

departure from the policy suggested in the Reply. Certainly neither her people nor their representatives in the Legislature will be likely to do anything in the way of compromise or concession, so long as the threat of remedial legislation is held over their heads. Nor could that threat be now withdrawn without an implied confession of error, or of inability, such as would be fatal to the prestige of the Dominion Government. The Manitoba Ministers and people will not be slow to see that the English-speaking Provinces may be relied on to back them up in their refusal to obey the remedial order, and in their readiness to resist by the use of all constitutional means the attempt to re-impose upon them a Separate School system, which the Protestant majority so unanimously discarded a few years ago, and by the same process to deprive them of the autonomy in educational matters which, in common with all the other Provinces, they so highly prize. On the other hand, it seems hardly likely that the French Ministers will persist in their resignations, or the French Conservatives in their threatened revolt against the Government, seeing that they have in the Government announcement a distinct pledge that the remedial legislation they demand, or some satisfactory equivalent, will be given them within six months. As has been said by different press correspondents, it is the opponents of remedial legislation in any form who have most cause to be dissatisfied with the Government's action in giving such a pledge. It is by no means unlikely that a resolution, based on this view of the case, may be introduced, before the close of the session either by Mr. McCarthy or by the Opposition leader, expressing disapproval of this pledge. Such a resolution would place in a serious dilemma the thirty-nine or forty Conservative members who have declared their intention to oppose the Government should it introduce a remedial bill this session.

#### The Vacancies in the Senate.

Whatever view one may hold as to the necessity and importance of the Dominion Senate, there is scarcely room for more than one opinion as to the way in which the power of appointment is being used, according to the authority of the Premier himself. The wonder is that the members of both Houses, and on both sides of the Houses, do not see the gross impropriety of permitting seat after seat to remain vacant, not only for months but for years, until as many as ten at one time are without occupants. As if to add emphasis to the impropriety and incongruity of such a state of things, the Premier frankly informs a supporter, whose name had become in some way connected with one of the vacancies, that there is no one of the whole that has not been long since promised. Liberal Conservatives who have faith in the Government can hardly fail to see what is involved in such a statement, though Sir. Mackenzie, strangely enough, seems to have made it without a suspicion that anybody could see anything wrong in it. Apart altogether from the sinister uses to which a corrupt Prime Minister, should such an one chance at any time to get into office, could easily put the power of appointment, provided he is at liberty to leave the office vacant as long as suits his purpose, it is evident that such a way of dealing with it goes far to confirm the arguments of those who maintain that the Senate itself is but a fifth wheel to the national coach, and so an utterly useless and unnecessary appendage. If it were necessary either for purposes of revision of legislation, or as a balance wheel to maintain the equilibrium between the larger and the smaller provinces, it would follow that all vacancies should be promptly filled, in order that the country as a whole might have the full benefit of its legislative wisdom, and each Province the full safeguard that its equality of representation is intended to afford.

#### The Silver Question in Kentucky.

The defeat of the pro-silver men in the Kentucky State Democratic Convention, probably presages the ultimate failure of the silver agitation, in which the Democrats have been the strongest leaders. True, the resolution passed by the Convention does not distinctly declare in favour of a gold basis. It merely re-affirms the National Democratic platform of 1892, which, so far as the money question is concerned, is a somewhat indefinite declaration for bi-metalism, under such safeguards as shall maintain the parity of both metals. But as the question at the Kentucky Convention was between this qualified declaration and a straight resolution for free coinage of both gold and silver, as the latter received but a small minority vote, and as the successful resolution included an affirmation of undiminished confidence "in the Democracy and Patriotism" of President Cleveland and Senator Carlisle, the action of the Convention is regarded by both supporters and opponents as a virtual declaration in favour of sound money, and is heartily denounced by a large portion of the Democratic press as a cowardly compromise. The special significance of the vote is seen in the fact that this is the first regular Democratic Convention to pass upon the silver question, and its finding is sure to have a powerful effect upon the action of other conventions. Moreover, much emphasis is added to its expression by the circumstance that Kentucky has hitherto been claimed as a free-coinage stronghold. The change of sentiment is generally attributed to the efforts of the Cleveland administration, and especially to the speeches of Secretary Carlisle. It is probable, however, that returning prosperity under the present system has much to do with the result. Such movements for radical changes in economic methods are usually the outcome of financial depression and stringency. With the revival of business and the departure of "hard times," the tendency towards revolutionary methods weakens or disappears. People become satisfied with present conditions. The bridge has carried them over; hence they begin to praise it, and decry dangerous experiments in the shape of any novel structure which it may be proposed to put in its place.

#### Literary Jealousies.

The sincerest friends of Canadian literature will most deeply regret the childish indiscretions which have lately been committed by one or more of those whose claims to a place on the roll of young Canadian poets has generally been conceded. The recent letter of W. W. Campbell, in *The Globe*, as well as his previous attempt, in *The World*, to convict a fellow-aspirant—we do not say a rival, because rivalry, save of the most friendly and generous kind, can have no place in the breast of the true poet—of culpable plagiarism, is, we must frankly say, in the very extreme of bad taste, as every friend of the writer, having the least sense of the fitness of things, must have felt. If Mr. Carman or any other literary aspirant, can be shown to have borrowed either expressions or ideas too freely from others, his exposure may be safely left to the critics, who should not spare him. The true priest of the Muses, whose mind and heart have really been touched with the divine afflatus, dwells apart in a lofty and serene atmosphere from whose heights he is enabled to look down upon the scene of the petty ambitions and jealousies which vex the exalted spirits. That such an one should enter the columns of the daily newspaper with pitiful complaint that someone has overlooked or ignored his rights and claims as a poet, is an anomaly and a humiliation. For such a one to stoop to controversy with either critics or supposed rivals with regard to his true place in literature, or the meed of praise to which he is entitled, is, or should be, inconceivable. A poet conceivably seeking fame or applause is a contradiction in ideas. The true poet sings because he cannot help it, because the spirit of song is in him and the impulse to give it form and utterance is too strong to be resisted.