

and prayed his forgiveness for the sins of the Assembly. That was a timely prayer. "Do our readers follow us?" Then the Lieutenant-Governor, with profound solemnity, read his speech—which every one knew was not his speech—made a triangular bow and quitted the Legislative ranch, only to return two months afterwards to congratulate the House on its labours and on its generosity—the last especially, for he remembers the march of the Bath-towel Brigade. The labours of the brief session I had almost forgotten; and I might have forgotten them without much chagrin for original sin; but still, judging them by the cost, they are very dear to the Province. The courts—more law—have had a large share of attention; the forest has acquired new terrors for the settler; and just as the pest curse—the Insolvency Act—is about to be removed from the Dominion, a junior bantling of the same kin is to be foisted on the Province. I had almost forgotten, too, to speak of money. Ontario does not make ends meet now. The days of frugality departed with the premature death of John Sandfield Macdonald, and another million has been detached from the surplus, for aid to railways that do eat railways, and to provide a proper mansion for Ontario's legislators.

SIR,—“Euphrosyne,” in your last paper, is puzzled to know “the reason why so many of our wealthy people send their daughters to the old country to be educated.” One of the principal reasons I believe to be, that it is impossible to find a school in Canada where pupils can be taught to speak or read the English language with propriety. This, I think, is caused by the Council of public instruction for Ontario giving a preference for teachers of Irish origin or descent for their public schools, whereby a distinct Canadian-Irish brogue has been taught over the length and breadth of the Dominion. The consequence is that you can find no children of English or Scottish parentage who have attended our Ontario public schools who can speak or pronounce the same as their parents. I write feelingly on this subject. For years I have tried hard to break my children from speaking or reading in this Canadian-Irish pronunciation, but I find it impossible so long as Irishmen, or teachers of Irish descent, or pupil teachers who have been taught by Irish schoolmasters, are allowed to be schoolmasters in the leading province of the Dominion of Canada. I hear it and see it with sorrow that the language of my children—the language of the country of adoption—is fast becoming blurred and disfigured with this abominable Canadian-Irish brogue. Such a reflection at this time is peculiarly humiliating when Ireland and Irish affairs are so disagreeably brought before the world. Now for a few of the examples. I should be glad to hear from “Euphrosyne” or “A. H.” the name of any school, public or private, from Montreal to Sarnia or from Niagara to Ottawa, where the teachers or the pupils do not pronounce “Cow” ka-ow, “now” na-ow, “her” hur. Your genuine Paddy from Cork will pronounce “Cork” kark; your Canadian Paddy school-teacher, or his pupil, will pronounce “Cork” ko-ark. On a recent visit I made to Sarnia I heard a fourteen-year-old girl there call to her companion, “Mary, kum hee-ar,” which was her mode of pronouncing “Mary, come here.” I hope “Euphrosyne” and “A. H.” will not let this matter of Canadian education go to sleep; it needs considerable ventilation. I should like to hear further from your correspondent “H. G. Paull,” he evidently thinks this Ontario system of education is none of the best—not what it is cracked up to be; in my opinion a monstrous system of cram and pedantry, all very well for pupils up to eight or nine years of age; after that period nine-tenths of what they are forced to commit to memory or practise is absolutely useless, not of any value to them in after life, nor worth remembering.

Yours respectfully,

*Pater Familias.*

The Quebec Board of Trade got rather interested in the Pacific scheme of a late earnest *entrepreneur*, but it might now see how much more important to the immediate interests of all the great commercial centres is the question that Mr. Cockburn, M.P., is now raising at Ottawa upon the suspension of the works on the Georgian Bay Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

That the Sault St. Mary port—if the harbour be sufficient, or can be made so—will become, in the future, a magnificent centre of commercial activity, none who consider the subject will doubt, but neither fully takes the place of the location on the Georgian Bay, nor can it possibly be connected by railway with all the East in time to avoid losing several seasons' communication between the East and the North-west. This forms a very grave question for the commercial world as we may be well assured.

Dawson Bros. have sent me Canon Farrar's “Life of St. Paul.” It is an American edition of the work—a thick volume—a little too thick, perhaps—and the print is a little too small, but its marvellous clearness almost meets the objection, and altogether it is wonderfully well got up. The publishers, E. P. Dutton & Co., deserve credit for their work.

Canon Farrar is well known as a preacher at once eloquent, learned and liberal. His eloquence is of the ornate kind, and at times tends to draw the minds of his hearers away from the real and practical teachings of his discourse; but his liberalism in theology is of the most advanced school. In his book on the “Life of Christ” he dealt with some of the records of miracles in a marvellously free and easy manner; the most confirmed rationalist would accept the Canon's reading of the narratives. In this book on “The Life and Work of St. Paul” there is ample evidence that he has lost none of his brilliancy, and has not failed in most careful reading and research; and also, is as bold to guess and speculate and dash off conclusions as ever. The Canon does not hesitate to say that the vision Saul had on his way to Damascus, in all its essential revelation, was subjective and not objective as we have been generally taught. Most of us had learnt to regard the great apostle as something of a cynic in the matter of women, but Canon Farrar thinks he was a married man, and through the period of his great trials was sustained and cheered by the love of a wife. At any rate this is a good book, brilliant, learned, but not heavy, and one that will help any reader to a better understanding of the life and work of St. Paul.

I was wrong—in part, at least—when a week or two ago I said that the Conservatives had carried the election at Southwark because two Liberals tried for the one seat. The Conservative candidate polled more votes than both Liberals. But none the less were the Liberals beaten because they were divided. Neither candidate was the right man, and many refused to record their votes. Southwark is a Radical borough, but local divisions have given the representation to the Conservatives for the last three elections—so that the return of a Conservative has indicated nothing as to the state of public opinion, but has shown clearly enough that if the Liberals mean to win in the contest they must organize, and not throw away a single chance that can be made to tell in their favour.

The following remarks from the *London World* fully bear out what I said a fortnight ago about the brightening prospects of the Grand Trunk:—

ANOTHER “BULL” ACCOUNT.—The fortnightly account which was arranged on Friday was of yet larger dimensions than its immediate predecessor, and was as much of a “bull” character as that was. There have been signs that the rise has for the present reached its term. Not a few speculators had hard work in arranging to have their transactions carried over for another fortnight; and although money is plentiful enough, very stiff terms were charged in some instances. When there is a weak class of buyers who are not able to take up their stocks when they are offered them, and must therefore part with them at whatever prices they can get, of course market-values must drop. This was the main reason for the fall last week in all home railways except Great Western and the Scotch lines, which have not declared their dividends yet. The speculation in Caledonian and North British and in Great Western, therefore, still continues buoyant, but they were exceptions to the general rule. One of the curiosities of the market was the decline in Grand Trunk of Canada securities, in face of the announcement of a 4 per cent. dividend on the First Preference Stock, on which only at the rate of 1 per cent. was paid last year. It was alleged that more than 4 per cent. was expected; and indeed the directors had enough to pay at the rate of 5 per cent., but they wisely resolved not to divide to their last shilling. In reality, Grand Trunks were driven back by the “bears” acting on and through weak “bulls.” Although a large amount of Grand Trunk stock was taken up, many of the latter class were forced to sell, under the threat of not being allowed to “carry over;” and as the market was very sensitive at the time, prices were forced down. This suited the “bears” exactly; so they have triumphed for the moment. It can only be for a short time. The prospects of the Grand Trunk, now that it has opened its Chicago extension, are very bright. The amount standing between the holders of the Third Preferences—the largest of the whole—and a dividend is only £150,000 of profit, which will soon be made up if the recent rate of increase in the traffic is maintained. We are likely, therefore, to see a further rise in the securities of this company.

EDITOR.