The Colonist.

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1892.

THE BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

The British Columbia Board of Trade Building promises to be an ornament to the city, and also a good investment to those who put their money in it. It is well laid out and the most is made of its space. There is to be in it a Merchants' exchange, in which business men will congregate to do business and to hear and read the news. This circumstance will, of itself, make offices in the building valuable. We would therefore not be at all surprised to find that the building would almost from the day of its completion pay a fair interest on the cost of its construction.

Good progress has already been made in getting stock subscribed. Some gentlemen, who were at first indifferent and looked upon the project coldly, have, since it has been set on foot and discussed, changed their minds and subscribed to its stock list. The canvassing committee, while it was at work, met with unexpected success, and when its members again visit those who are proud of their city and have its progress at heart, they will, we are certain, be able to get a sufficient number of subscribers to enable the Board to complete the building without incurring a single liability that they cannot meet at once. It will be most creditable to the business men of the city if their handsome and commodious Board of Trade Building, when completed, will not have on it the slightest encumbrance of any kind.

CARPING AS USUAL.

The Times is exceedingly hard to please with regard to questions relating to education. The Board of City Trustees, on Tuesday evening, selected a Principal for the High School with perfect independence, and our contemporary is surprised that they did not require of the applicants for the office the sanction of the Superintendent of Education. If that official had interfered, let it be ever so indirectly, in the matter, the Times would have been loudly and deeply indignant. It would have resented the slightest suggestion from the Department of Education, and would have strongly asserted the right of the Trustees to perfect freedom of choice. But now it would have the public think that the sanction of the Superintendent of Education is the one thing needful for the man or woman who applies for the office of teacher in any of the public schools. It says—"What avail certificates of character and scholastic attainments if the appointee is not a 'friend' of John Robson or Dr. Pope?" The Times very well knows that the Minister of Education and the Superintendent of Education have no voice, either direct or indirect, in the appointment of a teacher. It knows that the Trustees have the power to select any legally qualified teacher without paying the slightest regard to the approval or the disapproval of the Department of Education. They could, for example, have chosen the teacher who in the opinion of the Department was the least capable of the applicants, and he could be duly installed Principal of the High School. As long as he conducted himself properly and complied with the provisions of the Public Schools Act, he could retain his situation, if the Trustees were satisfied with the way in which he performed his duties.

The Times is most industrious in trying to create the impression that the Superintendent interferes with the teachers in an arbitrary and capricious manner, and that none of them can consider his or her position safe. Nothing can be further from the truth than this. As far as we can learn—and we have enquired closely into this matter—the teacher who performs his duty moderately well is treated with consideration and even indulgence, by the Department. So far from being hasty, exacting and capricious in the exercise of its authority, it is forbearing, and it never finds fault without sufficient cause. The Education Department keeps strictly within the limits of its authority, and neither teachers nor trustees have any valid reason to complain of the way in which it uses the power with which it is invested by the law of the land. The Times, by a course of systematic misrepresentation, is doing what it can to create a prejudice in the minds of the people against the Department, but a knowledge of the facts shows that its strictures are both shallow and dishonest.

MR. BLAKE'S DICTUM.

There is some talk about the Hon. Edward Blake again entering the political arena. Some of the new Liberals do not appear to like the prospect of seeing him in Parliament again. We are not at all surprised at this. Mr. Blake has too much discernment not to see the nature and the tendency of the policy of the Liberal Party, and he is much too honest not to condemn what he believes to be deceptive and disloyal. This is what he said about the policy of unrestricted reciprocity in his famous letter to his former constituents:—

"The tendency in Canada of unrestricted free trade with the United States, high duties being maintained against Great Brittain, would be towards political union, and the more successful the plan the stronger the tendency, both by reason of the community of interests, the intermingling of populations, the more intimate business and social connections, and the trade and fiscal relations, amounting to dependency, which it would create with the States; and also especially through inconveniences experienced in the maintenance and apprehensions entertained as to the termination of the treaty."

Hon. Mr. Blake tells the Liberals that unrestricted reciprocity makes for annexation and that if it were once established it would be impossible to prevent the accomplishment of that result. He places every man who advocates unrestricted reciprocity as either consciously or unconsciously a favorer of separation from Great Britain and of union with the United States. Before that letter was published the Liberal who supported the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity might, with some plausibility, plead that he did not know what the policy he voted for led to, but now the plea of stupidity will not avail him. Mr. Blake, whom he is proud to claim as the brightest man and the deepest thinker of either party in Canada, has shown him the tendency of the policy advocated by Mr. Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright and Liberals of less note, and he is therefore left without excuse.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

Who are to be the candidates for the Presidency, is still a matter of conjecture in the United States. A short time ago it seemed certain that Mr. Cleveland would be the Democratic candidate. There appeared to be no other man at all eligible above the political horizon. But as time progressed it became evident that the Democratic Party was very far from being a unit on the subject. It was seen that the ex-President's opinions on the tariff were not acceptable to a large section of the Democratic Party, and that many of its members did not consider him sound on the currency question. It was seen, too, that he was by no means a favorite with the machine politicians of New York State. The election of Mr. Crisp as Speaker of the House of Representatives made it evident that Mr. Cleveland had strong opponents in his own party. But it is not by any means generally admitted that the decision of the Democratic Party then is a sure indication of what it will be later on when the Convention meets to choose a candidate for the Presidency.

Mr. Cleveland's clean record as President made him many friends in all parts of the Union. He is looked upon as a sound and a safe man. His fiscal policy recommends him to a great number of the electors who have not always identified themselves with the Democratic party. There are very many in the United States who are not regarded as strong party men who disapprove of the extreme protectionism of the Republicans. They believe that American industries have passed the period of infancy and that to keep on fostering them is unfairly to burden other classes of the people. They believe, too, that the commerce of the country would be on a sounder footing if the artificial supports were taken from industries that have been hitherto propped and pampered. It is contended that the last election showed that this opinion had become general in the country, and that the time has come to make tariff reform the principal issue in the election for President. Democrats who hold this opinion may be much stronger in the Democratic Convention than they are in the House of Representatives, and, if they are, Mr. Cleveland is sure of being nominated.

The only other Democrat who, at present, seems to stand any chance of being nominated, is Senator Hill. He is one of the most astute and energetic of the politicians of the United States. He is engineer-in-chief of the machine in New York, and he knows where all the wires are and how to pull them. If the nomination of the Democratic Presidential candidate depends upon skilful political management, Senator Hill is pretty sure to out-general Mr. Cleveland.

It may happen that some man, about whom nothing has been heard as yet, will get the nomination. When the supporters of strong candidates are pretty evenly divided, the "dark horse" has his chance. So, at this present moment, it is quite uncertain whether Mr. Cleveland, Senator Hill, or some "dark horse" will be the nominee of the Democratic Party.

With the Republicans, as far as can be seen, the situation is much more simple. There is, in the first place, no division worth speaking of in the Republican party, on either the tariff or the currency question. The Republicans are all strong protectionists and they are all for sound currency. The choice among them is almost solely one of men. The men are President Harrison and Secretary Blaine. Blaine appears to be by far the more popular man. It is confidently said, that if he will accept the nomination, he can get it. But it is not certain whether he is willing to become a candidate. Mr. Blaine has, for the last two or three years, acted the part of a political coquet with considerable skill. He has never yet said in terms that he would accept the nomination if it were offered him, but he has acted in such a way as to lead the politicians to believe that he might accept if he was pressed very hard, and if circumstances were at all favorable. Mr. Blaine has been kept constantly before the people as a possible candidate. This could hardly be the result of accident. In the game of politics in the United States very little is left to accident. At one time it was confidently said that the state of Mr. Blaine's health was such as to make his candidature an impossibility. But who can tell whether or not his illness and his recovery were moves in the game?

There was a time when it appeared quite certain that Mr. Harrison would be renominated in 1892. The speeches which he made during his progress through the States, some months ago, created a good impression. People said to each other that there was a great deal more in President Harrison than they suspected. But the favorable impression seems to have worn off, and the President can hardly be said to be now very popular. If Mr. Blaine cannot be nominated, or if he refuses nomination, according to present appearances, Mr. Harrison will, in all probability, be the next Republican candidate; but if Mr. Blaine is in the field, it does not appear that the President stands much chance of getting the nomination of his party.

LA GRIPPE.

No corner of the world seems to be free from the ravages of la grippe. It is as destructive in the country as it is in the city. Sanitary precautions do not keep it away. It has no respect for rank or race. It attacks both the prince and the peasant, and the civilized European is as liable to be its victim as the untutored savage. We learn from the daily telegrams that both the citizens of Paris and the Indians of Oklahoma are suffering from it, and that both are compelled to allow it to take its course.

We find that people are beginning to call this disease by its old name, "influenza." It seems to be not so much a disease as an aggravation of ailments already existing. It finds out the weak spots in the constitution, and gives rise to complications which puzzle the most skilful physicians. Children, it is said, support the malady better than adults, and it is extremely hard on the old and feeble.

It does not appear that any cure has been found for it. It is declared to be unwise for the person whom it attacks to attempt to fight it out. His best plan is to go to bed, get medical advice, and take care of himself. The favorite remedies of ladies, old and young, for a bad cold are recommended. Warm aromatic drinks, and warmth generally, are prescribed. Much stress seems to be laid on good nursing. By good nursing we do not mean trying this remedy and that, and swallowing drugs and patent medicines on speculation, as it were. These frequently do a great deal more harm than good, unless prescribed by a skilful physician. But the patient suffering from la grippe appreciates the constant and cheerful attendance of a good nurse who does not take upon herself to doctor or drug him, but to keep him comfortable and if possible in a good humor.

It is somewhat difficult to say when a person has la grippe. The symptoms vary a good deal, and no doubt many who are only slightly indisposed imagine that la grippe has got hold of them. This is always the case when there is an epidemic. People get nervous and think they have it, when there is really nothing serious the matter with them. Although the disease has spread over a greater area, those who are in a position to form an opinion, say that it is not so dangerous as it was two years ago.

A HORRIBLE TRAFFIC.

An article in the January number of the Forum, by Judge Lambert Tree, late United States Minister to Belgium, shows that notwithstanding all that has been said and done by the humane men of many nations, the horrors of the African slave trade can hardly be said to be mitigated. According to the testimony given before the Brussels Conference by travelers, missionaries, naval officers and diplomatic and consular agents, the slave trade on the continent of Africa is still actively carried on at the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives every year, and an amount of suffering that is really unimaginable. According to Judge Tree, 80,000 slaves are annually transported by land and sea to the various slave markets. When this is said the least part of the dreadful story is told. In order that this number of slaves may reach the market, it is estimated that some 400,000 lives are sacrificed. To kidnap the slaves, wars between the native tribes, are fomented, and in these wars dreadful cruelties are practiced, and men, women and children massacred. Then the captured slaves are compelled to make long journeys to the countries where they are to be sold. On these journeys they are insufficiently fed, and barbarously treated. Tens of thousands die from cruel treatment, starvation and over-exertion on their way to market. Only a remnant of those taken survive to be sold into slavery.

The slave markets of the world are Central Africa, Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, Persia and Zanzibar. The long land journeys which the slaves must make to reach these countries are even more horrible than the dreadful "middle passage" of the slave trade of the beginning of the century.

How to abolish this fiendish traffic is a problem which has occupied the attention of humane men for many generations. Great Britian has done much to effect its suppression, but the measures which she has taken to prevent slave transport by sea has aggravated the horrors of that greater part of the trade overland which has survived.

The area which is the hunting ground of the slave trader, is very great and, in spite of the ravages of the iniquitous traffic, populous. It is also rich in natural resources, and could be made the home of happy and prosperous nations. The slave trade, as can be easily understood, is an almost insurmountable obstacle to improvement of any kind. How to abolish it was the object of the Congress held in Brussels in 1889. There were at that conference the representatives of Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, Turkey, the Independent State of Congo, Persia and Zanzibar. After a session of eight months a treaty of one hundred articles for the suppression of the slave trade was agreed to. This treaty is, of course, subject to the sanction of the different governments represented at the Conference. It is proposed to attack the slave trade at its source. Stations are to be established in Central Africa, from which war is to be made on the scourge whenever it appears, whether at the places of the capture of the negro or while moving along the caravan routes, or in course of transportation upon the sea. Provision is made for the punishment of traders and the liberation of their victims. Offences against native Africans are made crimes, and are to be punished as in civilized countries. The treaty restricts the sale of fire-arms and ammunition, and regulates the trade in intoxicating drink. The system of suppression devised by this treaty is elaborate, and if it can be carried into effect, will, in time, stamp out the diabolical traffic in slaves. The population of the country which is to be the field of this treaty's operations is very large. Judge Tree says that "it seeks to accomplish the relief of nearly 200,000,000 people from the worst cruelties that the imagination can picture, and to place another continent on the path of civilization."

RICHMOND LOYAL.

The return of Mr. Gillies, the Conservative candidate for Richmond, Nova Scotia, is another indication that the people of the Dominion have faith in the present government and are disposed to give it a fair trial. It is generally supposed that the people of the Maritime Provinces are eagerly desirous of obtaining reciprocity in trade with the United States; and so they are, if they can get it on fair terms. The United States is near them, and its principal sea ports are easy of access. To be able to trade freely with their big neighbor would be very pleasant indeed for the people of Nova Scotia, but this Richmond election shows that Maritime Province men, no more than those of Ontario, are disposed to support unrestricted reciprocity when the price asked for it is their self-respect and their allegiance to Great Britain. It must not be forgotten that Richmond is very far from being an old conservative constituency. It was represented in the last Parliament by Mr. Flynn, a Liberal, and if the electors believed Mr. Laurier's policy they would have elected him again on Thursday last. But they, no doubt, saw that too high a price can be asked for even such a good thing as free trade with the United States. Every election, so far, except that of Richelieu, in the province of Quebec, shows that the people of Canada are not disposed to go on their knees to beg trade favors from the Americans.

A INEXPIABLE OFFENCE.

The Toronto Globe, not very graciously, and no doubt, most reluctantly, makes an apology for having mentioned Lady Macdonald's name in connection with the Regina Leader's alleged revelations. It is a deep reproach to Canadian Liberalism that its chief organ should have placed itself in a position to make such an apology. The offence is indeed not one for which an apology, no matter how humble, can be considered a reparation. An apology may be sufficient to atone for hasty expressions made with respect to a man who is doing battle for his party in the political arena, but deliberately, and on insufficient grounds, to prefer an accusation against a lady who is not, and cannot be, engaged in politics, is an inexpiable offence. This is the Globe's retraction:—

"Lady Macdonald finds that the connection of her name with the article which has appeared in the Regina Leader, and which has been reprinted in the Globe, respecting certain alleged land speculations by Mr. Dewdney in the Northwest, has travelled far and wide; and blames the Globe for having made mention of it as that of the person referred to by the Leader as 'living in Ottawa and wielding great influence,' who was said by that paper to have been interested with Mr. Dewdney. The Globe, it will be remembered, did not originate the charge against Lady Macdonald or any one else, but merely mentioned her name as being apparently that of the person hinted at by the Leader. But as our action has caused pain to her ladyship, we beg to express regret at having made mention of her name at all, to withdraw all that was suggested thereby, and to accept without hesitation the assurance that she was in no way concerned in that or any other transaction in the Northwest."

It was said that Mr. Davin, editor of the Leader, secretly prompted the Globe to use Lady Macdonald's name in the unjustifiable way it did. The Leader stigmatizes this accusation as "another lie." It adds: "Mr. Davin would, of course, hold no communication with the Globe, directly or indirectly, secretly. If for no other reason, he is not such a fool."

THE TESTIMONY.

The Times says that "Mr. McLeod did not assert that the evidence on which he based his accusation was in his possession." This is rather a singular statement to make, in the face of Mr. McLeod's evidence before the Council of Public Instruction. When it was said to him by a member of the Council:

"You decline to answer what set of papers you examined, or what child's papers you examined?" he replied: "I decline to answer, although I am in a position to answer it."

And, again, when Mr. Pooley said to him: "You make charges, and refuse to give the Council information to substantiate the same, which you say you possess?" Mr. McLeod's answer was: "I won't tell. I decline to answer."

Mr. McLeod did not then tell Mr. Pooley that he was not in possession of information to substantiate his charges, for, if he did, he would have contradicted himself. The Times may think that it can reconcile what is plainly irreconcilable by some paltry quibble. The whole drift of Mr. McLeod's answers to the questions put to him by the Council was that he was in possession of the information on which his accusation was based, but that he did not see fit to produce it. If Mr. McLeod had no such information, but was merely fishing for evidence, he placed himself in a very unenviable position.

The street cars stopped running on Sunday, not to let the passengers on and off, but to allow repairs to the machinery.

The Germania saloon will be moved into the basement of the new Wilson & Dalby building as soon as the sidewalk is completed.

NOT WELL-INFORMED.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser discusses what it describes as "the dismissal of the late Principal of the Victoria High School," simply to show how little it knows about the subject. It says:

"The discussion of the matter in the public press has called the attention of many persons to the unsatisfactory nature of the School Law which the government carried through the Legislature at the last session, and has awakened a feeling of opposition to the measure which will undoubtedly arouse a demand for its repeal."

If our contemporary had studied the subject on which it dogmatises so confidently it would have found that the power to cancel a teacher's license has been given to the government, or some official of the government, by every public school law enacted in this province. And more than that, the power to cancel licenses is given to the government or some of its servants by every public school law in the Dominion of Canada. So this is not a new feature in the British Columbia School Act, nor is it peculiar to that law. The government grants the license and the government has the power, when it believes it necessary to do so, to cancel the license.

It can readily be seen that no system of public education would be perfect, or indeed workable, if the Government were not invested with this power. We dare say that the power seems excessive to the editor of the News-Advertiser, who evidently knows very little indeed about the school law of this Province, or those of the other provinces of the Dominion. But it ought to strike him that, since every provincial Government is clothed with and exercises the power of cancellation, it is necessary, for the proper working of the school system, that it should have this authority. Matters of this kind, our contemporary might know, need to be inquired into and thought over. It will, no doubt, find out, one of these days, that the heaven-born legislators are very few indeed, and that it is necessary for even the most gifted of men to know something about a subject before he undertakes to pronounce an opinion upon it, or to instruct others as to its merits.

It is evident, too, that the News-Advertiser knows very little, indeed, as to how the power of cancellation was exercised in this particular case. It clearly does not know that the examination papers of the third division of the High School were examined and marked, in the first place, by Mr. Netherby, Principal of the Boys' School, a gentleman fully competent to do the work. No one has attempted to show that Mr. Netherby is either incompetent or that he had any object in marking the papers improperly. If our contemporary had made the enquiries which any one desirous of forming an intelligent and impartial opinion on the matter would have made, it would have found out that when the accuracy of Mr. Netherby's marking was called in question, the Superintendent submitted the papers to the gentlemen who conducted the examination of the candidates for teachers' licenses. These gentlemen have never been accused of either incompetency or partiality. They were sent to the late Rev. Mr. Fraser, who was too ill at the time to examine them. They were afterwards submitted to Mr. Anderson, B. A., and to the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven; Mr. Wilson, Inspector of Schools, also revised them. We think that even the editor of the Advertiser would decide that the opinion of these three gentlemen, on the marking of a number of school boys' papers, was sufficient evidence of their accuracy.

The News Advertiser and other opposition journals, find fault with the Department for not producing the papers, but we see that they have not only produced them but submitted them to experts for examination. What better evidence could be obtained in the province than that of the public examiners. It seems to us that the public are likely to have as much confidence in the decisions of the three gentlemen we have named, as in those of any committee of Opposition journalists or politicians that could be selected. Our contemporary now sees that the Council of Instruction did all that could be reasonably expected of them, to satisfy themselves of the accuracy of the marking of the papers in question.

The News Advertiser misstates Mr. McLeod's position when he was before the Council of Instruction. He was asked certain questions relative to the charges he had made, none of which have been characterized as unfair or unreasonable, and he refused to answer them, though he declared that he was in a position to do so. He would not state the grounds of his accusation, or particulars with regard to them, except on his own terms. He, in fact, set the authority of the Council of Instruction at defiance. Is it any wonder, then, that he was declared insubordinate?

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

It is generally supposed that the days of religious persecution are past. Most people now believe that toleration, at least in civilized countries, is universal, and that the world has outgrown the mistake of maintaining uniformity in religion by pains and penalties. But this is taking too charitable a view of mankind. Bigotry and intolerance are extremely tenacious of life. The man who claims the right to believe and worship as he likes, but who will not allow his fellow-citizens to believe and worship as their reason and their conscience dictate, is not dead yet. He lives and persecutes in Russia. He, too, calls himself a Christian, and prides himself on being "orthodox." E. B. Lanin, in the Contemporary Review for January, tells the world about the way in which the Stundists are persecuted in the Dominions of the Czar. If these people deserve the character which the reviewer gives them, it would be fortunate if all Russians were Stundists. They are chiefly peasants who believe in the Bible, and who endeavor to shape their lives according to its precepts. They live virtuous lives, they obey the laws, and they love one another. But they are not members of the Greek Church. They do not believe in its doctrines, neither do they practice its ceremonies. Work is part of their religion. It is said that the celebrated and eccentric Count Tolstoi obtained some of the notions, which are generally regarded as peculiar, from these simple religionists.

Although these people are harmless and are good subjects, they are persecuted because they do not believe in the national religion. They are boycotted and fined and banished to Siberia and other dreary regions, merely because they will not conform to the doctrines and ceremonies of the orthodox Greek Church. Reading the Bible, attending prayer meetings in private houses, praying and preaching are in them counted as crimes deserving of severe punishment. For such offences many are reduced to beggary by repeated fines; women are flogged; and good men who have lived the lives of saints are exiled because they have had the audacity to exhort and teach their brethren.

All this was not done a hundred years or so ago, but is going on to-day. The Russian clergy hate the Stundists and urge the Government to persecute and torture them. When it was found that the courts of law would not convict some of these Christians who had committed no offence worthy of punishment, even under the Russian law, Lanin declares, and produces his authority for his declaration, that "the ecclesiastical dignitaries wrote to entreat the Government to re-arrest and punish them *administratively*—viz., without trial or formal accusation." But the Government at the time refused to act upon the cruel suggestion. Under the present Czar, the condition of these poor people has been growing worse and worse, until now they are in a condition truly pitiable.

JOURNALISTS MISREPRESENTED.

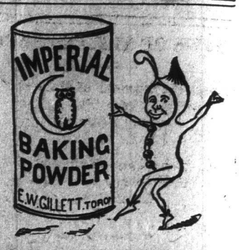
Mr. Walter Blackburn Harte says, in the New England Magazine, that "Many Americans will be surprised to learn how many of the leading editors of Canada favor complete separation from Great Britain." If Canadian editors favor a dissolution of the colonial connection they have a singular way of giving expression to their opinions. There is not in this Dominion, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, one single newspaper that is an open advocate for either annexation or independence. Both subjects are discussed in Canadian journals in an academic way, but neither of them is yet in the region of practical politics, nor, as far as present appearances go, are they likely soon to be "burning questions." The very circumstance that neither the annexationists nor the advocates of independence have a newspaper organ in this Dominion should convince any shrewd observer that no considerable part of the population of Canada favors either the one or the other. As Mr. Harte says, newspapers only echo public opinion in these days, the opinion in favor of separation from Great Britain in Canada must be very feeble indeed, for not the faintest echo of it can be heard from the press of the Dominion. On the other hand, the sound it gives out with regard to the continuation of British connection is neither faint nor uncertain.

Editors, as well as others, speculate as to what will be the ultimate destiny of Canada. Some believe that it will one day become an independent nation, and others incline to the opinion that it will be absorbed by the United States. A third class of speculators are now making their voices heard, who believe that Canada will, some day, become a member of a grand Federation of the British Empire, which will include Great Britain and all her present dependencies, and ultimately, perhaps, every English-speaking nation on the face of the earth. This glorious dream—if it is but a dream—is cherished by many Canadians, newspaper men and others. But it is easy to see that these are all mere speculative theories which have little or no practical effect on the political action of any journalist.

Mr. Harte is a young Englishman, who has not been in America more than four years or so. He has occupied subordinate positions on two or three Canadian newspapers, and his opportunities of finding out what are the opinions of Canadian editors have not been many or favorable. When he gets older and knows more, he will be less hasty in jumping at conclusions, and not quite so ready as he is now in giving them publicity.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The Westminster Columbian has been lately trailing its coat, and daring the COLONIST to tread on it. If our contemporary had produced one single original argument in support of its contention we might have thought it worth our while to notice its articles on the Victoria High School difficulty. We did point out that its mode of discussing the subject was an insult to the intelligence of its readers. What it has published since has been very much of the same nature. The Times, we see, reproduces one of the Columbian's rehashes of its own utterances, which have been discussed quite fully enough in our columns, and then reproaches us with having failed to respond to the Columbian's challenges. We hardly think that it has been the experience of the Times that we have been slow to "respond" to its challenges, and to expose the shallowness of its sophistry. The very article in which it does its little bit of empty bragging, contains in a quotation from our columns a sufficient answer to its main charge. What could the Council of Instruction do with an accuser who, although he asserted that the evidence on which he based his accusation was in his possession, refused to produce it, or even to give any information with regard to it.



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