether some unforeseen occurrence may bring it to a premature close and precipitate a dissolution before it has run its six months' course." This is not the language of mere conjecture. Lately, too, the public men of both political parties who have addressed the people have assumed that the general election cannot be far off. The Liberals, since their victory at Rosendale, have been loudly challenging the Government to bring on the elections without any more delay. It will be somewhat singular, but by no means improbable, if the introduction of Mr. Balfour's Irish Local Government Bill turns out to be the "unforeseen occurrence" which may precipitate a dissolution. The following are some of the questions which, when the appeal to the country is made, the electors will have to consider, viz: Home Rule for Ireland, the labor of labor, the administration of the poor law, the equitable adjustment of local burdens, and old age pensions, an interesting question lately raised by Mr. Chamberlain. The discussions will no doubt be warm and interesting. Some of the questions before the people of Great Britain border on, if they are not included in, state-socialism. The granting of pensions to men who are over sixty-five years of age on a kind of state insurance plan, will be a new departure in British legislation. Will the people consent to take it? An eight-hour law is something of the same character. How will it be received? There are indications that the next general election in Great Britain, when it does come, will be one of unusual importance.

TWO MORE.

Two more seats were gained from the Liberals, yesterday—East Hastings and South Ontario. At the election in March, last, Dr. Burdette, Liberal, was elected by a majority of 54. Mr. Northrup was returned, yesterday, by a majority of 412. This was a great change to be effected in less than twelve months in East Hastings. South Ontario at the general election returned Mr. J. I. Davison, Liberal, with a majority of 33; now Mr. Wm. Smith, his opponent by 103 votes. The Conservatives are piling up their majority. It will be fifty before Parliament meets.

AN AMERICAN VIEW.

The New York Herald, in an article headed, "First Preserve the Seals," says, "This is no longer a mere Behring Sea question." It gives up the claim of the United States to territorial jurisdiction over the waters of Behring Sea, and it does not press the claim that the United States has an exclusive property in the seals that swim in all parts of the Northern Pacific Ocean. It believes that to effect that object, a stop should be put to pelagic sealing in the far sea. It says that Secretary Blaine and Sir Julian Panncoote "would have presented to them the absolute facts in the case, and it would not take them long to come to an understanding as to what should be done by both countries to preserve a great industry in which both are equally interested." Let those American editors, who are eternally prating about British poachers, take note of the words we have italicized, and try to understand their full significance.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

The publication of the usual proclamation by the President of the United States relative to the killing of seals and other fur-bearing animals within the limits of Alaska Territory, and the waters thereof, need not give anyone the slightest uneasiness. No one in British Columbia or in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions wants to kill seals or any other animals on Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof. The rights of the United States in Alaska and its waters would be respected by British subjects if the President had never thought of issuing a proclamation. How is it, we wonder, that the President of the United States does not think it worth his while to issue a proclamation warning foreigners not to trespass on the rights of the Great Republic in the territory and waters of California or Florida, or Massachusetts or Maine, or any of the other seaboard States of the Union, for American citizens have as many and as extensive rights on the territory and in the waters of those states as they have on and in those of Alaska. If the President had issued a proclamation warning foreign hunters and fishermen not to hunt seals and

other fur-bearing animals in waters outside the territory of the United States, then there would be some reason to take exception to his arrogating to himself powers that are exercised by no other potentate in the wide world. The high seas, or the ocean, a marine league from the shore, is recognized as the highway of nations, the common property of mankind, over which no nation, let it be ever so powerful, claims to exercise exclusive jurisdiction. That part of the Pacific Ocean, which people have seen fit to call Behring Sea, is no exception to the rule, and consequently the President in his proclamation cannot be so unreasonable as to claim to exercise a sovereignty over what, by the comity of nations, is considered to be free to all. Those, therefore, who interpret the words "Alaska Territory and the waters thereof" to mean any thing more than would be meant by "the state of California and the waters thereof," must be altogether astray.

It is proposed to purchase a site, and erect thereon a suitable edifice. We do not envy our neighbor, but in respect of the project we are now discussing, Victoria may well emulate her example, and no longer delay the inauguration of a college here, which is a necessary cope stone to her superior attractiveness as a social and residential centre.

MRS. WARD'S LAST BOOK.

Any book written by the author of Robert Elsmere, will be read with interest. Mrs. Humphrey Ward does not write merely to amuse her readers, and many, we fear will say that she does not write to instruct them. The way in which she treats religious subjects, is to many, the reverse of edifying, and it seems that she cannot write without dealing largely with religion. It cannot be denied, however, that her writings are interesting, and that she sets those of her readers who have any capacity for thought, thinking. "The History of David Grieve," is not exactly a pleasant book to read. The views of life which the author takes are not cheering and, though she is not deficient in humor, her humor is not of the sort that provokes laughter. She depicts the life of even the humblest of her characters, as full of trials and struggles, both from within and from without. This may be true to life, but it does not contribute to amusement.

A COLLEGE FOR VICTORIA.

Apropos of our remarks, yesterday, upon the advantages and prospects of university extension in this province, we now indulge in the hope that speedy steps may be taken to give practical effect and afford tangible results to legislation in this respect, and that a want may be supplied to this city which has been long felt, especially by those of our inhabitants who have been obliged from time to time to send their boys, at great cost and inconvenience, for advantages which it is certainly much more desirable in every respect to furnish at home. The sums sent out of the Province for this purpose are considerable, and when one thinks of the risks attendant upon the health and habits of our youth, who are thus deprived of parental surveillance and control at a most critical period of life—perhaps to have thoughts of their native country estranged and diverted to other channels, there cannot be a doubt of the extreme urgency and necessity of an immediate movement to supply superior collegiate education in our midst.

It seems strange that while American returns in our vicinity are supplied with properly endowed colleges, almost before they indulge in such luxuries as trams, fancy parks, etc., Victoria, though senior to many of these places in age, is far behind them in educational progressiveness. Her great beauty—blessed with a magnificent climate which is unexcelled, and scarcely equalled in any other part of the world; scenery of snow clad peaks, of woodland and water which makes her the cynosure of every eye, the centre of Provincial wealth and society, the "land of promise" for both mechanic and laborer, the Mecca of the artist and the Capital of British Columbia—with no facilities for imparting the higher education to our own youth, or affording the least encouragement to attract desirable settlers from abroad for such a purpose!!! We have an excellent common school system, most liberally adapted to the necessities of the Province generally, and, in the city, there have been at various periods, small private schools which, for the most part, have begun and ended in the same way, yet we have allowed ourselves recurring cycles to fasten upon us the stain of apathy and indifference so far as the establishment of a well furnished and thoroughly efficient college is concerned. We are not among those who think the Province should do much more than provide a common school education, but the Government would vastly promote and perfect the benefits of this system, give substantial encouragement to migration, and foster contentment and happiness of the people by creating a nucleus, now, for establishing an university examining board such as we believe, is contemplated by the Senate of the University, and it, surely, would be even by setting aside lands, at present, perhaps, of little value, but which, when the proper time arrives for forming a good teaching staff, would, with the private endowment of our wealthy and patriotically associated, and be disgusted with the shameless and boastful wickedness which he witnessed, but this, rather because it offended his taste than shocked his moral sense. David descended into the depths in Paris and suffered agonies. After a comparatively short stay there he returned home to his book-store an altered man, leaving his sister behind him. The rest of the story is principally the history of the growth of David's mind and moral nature. He marries a girl who is somewhat silly but is devotedly attached to him, but he does not appear at any time to be remarkably happy. He lives a useful life, he is addicted to no vice, and he prospers in business. He even becomes religious after a fashion. His creed is indeed indefinite. There are no certainties in it nor any beliefs that we can see. This is how he himself is made to express the conclusions at which he arrives. "And now it is daylight plain to me that in the simplest act of self-surrender there is the germ of all faith, the essence of all lasting religion. Quickened human service, purify and strengthen human love, and have no fear but the conscience will find its God. For all the time this quickening and this purification which gratifying results are more easily attainable here, if a practicable effort were made to secure them. Victoria should contribute a conditional and liberal subsidy, if the proper parties come forward, to make an energetic move, and the quickly following beneficial results of retaining our youth and the large sums involved in their maintenance elsewhere, as well as the encouragement to many to come to us who are now deterred by the absence of good educational facilities, will be vastly more pleasing for contemplation to the taxpayer, than reflection upon the large sums involved in their maintenance and unremunerative undertakings. We are glad to note that our enterprising and ambitious sister, Vancouver, has already made application for an act of incorporation coming from the source whence the untruthful statements were derived.

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It seems strange that while American returns in our vicinity are supplied with properly endowed colleges, almost before they indulge in such luxuries as trams, fancy parks, etc., Victoria, though senior to many of these places in age, is far behind them in educational progressiveness. Her great beauty—blessed with a magnificent climate which is unexcelled, and scarcely equalled in any other part of the world; scenery of snow clad peaks, of woodland and water which makes her the cynosure of every eye, the centre of Provincial wealth and society, the "land of promise" for both mechanic and laborer, the Mecca of the artist and the Capital of British Columbia—with no facilities for imparting the higher education to our own youth, or affording the least encouragement to attract desirable settlers from abroad for such a purpose!!! We have an excellent common school system, most liberally adapted to the necessities of the Province generally, and, in the city, there have been at various periods, small private schools which, for the most part, have begun and ended in the same way, yet we have allowed ourselves recurring cycles to fasten upon us the stain of apathy and indifference so far as the establishment of a well furnished and thoroughly efficient college is concerned. We are not among those who think the Province should do much more than provide a common school education, but the Government would vastly promote and perfect the benefits of this system, give substantial encouragement to migration, and foster contentment and happiness of the people by creating a nucleus, now, for establishing an university examining board such as we believe, is contemplated by the Senate of the University, and it, surely, would be even by setting aside lands, at present, perhaps, of little value, but which, when the proper time arrives for forming a good teaching staff, would, with the private endowment of our wealthy and patriotically associated, and be disgusted with the shameless and boastful wickedness which he witnessed, but this, rather because it offended his taste than shocked his moral sense. David descended into the depths in Paris and suffered agonies. After a comparatively short stay there he returned home to his book-store an altered man, leaving his sister behind him. The rest of the story is principally the history of the growth of David's mind and moral nature. He marries a girl who is somewhat silly but is devotedly attached to him, but he does not appear at any time to be remarkably happy. He lives a useful life, he is addicted to no vice, and he prospers in business. He even becomes religious after a fashion. His creed is indeed indefinite. There are no certainties in it nor any beliefs that we can see. This is how he himself is made to express the conclusions at which he arrives. "And now it is daylight plain to me that in the simplest act of self-surrender there is the germ of all faith, the essence of all lasting religion. Quickened human service, purify and strengthen human love, and have no fear but the conscience will find its God. For all the time this quickening and this purification which gratifying results are more easily attainable here, if a practicable effort were made to secure them. Victoria should contribute a conditional and liberal subsidy, if the proper parties come forward, to make an energetic move, and the quickly following beneficial results of retaining our youth and the large sums involved in their maintenance elsewhere, as well as the encouragement to many to come to us who are now deterred by the absence of good educational facilities, will be vastly more pleasing for contemplation to the taxpayer, than reflection upon the large sums involved in their maintenance and unremunerative undertakings. We are glad to note that our enterprising and ambitious sister, Vancouver, has already made application for an act of incorporation coming from the source whence the untruthful statements were derived.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

The publication of the usual proclamation by the President of the United States relative to the killing of seals and other fur-bearing animals within the limits of Alaska Territory, and the waters thereof, need not give anyone the slightest uneasiness. No one in British Columbia or in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions wants to kill seals or any other animals on Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof. The rights of the United States in Alaska and its waters would be respected by British subjects if the President had never thought of issuing a proclamation. How is it, we wonder, that the President of the United States does not think it worth his while to issue a proclamation warning foreigners not to trespass on the rights of the Great Republic in the territory and waters of California or Florida, or Massachusetts or Maine, or any of the other seaboard States of the Union, for American citizens have as many and as extensive rights on the territory and in the waters of those states as they have on and in those of Alaska. If the President had issued a proclamation warning foreign hunters and fishermen not to hunt seals and

other fur-bearing animals in waters outside the territory of the United States, then there would be some reason to take exception to his arrogating to himself powers that are exercised by no other potentate in the wide world. The high seas, or the ocean, a marine league from the shore, is recognized as the highway of nations, the common property of mankind, over which no nation, let it be ever so powerful, claims to exercise exclusive jurisdiction. That part of the Pacific Ocean, which people have seen fit to call Behring Sea, is no exception to the rule, and consequently the President in his proclamation cannot be so unreasonable as to claim to exercise a sovereignty over what, by the comity of nations, is considered to be free to all. Those, therefore, who interpret the words "Alaska Territory and the waters thereof" to mean any thing more than would be meant by "the state of California and the waters thereof," must be altogether astray.

It is proposed to purchase a site, and erect thereon a suitable edifice. We do not envy our neighbor, but in respect of the project we are now discussing, Victoria may well emulate her example, and no longer delay the inauguration of a college here, which is a necessary cope stone to her superior attractiveness as a social and residential centre.

Any book written by the author of Robert Elsmere, will be read with interest. Mrs. Humphrey Ward does not write merely to amuse her readers, and many, we fear will say that she does not write to instruct them. The way in which she treats religious subjects, is to many, the reverse of edifying, and it seems that she cannot write without dealing largely with religion. It cannot be denied, however, that her writings are interesting, and that she sets those of her readers who have any capacity for thought, thinking. "The History of David Grieve," is not exactly a pleasant book to read. The views of life which the author takes are not cheering and, though she is not deficient in humor, her humor is not of the sort that provokes laughter. She depicts the life of even the humblest of her characters, as full of trials and struggles, both from within and from without. This may be true to life, but it does not contribute to amusement.

MRS. WARD'S LAST BOOK.

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