

would seem to be, that, in case of Sir Richard's party coming into power, the proposal will be brought forward again, and probably carried. Supposing that there is any sincerity in the movement, and we should be deeply grieved to suspect such "honourable men" of insincerity, some such result must come out of the accession of the Reform party to power, if that should come to pass.

In the first place, we should like to know what Canada is to gain by this power of treaty-making, except to make a number of fussy people a little more self-important. Does any one pretend that the Imperial Government of Great Britain forces Canada into any alliances that are hurtful to her best interests? Or that Canada is prevented from forming alliances for her good? Before so serious a change is proposed or contemplated, some good reason should be alleged, or at least some probable reason. Passing away from the first question we will ask another: Supposing that we are free to make our own treaties, shall we be likely to secure better terms when we are making them on our own account, or when Great Britain is making them for us or with us? Or again, shall we be more regarded in the making or the carrying out of treaties when the other party knows that we have the power of Great Britain behind us, or when we stand by ourselves? These are preliminary questions of real interest and importance, and we shall not be wise to neglect them.

But there is another question still more serious. Should we resolve to secure this treaty-making power, and should the Queen's Government at home give their consent to the measure, will Great Britain go further? Will not the Mother Country say to us: Now, having given you all these privileges and powers I will go a little further and give you your independence? It is hardly possible to see how she can stop short of this.

The *Saturday Review* and other English papers have pointed out with perfect reasonableness that the acquisition of this new power by the Dominion involves the right of making treaties with any country whatever; and therefore the power of making a treaty, if necessary, with nations at war with Great Britain. It is inconceivable that the Mother Country should continue her connection with any of her colonies on such terms.

Now it is well known that there is a considerable party at home who would gladly give their blessing to some of the colonies, and they would probably begin with Canada. What, they ask, is the use of Canada to Great Britain? At any moment we may be involved in a war with the United States on her account. At every moment we are conscious of a standing irritation between Great Britain and the United States—an irritation due, in no small measure, to the presence of an English colony on the borders of the latter, and which would probably disappear if Canada were either independent or annexed. But the great mass of Englishmen will not listen to this ignoble talk. They are proud of their Empire in all its vast extent; they are proud of the loyalty of their children; and they have no mind to throw those children off unless it is quite clear that they desire separation.

But unquestionably the assumption of any such power as is contemplated in the proposal of Sir Richard Cartwright will at once involve separation from Great Britain and Canadian independence. Now, we must settle this question: Do we want independence, and are we ready for it? The great majority of men of experience among us declare that, however much we may want it, we are not ready for it. Nay, more, it is the clear conviction of the wisest among us that independence, in our present condition and circumstances, is merely a stepping-stone to annexation, and one that would speedily be crossed.

Mr. Mowat has pointed out with great clearness and frankness that there is one obstacle to annexation which appears to him quite insuperable, namely, the consideration that the Americans are a hostile people. They do not like Canada, they dislike us, and they take every opportunity of telling us so. The ex-President of the United States believed that he was increasing his popularity with his own people when he declared his intention of punishing Canadians for not carrying out a treaty which they accepted, but which was rejected by his own Senate! Canadians may sometimes have pleasant dreams of union with men of their own blood and speech over the line; but the question assumes a new complexion when it means absorption by enemies. It will be well that these things should be thought out in all their tendencies and probable consequences before we commit ourselves to new relations to Great Britain and other countries.

Undoubtedly it is very much the same with Commercial Union. It does not appear that this idea is making much progress in the Dominion. The benefits promised are so uncertain, and the certain results so dubious in their character, that there is, for the moment, a distinct recoil from whatever advance the movement had made; whilst, at the same time, the idea of Imperial Federation must be pronounced to be gaining ground in the country, and the possibility of realizing it becoming more intelligible.

The meaning of these counter-currents is not difficult to discover. They declare to us that the people of this country are not prepared for annexation to the States. We entirely believe that Dr. Goldwin Smith does not think that Commercial Union will bring annexation an inch nearer. When he tells us this, we believe that he is an honourable gentleman and means what he says. But other men who are as good judges of matters of this kind as he is are of a different opinion. Commercial Union with the States means discrimination against England; and it is absurd to imagine that, in such circumstances, England would feel the obligation of protecting our shores. Commercial Union with the States need not, and in the

the first case probably would not, mean annexation. But ultimately, and probably at no distant period, annexation would be the effect of it. It is precisely the same situation as would result from our treaty-making process. The immediate effect would be independence, for which we are not prepared; and the second step would be annexation. This is the answer to the question, *Whither?* are we prepared for such a contingency? If we are not, we must beware of measures which can lead to nothing else.

M. A.

PROBATION.

I MUSED in vain over life's mystery,
The arbitrary workings of that Will
That formed us, all unknowing, to fulfil
A mighty plan. Are we, by His decree,
Mere puppets, unconsidered, unassured?
Life is, at best, a fight 'gainst odds, I said,
Were it not better to lie still in dread
Winding the Good and Evil's twisted cord,
Trusting that th' Almighty in His free,
Unerring justice, could not, vengeful, slay
A creature whose consent He asked not, nay,
Who would have rather chosen not to be?—
So thought I, waking. When I slept it seemed
A glorious spirit talked with me: "O, Man,
What if, when first th' Almighty laid His ban
Upon the rebel angels, His heart beamed
With tender pity, and He pondered how
They need not perish,—then he thought of Man;
Devising, in Omnipotent love, a plan
Whereby He might those guilty ones allow
Another chance of life, if righteous men.
If God's great mercy, which is ever new,
Designed it thus in ages past, and you
Perchance are one probationed soul, what then?"

SOPHIE M. ALMON.

CHAPTERS FROM OUR NATIONAL HOUSE-KEEPING.—III.

HAVING indicated in two former chapters the general outline of our deliberative system of Government, we now come to a closer analysis; and as either our mental incapacity, or our personal indifference, to comprehend large masses of figures induces a passive credulity, and that in its turn secures a tacit consent, the non-interest of a tabular statement may be excused on the ground of its utility.

For the interests of the Dominion at large we are represented by—

A Governor-General	1
A Cabinet	15
A Senate	78
A Commons	215
Total	309

For our Provincial interests:—

Ontario:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	7
Legislative Assembly	91
Total	99
Quebec:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	7
Legislative Council	24
Legislative Assembly	65
Total	97
Nova-Scotia:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	7
Legislative Council	21
House of Assembly	38
Total	67
New Brunswick:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	8
Legislative Council	18
House of Assembly	41
Total	68
Manitoba:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	5
Legislative Assembly	35
Total	41
British Columbia:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	4
Legislative Assembly	27
Total	32
Prince Edward Island:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Executive Council	9
Legislative Council	13
House of Assembly	30
Total	53
North-West Territories:—	
Lieut.-Governor	1
Nominated	6
Council Elected	14
Total	21

The population of Ontario is 1,923,218; about equal to the aggregate of the cities of New York and St. Louis, and for this we possess a representation of 99 members.

Quebec with a population of 1,359,027, equal to New York with our own Hamilton deducted, and for this we have 97. Nova-Scotia numbers 440,572 souls, equal to Cincinnati and Montreal, and for this we have 67. In New Brunswick, there are 321,223 people, equal to Washington, Toronto and Winnipeg, and for this we have 68. Manitoba's share is 65,954, the aggregate of St. John, N.B., and Ottawa, and for this we have 41. British Columbia possesses a population of 49,459, equal to Ottawa and Victoria, B.C. combined, and for this we have 32. Prince Edward Island has 108,891 inhabitants, equal to Detroit and London, Ont. combined, and claims 53 members, while the North-West Territories, with a population of 56,446 have a representation of 21.

Our friends across the boundary have now reached the enormous population of 60,000,000; but their Senate is actually smaller than ours; two for each State, making seventy-six.

Our mother land, upon whose constitution ours is founded, and to which we cling with the most devoted and filial reverence, teaches us a still more wonderful lesson. Her House of Commons, representing the interests of the United Kingdom, with a population of 37,000,000, London alone possessing almost as many inhabitants as our entire Dominion, numbers only 670. Her House of Lords, with the accumulation of centuries of aristocratic right and aristocratic inheritance, is composed only of 560. And her Cabinet, which, in addition to the interests of the United Kingdom, is, through its Colonial Departments, responsible for the direct and indirect Imperial and Inter-Colonial welfare of the entire Empire—the realm on which the sun never sets—England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Adjacent Islands, and enormous possessions in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, the West Indies, and Australasia, with a population of 307,000,000, numbers one less than ours.

United Kingdom:—	
Commons	670
Lords	560
Total	1,230
For a population of 37,000,000.	
Cabinet	14
For the Empire of 307,000,000.	
Total	1,244

Dominion:—	
Dominion Cabinet, Senate, and Commons	309
Provincial	478
Total	787

That is to say, that for a population of 5,000,000 in a new and slowly developing country of scattered and straggling industrial or commercial forces, we complacently sit under the matchless régime of a Governor-General, eight Lieutenant-Governors, and twenty-two governing bodies besides.

At the present day men tread so sharply on the line of demarcation between the Church and the world that it runs much risk of being trodden out; and although our Parliaments virtually acknowledge that they are indirectly responsible to a power higher than they, it is not to the written law of such a power that they go in search of the authority for the recognition and usury of profit and loss. But, strangely enough, we find in that very written law, the law which is defied while it is conciliated, admitted while it is denied, if only in the mockery of the bell for progress which summons them to their daily sessions, the most thorough going financial basis, a basis which, as a rock or as the shifting sand, decides irrevocably the fate of the superstructure. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it."

Ottawa.

RAMBLER.

MONTREAL LETTER.

INVITATIONS have been issued from the Salvation Army Barracks, and placarded over our waste walls and fences, requesting the pleasure of the company of the citizens of Montreal to a Hallelujah Wedding, the first performance of its kind which Canadians have had an opportunity of witnessing, and the immense crowd to people who responded to the invitation is a testimony to the powerful footing the Army has secured in our midst. Its Barracks is a large and substantial building, severely plain, but sufficiently decorated to be pleasing to the eye, and possessing at least the first element of beauty—fitness for the object it has been constructed to carry out. Though situated in what may be called the English part of the city, it is surrounded by a populace which is largely French, to whom it is the centre of no small amount of curiosity and jealous interest. To them every muster of the Army is an inexplicable mystery, and the wedding succeeded in blockading the sidewalks and stuffing the window panes to the farthest mathematical angle. The interior was bright with a densely-packed crowd of expectant faces, whose mixture of the rough and unruly was quickly subdued as the bridal party entered amid floating banners and sweet-sounding wedding-martial strains. The ceremony was performed with the Army's banners drooping over the interesting young couple, and was read in French, as they, though English, had devoted themselves individually in the past, and were expected to devote themselves collectively in the future, to the special skirmish which has been directed against the Roman citadel in Montreal.

Generally speaking, the ruling idea of marriage is the spirit of love, self-sacrifice, and mutual obedience to which every other sentiment must be kept in subservience. The