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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE choice of a successor to the lamented Sir Daniel Wilson in the presidency of the University of Toronto is a matter of no small importance not only to those directly interested in academic affairs but to the public. The first question to be decided is, it seems, that of the nature and duties of the position, for the fact that the Hon. Edward Blake, the present Chancellor, was solicited to accept the position must be taken to indicate that it is not deemed necessary by the Government that the future president should be an educator, or should engage actively in educational work. Whether in the event of Mr. Blake's acceptance it was proposed to do away with the chancellorship, or to merge the two offices in one, the public have not been informed. If, however, such was not the intention, it is difficult to see how the duties of the two positions could be so discriminated as to leave room for the services of both non-professional heads. Be that as it may, now that it is highly improbable that Mr. Blake could be induced to accept an office which would, under any conditions, make large demands upon his time and attention, the question returns whether the emphasis is to be laid in the future upon the business and financial abilities of the incumbent, or upon his literary and scholastic qualifications. If the former, as some think desirable, it may be questionable whether the term "President" is the more appropriate title by which to designate the official head of the University, and whether it would not be more convenient and logical to hand over the business functions involved to a resident Chancellor, either doing away with the office of president, or confining it, though this would perhaps be scarcely feasible now that the University proper has its own teaching faculty, to the College. For our own part, we confess a distinct liking for the old title, and a strong prejudice in favour of the popular notion that the President of a University should be a man of wide reputation both as a scholar and educator, and as a man of exceptional literary culture and ability. That in the present case there is also need of superior executive powers and of progressive energy, to manage the business affairs of the institution as well as shape its educational policy, is apparent. The history of some other

great universities on this continent and elsewhere shows that there is no need to despair of finding all these qualities, in some good degree, united in the same individual. But if otherwise it surely would be better that the business functions should be relegated to the Chancellor or some other officer, than that the Provincial University should cease to have as its acknowledged head a man of repute in the world of letters. If there is on the staff of the university any one professor of commanding ability, who possesses the requisite qualifications in such measure as to enable him to command the confidence of his colleagues and of the public, his claims should be regarded as paramount. But it would be a great misfortune should the popular cry for the encouragement of home talent lead to the appointment to this or any other university position of any but the very best man available from any quarter. Education, like science and religion, should know no narrow national lines.

THE petition against the return of Mr. John Bryson, M.P. for Pontiac, includes, it is said, in its enumeration of corrupt influences, the charge that the member elect and members of the Dominion Government corruptly procured votes by the promise of a subsidy for a railway in which the residents of the locality had a certain pecuniary interest. We do not know the exact terms used in the petition, but the question which it is proposed to bring before the Court is no doubt the vexed one of wholesale bribery of constituencies by means of intimations more or less distinct that the expenditure of certain sums of public money in the vicinity depends upon the return of the Government candidate. It is to be hoped, in the interests of electoral purity and sound politics, that the petitioners may succeed in having the question of the lawfulness of such inducements brought squarely before the court. We confess that we have not much hope that under the present law any decision is likely to be obtained that will suffice to check this most reprehensible practice. It is very unlikely that any Cabinet Minister would be so indiscreet as to put any such promise or inducement in a sufficiently direct and tangible form to make it capable of legal proof, though the newspapers supporting Ministerial candidates often do not hesitate to declare in the most distinct terms that such consequences will follow the election or defeat of the candidate acceptable to the Government. The chief difficulties will probably be, first to prove the agency of any newspaper editor or other person making such promise, and in the second place, though this would probably be easier, to prove that votes were actually won by such inducement. Then, even should a decision be made affirming the unlawfulness of such tactics, where can the limit be drawn? How, for instance, would it affect such a reply as that alleged to have been made by Mr. Laurier, the Opposition leader, to the question whether he would, if in office, favour the building of the projected bridge at Quebec? If that, too, should be declared unlawful, to what extent would it be possible for leaders of either party to make announcements of policy on the eve of an election? We mention these difficulties because they at once suggest themselves, and not because we have any doubt that the practice in question is most mischievous and demoralizing, or that it is deplorably prevalent. It is devoutly to be hoped, for the sake of the political education and well-being of the country, that some means may be found to put a stop to it. The great pity in the matter is that everyone who feels tempted to resort to such an argument, be he member or merely supporter of the Government, does not at once recoil from it as implying one of the gravest charges which could be made against the honour, honesty, and good faith of the Government itself.

NATURALLY enough the most exciting question under discussion in Canada during the last week or two has been that raised afresh by the decision of the Privy Council in regard to the Manitoba School Act. That decision came as a serious disappointment to the Roman Catholic hierarchy and that portion of their co-religionists who think and act with them in this matter. Their hope and confident expectation were, no doubt, that the decision of

the Canadian Supreme Court would be confirmed by the tribunal of last resort, and their dissatisfaction and chagrin are correspondingly keen. But it is greatly to be regretted, for the sake of the peace and harmony which should prevail if the Confederation is to make headway against the many difficulties which beset its course, that our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens do not see the wisdom of accepting the situation, as they have long since done, with the happiest results, in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The situation, briefly sketched, is this: The Separate School system, in common with every other form of connection between Church and State, is alien to the genius of Canadian institutions, so far, at least, as the shaping of those institutions is in the hands of the English-speaking and non-Catholic citizens, who constitute the great majority of the population in every Province except Quebec. The existence of Separate Schools in Ontario is the result of a compromise, made, whether wisely or unwisely, at the time of Confederation, and embodied in the Constitution, so that the Dominion is bound by it so long as the Constitution remains unchanged by the contracting Provinces. But the Ontario system is in this respect an exception and an anomaly, and as such is not in the least degree likely to be tolerated in any other English-speaking Province. Let it be observed, moreover—and this we should like to say with all possible emphasis—that the objection to Separate Schools is not because they are Catholic, but because they are denominational. There is, we are aware, a class of persons who object specially to Roman Catholic schools because of what they regard as the disloyal and dangerous teachings of that Church with reference to the proper relations of the Church to the State. But the great majority of those who are resolutely opposed to the extension of the Separate School system would oppose it with no less determination were the question one of English Church, or Methodist, or Presbyterian Separate Schools. The political principle on which the opposition is based is that the State has no right and cannot be permitted, in a free country, to tax the people for the teaching or support of religion in any form. Nor is this principle peculiar by any means to the irreligious or sceptical classes. On the contrary, it is held most strongly in many cases by those who are the most devoted members of the various religious bodies, and held all the more firmly by many of them because they regard it as a religious no less than as a political principle, that all such connection between Church and State is wrong, and consequently harmful to both Church and State.

LET the foregoing fact be fairly understood and it will be seen that there is not necessarily either prejudice, fanaticism, or bigotry, in the calm but firm determination of the people of any Province in which this thoroughly Anglo-American view of the proper relations of Church and State prevails, to maintain the complete and absolute independence of each, so far as its relations to the other are concerned. The fact that this determination is thus held, not as a prejudice, but as a principle, should suffice to convince our French-speaking and other Roman Catholic fellow-citizens of the unwisdom as well as the futility of any attempt that Federal authorities might be induced to make to compel or restrain the people of Manitoba or any other Province in the exercise of its constitutional rights in this respect. And yet from various quarters there have come, during the past week or two, intimations or declarations that some such compulsion or restraint has either been promised or is under consideration. In what manner it would be possible to exercise such compulsion or restraint, without gross violation of the constitutional rights of the Province, does not appear. One rumour has it that the question of the right of the Dominion to intervene may be submitted to the Supreme Court, in virtue of the Act which was passed at the instance of Mr. Blake, a few years since, authorizing the Government in certain contingencies to recur to that court for a reasoned opinion on a question of jurisdiction. Such a question of jurisdiction could, in the present instance, arise only under the operation of sub-sections 2 and 3 of Section 22 of the Manitoba Act. But from the decision of the Privy Council, the full