

which it is levied and collected are so intricate that it is almost impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the amount paid for these books by this Province.

Let the printers, publishers, bookbinders, etc., unite and have this great wrong righted. Let them appeal to the press for support, as it is by this power all great reforms are brought about. Let them make it a "booming" question that will not be hushed without a suitable answer. Let them not quarrel or quibble over the mode or manner of bringing about this much-needed reform; but let us have the matter set right, and that right quickly.

Notwithstanding the fact that our correspondent leans too heavily perhaps on the "N. P." to suit some of our contemporaries, still he is sound on the school-book question, and that is the question we wish to see taken up and discussed on its own merits and entirely apart from any political policy whatever. Subjoined is the letter alluded to:—

*To the Editor of the Miscellany*

SIR: Allow me through your valuable—valuable because *independent*—journal to inquire how is it, under the present protective "National Policy," that we are compelled to import our Free School literature, instead of manufacturing it ourselves, as a free people ought to do? I repeat, how is it? Are we not qualified to paddle our own canoe? Have we not men of ample calibre to write our literature? Must we forever be dependent upon others for material we are well able to produce ourselves? Is it not time for us to strike for mental liberty? Canada has now arrived at maturity, and why should she be tied any longer to a mother's apron strings, so far as her literature is concerned? "No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books. It is a wrong to his family. He cheats them." It is also a national calamity. And now, since the poor man's imported literature has been taxed almost to prohibition by the beauties of our new tariff, let us embrace that protection we are legally entitled to, and get up our own school books, at least. We can manufacture them cheaper than they can be imported. By doing so, capital now drained from our country will be retained, our young men and women will find employment at home, instead of seeking it in other climes.

It is not only a standing disgrace to rational intelligence, but "a black, burning shame," that

foreign publishers should have a monopoly of our educational works, upon which our N. P. imposes a duty that compels our school boys to pay too dearly for their "whistle," and which, I venture to predict, could be furnished by more than one of our city publishers at half the price now paid.

Mr. Editor, this subject is a big one, and I feel unable to lay it before your readers as I could desire. Hence, I have only thrown out a few suggestions that demand our most serious, careful, calm consideration. If we are ever to rise in the scale of national prosperity we must unfetter the shackles of a cramped literature. At all events, let our Free School literature "be free indeed."

Thanking you for this pressure on your space, and trusting the whole matter may have a thorough sifting through your columns, if not through the press generally, so that should anything be radically wrong—if our constitution is not altogether morally corrupted—it may be remedied in due time,

I am, yours, respectfully, JUSTICE.

St. John, Nov. 3d, 1879.

In Montreal, on the 16th of June last, copies of the ninth volume of the new edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica were seized at the instance of Messrs. A. & C. Black, Edinburgh, under the following circumstances: The Messrs. Black had entered into an arrangement with Scribners & Sons, New York, whereby the latter were to reprint the work in question for the supply of the United States and Canada. As the law of neither of these countries recognizes any such an arrangement, a Philadelphia firm also reprinted the work and disposed of it over the whole American continent. On discovering this the Edinburgh publishers caused copyright to be obtained in Canada under the Act 38 Vic., cap. 88, of the Dominion, for several important articles contained in this volume of the Encyclopædia, and it was on the strength of these articles being found in the volume issued by the Philadelphia firm that the seizure was made.

It is somewhat amusing to see "Col." prefixed to so many gentlemen's names in the columns of a St. Louis contemporary; but we suppose it's all right, only it occurred to us that perhaps there might be something of the "pumping-windmill" about it.