

The Chief-Justice held that the property in question was property in the Province, and therefore subject to Provincial legislation. Judge Ramsay, in a powerful and lucid piece of legal reasoning, maintained that the property here in dispute was not Provincial in character, and that the old Canada Act cannot be amended by an Act of the Provincial Legislature. Without being prepared to decide between the rival claimants, the remarks of Judge Ramsay may be set aside by the student of jurisprudence, as a masterpiece of legal reasoning that may not be excelled in our times.

Mr. Dobie has taken an appeal to the Privy Council, where the case will be finally determined. In fact, at the last days of the sitting of our Appeal Court several applications were made for leave to appeal to Her Majesty in her Privy Council, the Supreme Court at Ottawa being thus virtually ignored. However much we may regret the want of confidence in our Dominion Court of final resort, the fact remains that an undoubted preference still exists for the final hearing of causes by Her Majesty's Judicial Committee in England.

The Canadian cricketers are making just the kind of show in England I predicted they would. They are being beaten by ordinary country clubs, and against the professionals have not the slightest chance. But the audacity which prompted them to go under such pretensions is meeting a well-merited reward, for they are likely to balked in the scheme to pay the expenses of the trip by gate money. The fraud is detected and they have ceased to draw.

The *Chicago Tribune* says:—

"It would be well for Canadians to understand that it will be hardly worth while to 'talk business' until they are prepared to give up their sentimental and disastrous policy of dependence on a little island 3,000 miles away, instead of upon their neighbours, the Republic. So long as the Dominion Tories oppose this commercial union because it may lead to political union or annexation, no headway can be made. We want a commercial union and we want a political union to follow it in due time. We want to draw the Dominion in and have control for ever of both sides of the St. Lawrence and the lakes and as far north as the Pole; not by force, but by free consent, and we can wait for it. The immediate results of such a commercial union, to Canada, would be larger and freer markets and higher prices. She would get more for her own productions, and our products much cheaper than she does now. In other words, she would buy cheaper and sell dearer. We are free to say that we want the six Dominion States that naturally belong to us, and will eventually come into the Great Republic through the operation of manifest destiny. We can afford to wait for them, but how much longer can Canada afford to delay the inevitable, *with ruin and bankruptcy in her face?*"

The italics are mine. The question is not, Can the U. S. get on without Canada? but How is Canada to succeed without the market of the U. S.? If we can do it, well and good; but if it is impossible, the other course is the proper one for us to take.

It is rather an unusual circumstance for a minister, when in the pulpit, to meet with a reply from one of his hearers. Such an event occurred at Jersey City when the Rev. R. Harcourt was preaching a sermon on "Lessons from the Narragansett slaughter." In the course of his remarks he said that Capt. Young and his crew were the biggest cowards in existence, to which the reply came "You're a liar." A scene of confusion ensued. It was rather ill-advised and uncalled for that the Rev. Mr. Harcourt should feel impelled to speak as a judge of nautical matters, and to use the pulpit to make a personal attack. This Narragansett disaster is being inquired into by the proper officers, and it is rather premature for a minister to condemn the captain. No doubt the Rev. gentleman's sympathy with the grief-stricken ones has led him to speak thus harshly.

Ameer Ali, writing in the *Nineteenth Century*, says that India is on the verge of bankruptcy, that the necessities of life are at the highest price, no profit in trade, the farmers impoverished and the land-owning class is not much better off, and year after year the savings are drained out of the country. He thinks this would be remedied by native rule. He boldly declares that "there can be no doubt that, taken as a body, the native public servants are as efficient as any ordinary European official. In personal integrity, in the simple-minded discharge of public duties, and the grasp of administrative

details, they are not inferior in the smallest degree to any foreigner. Their judicial capacity is everywhere admitted and there is therefore no further reason for the continuance of imported labour, which is not only burdensome, but in many cases unnecessarily large. In some districts the head of a department can not find work enough for his subordinates. The legislation of the country is just as ruinous in expense and barren in results as the executive departments and here also changes must be made." Further I notice that the relations of the land owning and cultivating classes are very similar to those in Ireland. The land-revenue must be paid on a certain day regardless of all questions of droughts or floods, good or bad harvests: in fact as regards the land and revenue laws, India is even worse off than Ireland.

Bradlaugh is, I believe, the first martyr to atheism. The House of Commons has decided that he shall neither vote nor affirm—that is, the members have declared that they will maintain the oath, and will not permit Bradlaugh to go through the "solemn mockery" of taking it when it can have no meaning and no binding power upon him. The worst features in the case are two: First, with regard to the general significance of the oath itself; people will begin to ask in how many cases members take the oath intending to abide by it in spirit and in letter? It is perfectly well known that a large proportion of British M.P.'s regard the taking of the oath as an idle ceremony—a custom utterly devoid of all real and solid significance. It is a nice question to decide, what is the practical difference between an avowed and an unavowed atheist?

And then, in the second place, this does not close the discussion. Mr. Bradlaugh will go back to Northampton for re-election; and will be re-elected. He is well able to make the appeal *ad captandum vulgus*, and has a magnificent chance for doing it. So he will simply play the part over again, until Parliament submit, by abolishing the oath, or allowing him to affirm. If any further humiliation could be spared, by the House abolishing the oath of its own accord before the question can arise again, it would be the best possible thing for Parliament.

The American Democrats have entered upon their periodical conflict with chaos. At present they have nothing to lose and much to win. What hopes and aspirations and interests are concentrated there in the Cincinnati Convention! Not simply among the possible and probable candidates for the Presidency—not principally among them, perhaps, but among the common crowd of office-seekers. To get the party into power would be a great matter, but to get the particular man resident at the White House would mean good fortune indeed. So it is not politics pure and simple—not even party politics—which is neither pure nor simple, but the prospect of dollars and cents which agitates the breasts of that puzzled and excited crowd.

On the whole it must be conceded that our British Constitutional Government is better for all practical purposes than this Republicanism. It may be a very fine thing for boys to dream of being Presidents, and for the people to have the power to fill even the highest office according to their own mind; but when the boys grow to be men they are apt to discover that great distinction is more likely to fall to the lot of the mere intriguer than to the man of great character. Better trust to the accidents of birth than to the exigencies of violent partizanship. The whole civil service of the United States is in peril to-day. Thousands upon thousands of families have their very bread at stake; In Great Britain we go through an election—we get excited—we work for our men, or our measures—but no postmaster in a remote village dreams of standing to keep or lose his place by the result. Republicanism is a splendid ideal, but every four years it gets an awful bringing down.

It would appear that serious trouble is anticipated between China and Russia; the recent mutilation of Russians by Chinese at Sergopol is causing excitement and may lead to an open rupture; all the Russians that have fallen into the hands of the Chinese in this district have been mutilated—the ears and noses being cut off. This matter is to be brought at once to the attention of the Chinese Government and should, as is usual with these Mongolians, any prevarications or delays occur, we may look for a bitter war.

EDITOR,