

accustomed to receive annually for educational purposes, this being the income of the Jesuits' Estates. But according to Mr. Mercier himself, "in virtue of an old law the revenue of the Jesuits' Estates formed a special education fund" the amount whereof, etc., was at the disposal of Catholics and Protestants, in proportion to population, for educational purposes. Mr. Mercier mentions that the income in question is now \$78,410, and has scarcely varied for several years past, and says that the same sum, of which the Protestant share is \$12,170, will continue to be granted year by year. But it is evident that the fact that the income of the estates has been for years the amount named is merely accidental, and that, if the estates themselves were set apart for educational purposes, any increased income accruing from the different position of the estates; or, in case of their sale under the recent Act, the whole income derived from the sum-total of their net proceeds when sold, should be devoted to the same purpose. In other words, the Jesuits' Estates, while unsold, and the price received for them if sold, should still be held sacred for the purpose of the Trust. Was this the meaning of the condition laid down by the Protestant Committee? We do not see how the Trust could be said to be observed or restored in any other way. But if they meant merely that the Trust should be restored only so far as to guarantee the annual income hitherto received, it is clear that even that could be effected only by setting apart from the proceeds of the sale of the estates a permanent fund sufficient to produce that amount. No mere promise of an annual grant could be regarded as the equivalent of a Trust fund.

BOTH the Government and the public are to be congratulated on the revised statement of the Dominion accounts for the fiscal year 1888-89, showing a balance of nearly two millions of dollars on the right side of the ledger. The balance sheet will, of course, be subjected to a severe scrutiny by the financial critics of the Opposition when Parliament meets. Perhaps, even to some who are not on the look-out for places of attack on the occupants of the Treasury benches, the news may seem almost too good to be true. Impartial financiers may be disposed to analyse with some closeness the formidable columns, and, remembering the large unexpected balance from the last loan, to look with special care at the items coming under the head of "Miscellaneous Receipts." Assuming, however, the frankness and accuracy of the Government book-keeping, the result gives good reason to hope that the period of extraordinary outlays on a stupendous scale is over, for the present at least; and that the country is entering upon an era of economic and safe administration. The statement that the expenditure for the first quarter of the fiscal year, 1889-90, is less by about a million and a quarter than that for the corresponding period of the preceding year gives additional ground for encouragement, as does also the reduction of the public debt by the sum of nearly two and a half millions of dollars. The tide, let us hope, has fairly turned. It is well that it should be so. Situated as we are, side by side with the great Republic, which must continue not only to be our formidable rival in every productive industry, but to act constantly as a powerful loadstone to draw population and capital away from Canadian shores, our country undoubtedly needs every aid that can be derived from a sound and prosperous financial shewing. Between the United States, with an enormous surplus and a rapidly diminishing debt, and Canada, with a rapidly growing debt and no surplus, the race was too unequal to be long kept up without great danger.

DURING his recent tour through the North-West the Minister of the Interior seems to have been interviewed by all classes of people, puzzled with all kinds of administrative questions, and required to listen to grievances of all descriptions, some of them of long standing. This is as it should be. If Mr. Dewdney will but give good heed to the complaints presented and see to it that those which are based on reason and right are promptly remedied, he will have done much to promote contentment and prosperity in that distant but no longer unimportant region. The occasion affords, of course, an opportunity for correspondents and editors to say smart things about Western characteristics, constitutional and chronic grumblers, and so forth. But the fact is that ever since the settlers began to go into the territories their progress has in many cases been retarded and the inevitable hardships of their situation increased through the inattention and the blundering regulations of the Ottawa authorities. Probably none but those who have tried it

can rightly conceive of the harassment and annoyance that result from being obliged to accept those local laws and arrangements, which dwellers in the older provinces make for themselves, ready-made at the hands of officials two or three thousand miles distant. For long years the Department at Ottawa framed land and other regulations for the government of the North-West settlers, in the dark. Ignorance of special conditions and wants reigned supreme. There can be no doubt that many a good settler turned his back on the country in disgust rather than submit to vexatious restrictions and needless uncertainties, which were the outcome of want of knowledge, time, or care at Ottawa. In all probability the day of complete local self-government will soon come for the people of the territories, but in the meantime they are to be congratulated that their interests are in the hands of a Minister who has personal knowledge of the country and who takes the trouble to visit it and learn of the people's circumstances and difficulties from their own mouths. Hon. Mr. Dewdney's North-West tour promises well for the future management of the Interior Department.

ONE of the questions which will, it may be hoped, occupy the attention of the Ontario Legislature at its approaching session, is that of granting the ballot to Roman Catholic ratepayers in their election of Separate School trustees. It is a singular anomaly that the open vote should have been so long retained in this specific case, when the ballot is well-nigh universal in every other kind of election. Why is this so? It cannot be supposed that the supporters of Separate Schools, as a class, have any preference for the open vote, since the use of the ballot could not deprive them of any privilege, or put them in a worse position in any particular; while, on the other hand, it would open a means of escape from the unfavourable criticism or undue pressure to which any of them may be exposed under the present system. Many of them, it is well known, are, as a matter of fact, earnestly asking for the ballot. We do not think that Mr. Mowat, or any member of his Government, can doubt that the ballot would be acceptable to the majority, though many of that majority may, for personal reasons, be unwilling to ask for it. Even assuming that those who are demanding the change are but a minority, have not a minority of Catholic voters a right to the same protection which is given to every other class of their fellow-citizens, seeing, as we have said, that the granting of their wish can do no possible injury to the rights or liberties of other voters? The plain, unvarnished fact is, we suppose, that the ballot has hitherto been withheld at the instance of the clergy, who wish, for reasons of their own, to be able to know just how each of their parishioners votes. It is, we venture to say, the bane of all political dealings with the Catholic portions of the population, that the voice of the clergy is accorded a weight and influence which no one would think of giving to that of the clergy of any other denomination. If the Government and Legislature of Ontario wish to disprove the most damaging charge of their assailants, and to show that their ruling principle is to deal with all citizens alike, without distinction of race or creed, let them hasten to put the Separate School supporters on an equality with their fellow-citizens by giving them the ballot in the election of trustees.

THE discussion of the future of the Esplanade is still kept up with intermittent vigour in Toronto business circles and in the papers. The question is altogether too large and important to be settled off-hand. Some progress is, however, being made. It seems to be as good as settled that the present system of level crossings cannot be continued, and that a viaduct of some kind must be constructed. This is in itself an important step in advance. The question henceforth resolves itself largely into one of ways and means, and of the kind of elevated road that will best meet the conditions of convenience, economy and efficiency. Aesthetic considerations will not, it may be hoped, be left out of the account. Having reached this stage the matter becomes one mainly for the engineering experts, though the conclusions reached must of course be such as will commend themselves to the approval of the citizens, from the business and common-sense points of view. To the non-professional mind the solid-embankment plan appears to be the least desirable in almost every respect. The idea that at this stage in the progress of engineering science no better design for an elevated roadway of the kind can be devised than the primitive one of an embankment of solid earth between retaining walls of brick or stone, seems almost preposterous. Such a structure would be about as ugly an object for the

foreground of the city and for the water-border view as anything that can be conceived of. Its expense could not fail, one would suppose, to be nearly as great as that of any more artistic structure, while it would obliterate for all practical purposes a large and valuable area along the water-front where space is already, and will continue to be, in increasing ratio, in great demand. It cannot be very difficult to build a thoroughly substantial structure, which, while fulfilling every reasonable condition of safety and utility, will also afford a large amount of warehouse accommodation, thus becoming an important source of revenue. At the same time such a structure could surely be made much more pleasing to the eye, whether viewed from land or water, than any aspect the smooth, uniform surface of a solid embankment could possibly present.

THE revival of interest in the literature of our own language, which is so characteristic of the educational thought and tendencies of the day, is one of the best omens of the time. It has in it the "promise and potency" of a culture more genuine, more fruitful, and more widely diffused than the English-speaking world has hitherto known. The establishment of the Chair of English in the University of Toronto is a practical outcome, at our own doors, of this great movement for the enthronement of English literature in its rightful place, at the head of all systems and courses, in English institutions of learning. It was, then, we readily believe, with more than the ordinary interest which attaches to such introductory addresses, that so many friends of higher education listened on Saturday afternoon to the inaugural address of the first incumbent of the new Chair. Professor Alexander's excellent "Introduction to Browning" had already prepared us to expect from him a broader and higher conception of the meaning of the word "Literature," and of the aim to be had in view in the study of English literature, than the conventional notions. In the main, at least, this expectation was not disappointed by his inaugural address. By at once relegating the study of the language to its proper place as secondary and subordinate, the lecturer showed, we venture to infer, his appreciation of the proper relation of the one to the other as that of means to end; notwithstanding his somewhat emphatic and perhaps necessary caveat against undervaluation of the study of the language proper. Professor Alexander proceeded to define the study of literature as a work of interpretation, and, as such, differentiated from all other studies and yet related to all, seeing that all others involve the work of interpretation. Had he stopped there we should have been disposed to demur. But any misgivings thus aroused were dispelled, before the end of the lecture was reached, by the recognition of the great truth that the production of emotion is the object of the highest forms of literature. Nor did the lecturer fail to recognize the indispensable condition of this effect, in an underlying basis of true observations, or those which commend themselves to the reader as such. His recognition of the two great results that flow from the study of literature as the openness of mind which brings power to apprehend and readiness to accept true ideas, and the flexibility of mind which gives rise to intellectual sympathy, strikes us as particularly happy. Basing our remarks, as we are unfortunately under the necessity of doing, upon condensed and, therefore, imperfect newspaper reports, it would be unfair to single out any expressions that might seem more open to question, seeing that any seeming inadequacy might very likely be due to imperfection of statement. On the whole, the great favour with which the address was received may be pretty safely accepted as the measure of its merits, and the friends of literary culture may confidently hope to see the study of the English classics at last entered upon with genuine and healthful enthusiasm in the Provincial University.

THE Lake Mohonk Conference is an organization whose one great work is, as defined by Dr. Lyman Abbott at its recent meeting, "the education, civilization and redemption of the Indian." The Conference, which, as was happily said by the same speaker, represents the conscience of the United States on the Indian question, has been growing in influence from year to year. To this influence most of the great reforms and advances which have marked the Indian policy of the United States are directly traceable. Five years ago the Lake Mohonk Conference demanded the abolition of the reservation system, the allotment of land to Indians in severalty and the opening up of the reserves to civilization. Many deemed that demand at the time chimerical. It is now the settled policy of the nation, and during the last year, amongst other legislation