

admitted that there has been reason for the sarcasm. As times have been, our independent members were generally little better than sitters on the fence, weak men in many cases, purchasable men in not a few instances, and, generally, men eagerly ready to side with the stronger party. Independence in its rigorous etymological sense, a feeling born of conscious force and rectitude, a sentiment soaring high above the selfishness of place, or the temptation of lucrative appointment, is a virtue that has been little known in Canada. But that is no reason why it should not grow there. In the altered circumstances of the country, there is a fitness that the balance of power between the contentions of personal parties, should be held by men of wealth, standing and intellect, on whom the people may rely, in a crisis, with implicit trust. There are strong indications that a class of such men is rising among us, and, as usual, it is Ontario which is setting the example in this respect.

As with public men, so with newspapers. The independent press is slowly becoming an important factor in our political life. So far, it is almost exclusively restricted to weekly journals, but the indications are favorable that it will soon descend to daily papers. From a mere business point of view, the attempt is well worth being made. And we shall be disappointed if it is not gradually made in all our large centres. Each one of our chief cities has its party papers, one or more on each side. They are generously patronized by their friends. But they by no means cover the whole field of public usefulness, nor minister to the wants of every class of the community. In every one of these cities, an independent journal, backed by sufficient capital, edited by sterling talent, and furnished at a slightly reduced rate, might easily run in between its partisan colleagues, and secure a lucrative business. There are hundreds of readers in every constituency who, sick and tired of the wranglings of partisan papers, their one-sided accounts of men and things, their wholesale abuse of their opponents, their easy accommodation of principle to suit the emergencies of the hour, would gladly turn to columns where the truth would be fearlessly told, where meetings would be honestly reported, where public men would be tried by their public deeds, not by their personal motives, and where the amenities of discussion, as well as the sanctities of private life would be religiously respected. The cry of Reform is constantly dimmed in our ears, but, so far, with what effect? The true, substantial reform would be the introduction of independence as a vital element in our national affairs.

THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

A calm, dispassionate judgment, on the full returns of the Ontario elections would seem to be this—the administration has lost little or nothing in numbers, while the Opposition has gained somewhat in power and cohesion. The full vote in many constituencies, the large majorities in some, and the important changes in not a few others, show that there has been a considerable upheaval of the popular sentiment, and our impression is that the direction of this feeling is in favor of the Opposition. All things else being equal, this result is only the natural one observable in every general election. After a Government has been in power for a length of time, there is generally a tendency to find fault with it, and when the Opposition goes to the country with a good, telling cry, it is almost sure to make recruits. That the Opposition, in Ontario, should be strengthened, and, in consequence, reorganized on the influence of that strength, is a desirable event, even in the interest of the Government itself. The party journals have been greatly exercised over the exact figures on each side. The task is a hopeless one, and partially useless. There are several names which it is impossible to classify, until the day of battle comes. And even, if the precise

figures were known, it really signifies little whether the majority of the Government is ten, twelve or fifteen. So long as it is a reliable working majority, the administration is safe to undertake the conduct of business with it.

A more important question is Mr. Mowat's policy. If he is equal to the task, and we have no reason to doubt his ability, he can make use both of his own majority and of the compact Opposition against him, to accomplish great things and establish himself firmly with the people. For that purpose, he has only to devote himself exclusively to Provincial improvement. Alliance and co-operation with Ottawa should be only a minor consideration. Ontario before every thing else. It is the business of the Federal Government to hold the balance between the Provinces, and to prevent the spread of an unhealthy Provincial feeling. But the business of every Local Government should be solely Provincial, and there is hardly a risk of going too far in that direction. Mr. Mowat, no doubt, feels all the dignity and responsibility of his position. Ontario is the New York of Canada, the Empire Province of the Dominion. To be her Prime Minister requires statesmanship. To develop her extraordinary resources demands the best efforts of talent and patriotism. It may be that Mr. Mowat will have to reconstruct his Cabinet, and it must be allowed that it will bear reconstruction, as the scenes in the last Legislature abundantly proved. But with such reconstruction, aided by a working majority and a powerful Opposition, there is no reason why he should not govern to the general satisfaction. Such is the hope of all the well wishers of Ontario.

CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE.

Hon. Mr. CHURCH has caused resolutions to be passed in the Quebec Legislature, summoning Messrs. MIDDLEMISS, DANSEBEAU, and DUVERNAY before the Bar of the House to answer questions which they declined before the Tanneries Investigation Committee. The incident is unusual, and excites considerable interest. People are anxious to see whether the Assembly will do its whole duty, and they manifest some curiosity to know how far the powers of the House reach in the event of continued recalcitancy on the part of the witnesses. By a strange coincidence, there is precisely a similar case before the United States Congress, and the matter has led to some litigation which may enlighten our own representatives. RICHARD B. IRWIN, of Pacific Mail notoriety, was put into custody for recusancy, by order of the House. Judge McARTHUR, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, issued a writ of habeas corpus requiring the Sergeant-at-Arms to produce before him the body of R. B. IRWIN. The officer of the House appeared in response to the writ, but failed to produce his prisoner. The Judge, however, naturally refused to admit that a return could in that way be made to the writ. The question now arises whether the House of Representatives, when acting as a court, is not, like any other tribunal, the sole judge of its own contempt. The best lawyers of the House seem to have agreed that in claiming jurisdiction to review the judgment of Congress in a committal for contempt, Judge McARTHUR clearly exceeded his powers. The question will be argued when the Sergeant-at-Arms makes the inadequate return to the writ which he has been directed to do, and is called upon to answer proceedings which will be taken against him for contempt of the District Supreme Court.

In view of the importance which the Temperance movement is assuming in Canada, as evinced by the constantly increasing petitions to Parliament in favor of a prohibitory legislation, and by the part taken by the Temperance Leagues in the late elections of Montreal, Toronto and

other cities, it may be interesting to note what the feeling of the new Governor of Massachusetts is in regard to this matter. Governor Gaston, who is recognized, on all sides, as an enlightened and pure man, speaks out boldly, in his inaugural message, against Prohibition and its interference in politics. He demands the repeal of the old law, which, with the exception of a single year, has been on the State's statute books during twenty years, and has, according to him, done little toward aiding the cause of temperance. He is opposed to the continuance in power of an extraordinary Police force, stated to be confessedly corrupt, and which has only existed under the protection of sumptuary legislation. The Governor anticipates a return to a license law, and desires to make it very stringent and very exclusive.

THE EASTTY READINGS.

On Monday last, the inhabitants of Montreal were enabled to enjoy another of the above treats in Association Hall, in aid of the Boy's Home. The attendance was not so large as we could have wished, owing to the numerous attractions of the evening, including the 23rd anniversary of the Montreal Y. M. C. A., in the St. James Street Methodist Church, which was crowded. We think, however, it must have been gratifying to Mr. Eastty, to find the Hall more than three-parts filled by a select and appreciative audience. The programme was a very interesting one, including that well-known and favorite piece, the "Bells" of Edgar Allan Poe, which was admirably rendered, as also some humorous selections from "Pickwick," "Bleak House," and the "Christmas Carols." Mr. Eastty's rendition of "Scrooge" in his natural self, his encounter and conversation with Marly's ghost, and the thorough change in his after-life, were as natural as could be. The "Christmas Dinner of the Scratchet Family," Tiny Tim's death and Bob Scratchet's grief were most pathetic, and carried the audience with them. We are happy to announce that Mr. Eastty will shortly give another series of readings in this city, in aid of the same charitable institution.

COURRIER DES DAMES.

LACE.—The name "dentelle," as applied to lace, appears to have first been used in the printed literature of lace-making, in 1598, but it was probably much older than this would imply, because "dentelle" is mentioned in a manuscript enumerating the expenses of Marguerite de Valois. "Pasement" is probably fringe or lace, in the sense in which we speak of gold-lace on uniforms. "Guipure" was a subsequent name for pasement, and answers properly to what we call gimp. But dentelle is the generic name now in use for all, and answers best to our word lace. The indentations which we see in the collars of old portraits, and which we describe in most cases by the name of Vandyke, at once suggest the origin of the term. An old portrait usually called that of Shakspeare and attributed to Jansen, is engraved in Boaden, and presents us with a collar of a pattern of "dentelle." In its earlier developments lace can seldom now be better studied than in old portraits, the exact pattern being often quite visible in pictures painted either in England or France before Reynolds invented the slapdash style of execution which has been but too extensively imitated in later times. The earliest book on the subject was published at Venice, in 1557, under the title of "Pa Pompe." It is addressed to readers already acquainted with the art, and contains designs for embroideries and "laces." Caesar Vecellis and even Albert Durer also furnished patterns, but the best known book is that of Frederick Vinciolo, which was many times reprinted. All these works are now scarce, having been worn out in the using, and perhaps sometimes actually worked upon.

A SUNNY TEMPER.—What a blessing to a household is a merry, cheerful woman—one whose spirits are not affected by wet days or little disappointments, or whose milk of human kindness does not sour in the sunshine of prosperity. Such a woman in the darkest hours brightens the house like a little piece of sunshiny weather. The children go to school with a sense of something great to be achieved; her husband goes into the world in a conqueror's spirit. No matter how he is annoyed abroad, at home he is sure to find rest.

GIRL AND WIFE.—Who has not seen with half wonder the sudden development of a young couple when once they have become father and mother? A few days ago,—yesterday, it seems—and they were almost children. The young wife was a girl, with all the joyous carelessness and heedless buoyancy of a child; her older friends—at least those who had not thought enough—shook their heads dubiously, saying she was "fit for anything but to be married; she would be better at home with her mother, or at her school." But the wife becomes a mother, and a marvellous transformation takes place. There may be the same vivacity of spirit, but all is calmer, deeper, stronger. She has entered a new world, and is induced with new powers. A

wise providence has taken the place of thoughtlessness, a firm self-reliance that of helpless dependence, an untiring energy that of dreamy inactivity. The girl has suddenly become a woman, challenging your respect with your admiration.

THE PANIER.—This lately revived article of female costume flourished in the time of Louis XV., and consisted of a petticoat made of basket work. They were even made of wood with bars of iron, and were originally introduced from Spain by Anne of Austria, mother of Louis XIV., and were the fashion for about twenty years during the reign of Louis XIII. For nearly a century they disappeared, and it was not until the time of Louis XV, that they once more became the mode. Barbier, in his interesting diary, published more than a century ago, in Paris, tells us that "the Cardinal de Fleury has had his legs much cut by the paniers of a certain lady with whom he was recently returning from a religious service. You know these paniers are so monstrous that two persons cannot well occupy the same chair on account of their size. His eminence insisted upon returning home in the carriage of Madame —, and, as he is a stout man, he somehow or other broke her panier, and the wooden bars wounded his legs so that he had to be carried out of the chair, with the blood trickling down his calves. As to the lady, she laughed to kill herself at this spectacle, which has made all Paris roar." Further on he tells us: "These paniers are so big, that when the queen is seated in her reception room with mesdames, the sisters of the king on either side of her, their petticoats hide Her Majesty so completely that the king has issued an order to the effect that there shall always be two vacant chairs on either side of Her Majesty."

A LINK BETWEEN HUSBANDS AND WIVES.—Blessed be the little children who make up so unconsciously for our life-disappointments. How many couples, mutually unable to bear each other's faults, or to forbear the causes of irritation, find solace for their pain in these golden links which still continue to unite them! On that they are one. There they can really repose. Those fragile props keep them from quite sinking disheartened by life's road-side. How often has a little hand drawn amicably together two else unwilling ones, and made them see how bright and blessed earth may become in pronouncing that little word—"Forgive."

PARENTAL LOVE.—No love is so true and tender as the love our parents give us, and for none are we so ungrateful. We take it as a matter of course—as something we deserve. Especially may our mothers toil and deny themselves, think all night and labour all day, without receiving any thanks whatever. From the day when she walks all night with us while we cry, to the day when she helps to make our wedding dress and gives us those cherished pearls which she wore in her girlhood, we do not half recognise her love for us. Never until we are parents ourselves do we quite comprehend. Yet is there anything like it? The lover may desert us for some brighter beauty; the husband grow indifferent when we have been his a little while; the friend be only a summer friend, and fly when riches vanish, or when we are too sad to amuse; but our parents love us best in our sorrow, and hold us dearer for any change or disfigurement. There isn't much of heaven here on earth, but what there is of it is chiefly given in a parent's love.

DOMESTIC.

QUEEN CAKE.—Beat one pound of butter to a cream, with some rosewater, one pound of flour dried, one pound of sifted sugar, twelve eggs; beat all well together; add a few currants washed and dried; butter small pans of a size for the purpose, grate sugar over them; they are soon baked. They may be done in a Dutch oven.

LITTLE SEED CAKES.—One pound of flour well dried, one pound of sugar sifted; wash one pound of butter to a cream with rosewater; put the flour in by degrees; add ten yolks and four whites of eggs, one ounce of currant-seeds; keep beating till the oven is ready; butter the pans well; grate over fine sugar; beat the cakes till just as they are set into the oven.

GROUND RICE PUDDING.—To six ounces of rice, one quart of milk; stir this over the fire till thick; take it off, put in a piece of butter the size of a walnut; when just cold, add eight yolks of eggs, four whites, well beaten; rasp the peel of a lemon, and put to it some sugar with the juice, then mix all together; puff paste at the bottom of the dish; half an hour bakes it.

OYSTER SAUCE.—Take fifty oysters, rinse and put them in a stew-pan with one gill of cream. As soon as they become hot, stir in one ounce of butter, mixed to a paste with a little flour. This is a delightful sauce to eat with boiled turkey or fine fat young pullets, in which case the fowls should also be stuffed with oysters and bread crumbs.

COOKING OATMEAL.—One reason why oatmeal is not more generally used as food is that, in the way in which it is usually cooked, it requires constant stirring, which takes a good deal of time and attention. If, after the porridge is mixed, that is as soon as the oatmeal is stirred into the boiling water, the cover is put on and the tin saucepan containing it placed in another pot of boiling water on the stove, and the water let boil, good oatmeal porridge will be made without the least danger of its being scorched.

OYSTER SOUP, No. 2.—Take three quarts of oysters, and strain the liquor from them. Put the liquor on to boil with half a pint of chopped celery, one onion, two or three blades of mace, pepper, and salt. When it boils, add the oysters. Just before taking it off, the thickening must be added, viz.: one spoonful of flour creamed into the well-beaten yolks of three eggs. Pour a little of the hot soup gradually upon the eggs and flour, stirring all the while, and as soon as well mixed, with a little cream, pour into the soup. Then add one quart of rich unskimmed milk; let all come to a boil, and pour into a tureen over some small squares of cold bread. Serve it very hot.