

parties are completely independent of any paramount power.

If Imperial Federation ever takes place, "Sentiment, even more than self-interest, must be the federating force." But this would not be a strong foundation to build a great Empire upon, where many conflicting self-interests would be constantly looming up for settlement. To the author, therefore, this destiny for Canada becomes an impossibility. Self-interest might at any time destroy what sentiment had created.

The remaining alternatives, independence or annexation, receive full consideration. The author deals with the many disadvantages of annexation. If there be any Canadians who look to this solution of the question as a cure-all for every evil now thought to exist, I would advise them to read this book of Mr. Douglas'. In trade, manufactures, mining, lumbering, and wages, he gives strong reasons for thinking that we would not be any the better for political union; and the author very properly remarks that any improvements in these particulars that could be effected by annexation can be equally well accomplished by proper trade relationships, without the shock that must result from the former.

"Canada has only 5,000,000 of people to

clothe and house; would her lot be any better, were she coupled with her 63,000,000 of neighbors? We doubt it." This is frank enough.

But again the author states, "Canada must, therefore, face the fact that she has serious physical and geographical obstacles to contend against, and be content to make haste slowly. This, after all, is a lesser evil than being overrun by a large horde of ignorant alien immigrants." We think, from present indications it would have been as well if the United States some time ago had adopted the advice of Horace—*festinare lente*.

"There is in Canada a latent suspicion that something is wrong," says the author. But he thinks that Canadians should look to their own business methods in search of the remedy, and not to some external means, such as drastic political changes*, of relieving their troubles. The style throughout is calm and judicious, the matter good and the form excellent. We can commend highly this little book.

J. F.

* "It is possible for Canada to remain independent, and yet prove to her neighbor that civility is not servility, and that independent units of the race may be more helpful to one another, and more stimulating to healthy political and commercial rivalry than if organically one." Such plain talk is well calculated to make people think. J. F.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Mercury was visible in the evening during the last days of June; in continuing his journey, passed between the earth and the sun in July, and was hidden from us by the rays of solar during the greater part of the month. The planet was in a line between us and the sun at half-past three o'clock on the afternoon of the 20th, and rising earlier and earlier each day, he will become a morning star during the first half of August. At this time, his position will be in Cancer not very far from Praesepe, the "Beehive." He should be fairly well seen as he works his way into Leo, a Constellation which he enters about the 22nd of the month.

Venus slowly receded from us and moved around the sun. On the 1st of July, her disc was three-fourths illuminated; it will be almost circular on the 30th of August. Shortly before day-break on the 28th of July, Jupiter was in the same field with U Geminorum, the difference between the two bodies being only some three minutes of arc, a distance so small that, to the naked eye, the objects appeared as a most beautiful though very wide and unequal double-star, U Geminorum being of the third magnitude, while Jupiter much exceeded a first magnitude star in brilliance.

Mars will come into good position for study soon after midnight by the 1st of August, the planet being about thirty degrees above the

Eastern horizon. So far as observers in this country are concerned, Mars will be better situated for telescopic work than he was in 1892, the year he caused so much excitement, as he was then very far south of the celestial equator, and, therefore, best placed for examination from the Cape of Good Hope and Australia. The surface markings should be seen to better advantage than they were two years ago, though the planet will be somewhat more distant from us than it was then. Some of these markings can be detected in small telescopes, and can be made out very well in instruments of medium aperture. Though Mars will for some years continue to rise higher and higher in our skies as he passes his oppositions, he will at the same time be more and more distant. For this reason, among others, he should be well and carefully studied during the month of August, September, October, and November, which will be certain to embrace some of the best observing weather in the year.

Jupiter and Neptune are improving as subjects for observation, but they will not be well placed until about September. Neptune is the most difficult of the planets to pick up, because, owing to his enormous distance, a really fine telescope is required to show him with an appreciable disc.