

ing that that legislation was to be concurrent on the part of the United States and Great Britain, and that the former has delayed as long as the latter, the question as to which is to blame for the delay will have an important bearing upon the controversy, should one unhappily arise. Back of all would be the legal question, whether the regulations of the Arbitrators became operative and binding as soon as passed, as some contend. In that case it is not easy to see why any subsequent legislation should be needed. Moreover, there is a seeming absurdity in supposing either the British or the American Government enforcing a law not made by their own legislators, but enacted for them and imposed upon them by a mixed and irresponsible tribunal. The delay in legislation is no doubt unfortunate, and possibly blameworthy, on the part of one Government or the other. But it will probably appear that neither nation was particularly to blame, much less had any dishonest design in causing it.

One of the worst effects of the party system in politics is that it is not confined in its operation to the principles, so-called, great or small, which are supposed to mark the lines of cleavage between the parties, but intrudes its petty and mischievous front into almost every question which can possibly arise in the legislatures in which it has full sway. It promotes a mutual distrust which prevents the opposing parties from placing the same confidence in each other's honour which would be regarded as a matter of course between gentlemanly opponents in any private competition or rivalry. Each party is constantly suspicious of any reform proposed by the other, taking for granted that it will be so managed as to secure some party advantage for those who propose it. Nor can it be denied that there is often but too much ground for such suspicions. None the less they are inimical to good legislation. One would have supposed, for instance, in view of the dissatisfaction existing among members of both parties with regard to the present method of preparing the list of voters in elections for the Local House, and of the frequent approval of the principle of registration by members of both parties, that the announcement of the Government's intention to introduce a Registration Bill for the protection of voters on either side would have commanded at once the approval of the Opposition. On the contrary, the Bill for this purpose, introduced by the Ontario Government, is at once vigorously assailed on the ground that it has been planned with a view to party advantage. The accusation may have some truth in it, though it is not easy to see how that can be. But how much fairer and better in every respect would it be, were the Governments to submit the drawing up of all such bills, liable as they sometimes are to misconstruction or am-

biguity, to a joint committee fairly representing both parties. The Government which shall first rise to the height of this judicial fairness, will establish itself more firmly in the confidence of the public than it is possible to do by means of the cleverest scheming for unfair advantages.

Whether it is quite magnanimous on the part of the wise to preface any enlightenment of the ignorant with a sound scolding for their ignorance, is a question upon which opinions may differ. Perhaps the scolding process is necessary in order to induce the humility of mind so necessary in the learner. Be that as it may, we shall try to let our gratitude for the information vouchsafed by Principal Grant cause us to forget the severity of his lofty displeasure. Not only so, but in our humiliation we will try to propitiate him by making the "frank confession of ignorance" which it appears we at the same time made and failed to make in our former note. We humbly confess that we are unable to make the weeks long enough to enable us to take note of everything which appears in the hundreds of newspapers, magazines, school and college journals, etc., Canadian and American, which come to hand, to say nothing of others which fail to reach our office. Some of our friends in various places, taking pity on our incapacity, are good enough to call our attention by marked copies and otherwise to matters of public interest which come more particularly under their notice. For instance, upon the appearance of our first note, some kind friend was good enough—and that too without a word of reproof—to send us some marked copies of the Calendar of the University of New Brunswick, from which we at once perceived that our remarks had done injustice to that institution. This injustice we tried to remedy in our second note. No doubt had we read carefully all the Fredericton and St. John papers we might have gained all that information without other assistance.

Alas, that life should be so short and the powers of ordinary mortals so limited. We can only plead in self-excuse that no day passes in which we have not occasion to deplore our ignorance, and in which we do not try to reduce the mountain by a grain or two. We have to thank Principal Grant for having aided us in this process, with as much courtesy as is, we suppose, due to a journalistic scribe. Perhaps we may, without violation of the courtesy due to the President of a University, express our regret that he did not see fit to go a little further and in addition to the interesting and valuable information contained in his letter, give us the further particulars which we especially desired, with reference to the mode of examining those who take the lecture courses; the number of actual students, as distinct from mere listeners, who attended them; the success of those

students in passing examinations, etc. We will just add that the charge of failure in our first note was intended, as most of our readers who have given attention to the matter will probably have perceived, though we dare say that in our effort at condensation we failed to make it as clear as it should have been, to apply to the seemingly abortive effort made two or three years since to organize a union movement for university extension work among the universities. If our memory has not left us in "total darkness" on this point also, a constitution was agreed or partially agreed on and a committee appointed to inaugurate the work, or to recommend plans for inaugurating it. Has this committee ever reported? Has anything been done in the way of carrying forward the movement thus determined on? We blush again to confess our dense ignorance, but frank confession is not only good for the culprit but often the only condition on which enlightenment can be obtained.

Education occupies so large a place in the limited sphere allotted to the local legislatures under Confederation that it is not surprising that a considerable part of the time of these legislatures is given to the discussion of various educational questions. Several important questions of this kind were debated in the Ontario Legislature last week. Two, at least, of these demand special attention. They were quite distinct in character, yet they were discussed in the same connection, and are seemingly more or less confused in some minds. It is a fair question whether the funds derived from taxation of the whole people should, in any case, be drawn upon in aid of education above that grade which may reasonably be supposed to be within the reach of the great mass of the tax-payers. Our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, for instance, are often called the poor man's colleges. Yet a glance at the Departmental Report shows us that while almost one in every four of the whole population of the Province is enrolled in the public schools, but one in every twenty-five of that population attends an intermediate school. This, too, notwithstanding the great development of this branch of the educational system, on which the Minister dwelt with so much gratification. The President of Michigan University touched upon the same principle in his eloquent advocacy of State support of universities, in his recent address in this city. There can be no doubt that the whole people derive great benefit from the presence among them of a large number of highly educated men and women. And yet, as we pointed out in a recent article, the masses, who are more and more taking the control of legislation into their own hands, are showing a marked tendency to object to being compulsorily taxed for the higher education of a comparatively small class, in