

air to grace a southern town. So that to smatter Latin with an English mouth is as ill a hearing as low French. Perhaps it is on the same principle that Canadians find it difficult to pronounce the sound of *a* intermediate between the Italian, *a* in father and the short *a* in fat. The sound is found in such words as after, ant, mass, class, fast, last, pass. In general terms it is the *a* before *f*, *s* and *n*. Ayres, in his Orthoëpist, says: "The sound of *a*, called the intermediate, is found chiefly in monosyllables and dissyllables. At the beginning of this century these words were generally pronounced with the full Italian *a*, which, by the exquisites, was not infrequently exaggerated. This Walker undertook to change, and to that end marked the *a* of words of this class like the *a* in *mān*, *fāt*, *āt*, etc. The innovation, however, met with only partial success. Webster and Worcester both opposed it. Now there is a general disposition to unite in some intermediate sound between the broad *a* in father, which is rarely, and the short *a* in at, which is frequently heard in this country. Some of the words in which *a* now receives this intermediate sound are: "advantage, after, aghast, alas, amass, alabaster, Alexander, answer, ant, asp, ass, bask, basket, blanch, blast, branch, brass, cask, casket, cast, castle, chaff, chance, chant, clasp, class, contrast, craft, dance, draft, draught, enchant, enhance, example, fast, flask, gasp, gantlet, ghastly, glance, glass, graft, grant, grasp, grass, hasp, lance, lass, last, mask, mass, mast, mastiff, nasty, pant, pass, past, pastor, pasture, plaster, prance, quaff, raft, rafter, rasp, sample, shaft, slander, slant, staff, task, trance, vast, waft." Reading these words aloud would be an excellent exercise in pronunciation.

EMPIRE DAY.

—On the twenty-third of next May, "Empire Day" is to be celebrated by a large number of the children of the Dominion. It is hoped that this day will be generally observed from the Atlantic to the Pacific. From the Atlantic, through the "Journal of Education," the official organ of the Council of Public Instruction for Nova Scotia, we learn: "The twenty-third of May has been set apart as 'Empire Day' in the schools. It is to be specially devoted to the cultivation of feelings of loyalty and attachment to our country and to the institutions under which we live. It is