

The people of Manitoba are to be congratulated at this happy though long-delayed issue of the great struggle, in which they have been compelled to engage, for the simple right of constructing railways in their own Province, and at their own expense, to facilitate their access to the markets of the world.

THE Modern Language Association of Ontario, at its recent annual meeting, unanimously passed a resolution urging upon the authorities of the Provincial University the adoption of higher standards of matriculation, and of fuller courses of instruction, in English, French and German. The resolution and the arguments by which it was supported may be regarded as one of the waymarks which indicate that a second and most important stage has been reached in the transition which university courses and methods, all over the English-speaking world, have been undergoing for some years past. When the first bold innovators came tremblingly forward to advocate a modification of the old curricula, with a view to the introduction of a larger admixture of modern literature and science, the appeal was based mainly on the ground of general utility. It was thought that, however superior the ancient languages, metaphysics and mathematics might be as instruments of culture, it would be beneficial to many students to forego something in the way of higher culture for the sake of acquiring something more likely to be of practical utility in their future career. Now advocates of the modern languages and literatures have taken another step in advance, and boldly claim for these subjects full equality in value as instruments of education and culture, as well as vastly greater usefulness in the subsequent struggle for existence. No doubt they are right. We are far from wishing to disparage the very great value of the higher mathematics or of those wonderful languages in which the literature of Ancient Greece and Rome are embalmed, as affording a most excellent mental discipline. But the day is very near when it will be recognized that the writings of the master-thinkers of recent years, in Europe and America, and the older classics preserved in the same languages, are, when rightly studied, not a whit less valuable from the purely educational point of view, while they open up a new world of perennial pleasure and utility. Especially is this true in relation to our own English. It seems, indeed, almost incredible that at this time of day it should be necessary for any society to importune the University of Toronto to require English of "candidates in all courses, in the first and second years at least." No doubt the Senate and Faculty will readily embrace the opportunity afforded by the new English professorship to comply with the recommendation of the Association in this respect.

THE election of an avowed annexationist to the Mayoralty of the border town of Windsor is an occurrence which is very likely to attract more attention than its importance deserves. In order to estimate it at its true value as an indication of Canadian sentiment, it would be necessary to know, not only all the local influences at work, but the origin of the voters by whose suffrages Mr. Twomey has been elected. Complaints have lately been made on behalf of the artisans and other industrial classes in Detroit and other American border cities that large numbers of the employees in those cities have their residences on the Canadian side. The query naturally suggests itself whether those employees may not in many cases be, not native Canadians, but Americans who have transferred their residence and citizenship to the Canadian shore for economical reasons. We do not know that this is the fact with regard to large numbers, but it seems highly probable, and, if true, would account for the strength of annexation proclivities in such towns. In any case the prevalence of such tendencies in districts near the border is by no means an unusual event in countries so situated, and is almost certainly due entirely to commercial causes. So far as the occurrence has any significance, other than that above indicated, it would seem to favour the view of those who argue that the best preventive of annexation sentiments is to be found in the direction of freer commercial relations with our rich neighbours.

SOME of the facts said to have been established by the investigations of Congressman Ford's Immigration Committee are somewhat startling, as showing the extent to which the United States is being utilized as a hospital for the paupers, imbeciles, and other worse than helpless emigrants from European countries. Vigorous measures will, there is little doubt, be adopted by Congress, with a view to putting an end to this state of things. A considerable portion of the objectionable immigration seems to

find its way through Canada, and there is some reason to fear that restrictions may be adopted which will prove obstructive to legitimate Canadian travel and intercourse. As it is pretty certain that nearly all immigrants of the classes described who hail from Canada are really Europeans who have passed through, perhaps lingered in, this country; as, moreover, any check put upon the influx of such immigrants into the Union from abroad will almost inevitably have the effect of deflecting a portion at least of the current towards our shores, it seems desirable that the two countries should, if possible, adopt the same or similar policies in regard to restriction. It would be almost incredible, were it not pretty clearly proven, that the heads of municipalities in England and Europe could deliberately plan to deport their criminals, paupers and insane to America. The practice is certainly exasperating in its unprincipled and intense selfishness. And yet, after all what is it, one might say, but the application on a larger scale of the same method which is in operation in our own towns and cities, in which the police courts are constantly ridding themselves of obnoxious characters by the simple but short-sighted process of bidding them pass on?

WITH the first execution by electricity under the operation of the novel statute now in force in the State of New York, will probably commence a struggle between the State authorities and the newspaper press. The new law has very stringent provisions for preventing the publication, as is now so common, of all the revolting details of the process by which the capital punishment is inflicted. It makes it a misdemeanour to publish anything in regard to an execution, beyond the bare statement of the fact that on a certain day such and such a convict was duly put to death in accordance with the sentence of the court. As might be expected the dailies are up in arms against so monstrous and unheard of a curtailment of the privileges of a free press, and openly declare that they will not submit to it. The *World* a short time since secured and published statements from a number of leading newspaper publishers, declaring that they would continue to print all the details obtainable about executions of criminals, regardless of the provisions of the "silly, Frenchified law." Secret executions and the endeavour to surround them "with a lot of fantastic mystery and mummery that has no proper place in this age and country" will not be tolerated. As the newspapers will have at their back a certain amount of reason in their denunciations of anything like secrecy or mystery, as well as the whole strength of the morbid curiosity of the public for which they cater, their views, it is pretty certain, will prevail in the end.

IF Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, hoped either to gain applause in his own country or create dismay in Canada by his absurd fulminations, he is by this time, probably, a sadder and a wiser man. The press and the public on either side of the line have paid scant attention to his crude and offensive utterances. Such utterances are in reality more insulting to the citizens of the United States than to Canadians, and will be, we believe, so regarded by those of the Senator's countrymen whose opinions are best worth considering. Canadians, happily, are wise enough to agree with Lord Stanley in dissociating those who indulge in such rhodomontade entirely from responsible politicians, still more from the Government and, let us add, the people, of the United States. One assumption, however, which was put into bald English by the terrible Senator, is so often implied in discussions concerning the future of Canada that it may be worth a moment's notice. This is that Canada and the United States cannot exist independently side by side for an indefinite period without war. Is not this a foul libel upon two civilized and Christianized peoples? History is appealed to. Where does history afford a parallel? In what age and hemisphere has the experiment been tried in the case of two nations at the same stage of advancement, and similarly allied by institutions, traditions, intercourse, sentiment, and blood? It is not true that "nations go to war as much as they ever did." Christian nations, English-speaking nations at least, do not go to war without such provocations and animosities as are well nigh inconceivable between the people of these two countries. Both are democratic. The will of the people is, in the last resort, the supreme law, and the people are fast learning, if they have not already learned, that war is the game of ambitious adventurers, or irresponsible despots, played with the money and the blood of the masses. Politicians and would-be demagogues of the Blair variety may fume and create commotion amongst certain restless elements in the population, but when it comes to a question of actual

hostilities the men of sound principle and sober common sense, who, happily, are still in the majority, will have a decisive word to say. Can it be doubted that that word will be now and hereafter, "Peace—if necessary, arbitration—but no butchery"?

A MOST suggestive section in the last annual report of the United States Secretary of the Interior is that which gives a summary recapitulation, from the statements of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, of the quantities of lands which have been restored to the public domain since the incoming of the Cleveland Administration. The sources from which the reclamations have been made are enumerated as follows, viz.: forfeitures of railroad grants by Acts of Congress, revocation of executive withdrawals for the benefits of railroads or for private land claims, cancellations on discovery of frauds and illegalities in entries by private parties under the various laws for the disposition of public lands and for other causes, rejection of selections by States for Internal Improvements, and Swamp Lands, invalidly made. The grand total of lands thus actually restored to the public domain and opened to entry and settlement is over eighty-three millions of acres.

THE survival of the awkward system of coinage and currency in Great Britain, contrasting so unfavourably as it does with the decimal system of other countries, is a striking proof of the strength of the Conservative tendencies of the nation in all matters not directly trenching upon the rights and liberties of the people. But awkward as is the £. s. d. arrangement, the matter would be made much worse were the proposal of a correspondent of *St. James Gazette* to be adopted. This writer approves of issuing English notes of smaller value than five pounds in lieu of gold, but argues that the notes should be guinea notes and two-guinea notes, for "it is curious, though only too true, that nine-tenths of all ordinary subscriptions to clubs and charities are made in guineas, and we are continually forking out our sovereign and shilling." There is no doubt that the custom to which the writer refers is really, as the *Manchester Examiner* says, a "Snobbish" custom, and it must seem to the great mass of business men and the common people generally decidedly cool to propose to upset the whole system of English coinage, not to secure a simpler and better arrangement for business purposes, but to suit the convenience of aristocratic subscribers to clubs and charities.

PHYSICAL endurance is said to be the most necessary of all qualities for a successful modern statesman. The reports of the British Prime Minister's performances two or three weeks since, in his Scarborough speeches, prove that he is endowed with this quality in no ordinary degree. He bids fair in fact, almost to rival Mr. Gladstone in speech-making capacity. Three long and weighty speeches in one day, when it is known that every sentence will be reported at length, commented on and published to the nation, must be sufficient to test the powers of the most vigorous constitution. Perhaps the most remarkable utterance on the occasion was Lord Salisbury's declaration in favour of women's suffrage, which was made in the morning at the opening of a new Conservative club, and repeated in the evening before an audience of thousands. Opinions will vary widely as to the soundness of the view expressed by Lord Salisbury, but it seems impossible to shut one's eyes to a somewhat striking inconsistency in his attitude in regard to it. Either women are, as a matter of civil and political right, entitled to the suffrage, or they are not. If they are, then they have been for centuries made the victims of gross injustice, an injustice which is perpetuated so long as they remain disfranchised. If it were but a class of a hundred thousand or so of male citizens who were thus found to be robbed of their proper influence in national affairs, there would be and should be no rest for the people or for Parliament while a wrong so gross remained unredressed. With how much greater force does the argument—looking from Lord Salisbury's standpoint—apply when a moiety of the whole nation are the victims of such injustice? Is it not then singularly illogical for the Prime Minister of England to admit, as he does in effect, that the women of England are suffering this great injustice, and then to add complacently that the question is not of pressing importance, and may be laid aside for consideration in some indefinite future?

COUNT HERBERT BISMARCK is evidently a son of his father, but he is yet far from having acquired his father's astuteness. The man who has so long been supreme in the councils of Europe can be even brutally