

Grange purchases are equally costly and often irregular in quality as compared with those obtained from the storekeeper, who as an average business man is more likely to choose articles of standard value than a mere hireling. Another important feature of this movement has been that it deprived the country merchant, who acted as a produce buyer, of the resource of his principal means of trade; if he sold no goods and his capital was so locked up, he could not offer the farmer a price for his wheat or coarser grains, his eggs, butter or other produce; so that to the extent of the success of the granger system, so far has decreased the strength of the country trader as a factor in the great sum of traffic from the interior to the sea-board; and this person is the very one whose absence will often leave our commerce without motive power at a necessary point.

Of course we can only trust to public opinion to remedy this evil, which may not be entirely unmitigated if it teaches the farmers a cash system of buying and selling; in such case our store-keepers will be able to make prompt remittances to their supply house and effect quick transfer of produce to the centres of consumption; "a nimble sixpence is better than a slow shilling," says Franklin; and if the Granges only fail in their enterprise after their individual members have had this proverb impressed on their minds, their rise and fall will have been equally beneficial to the country. As schools of husbandry they might be useful but as trading associations they will eventually hurt themselves and others.

#### MR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The *Ithaca Democrat* gives a report of Mr. Goldwin Smith's speech at a convention of the Delta Upsilon Society of Ithaca, in which he presented the claims of Canada to the consideration and good will of the Americans. Is it to be expected that Mr. Smith would on such an occasion be thoroughly Canadian in his treatment of this question? We think not; we believe that his amiable desire to create a kindly feeling between the two countries has begotten a belief, otherwise unfounded, in the possibility of inducing the Americans to abandon their selfish manner of viewing questions between them and their neighbours. This has led him to adopt a tone which would appear to some even too conciliatory for a banquet speech; yet we must not forget that his remarks were addressed principally to young men who looked to him with respect, and who were not yet

hardened in the political prejudices one of or other party of the people; in such a case we may commend an abstinence from a positive exposition of the wrong course of the United States towards Canada in many questions of international comity. We cannot however pass over his intimation that a hostile attitude on the part of the Americans will foster a sympathy with the English aristocracy; there is no doubt that while that body sends into public life so many wise and generally unselfish legislators, we in Canada cannot help feeling a pride in their successes, but that they can make us swerve from a true democratic course of government, not one of caucuses or wire-pulling politicians—this we cannot believe, and here it seems that Mr. Goldwin Smith's readiness to accept an unmerited blame on our part is likely to do more harm than good; he should if he said anything in this direction have shown that our people are more free from absolutism and more able to vindicate our rights than those of the States, not because of a greater virtue inherent in our character, but because of our later-born and more flexible constitution.

#### WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

This question is already agitating the minds of not a few in our midst—men whose forecast of thought often gives them glimpses of events ahead. Would it not be well then for the whole community at once to consider this really momentous subject and seek out ere it be too late remedial courses?

The over-importations of late years, the increasing expenditure of our general government, and of non-productive public works, have piled up an amount of indebtedness almost alarming; and now that our commercial position is rapidly changing, and the depression in trade is compelling every one to economise to the fullest extent, it is feared that the present consumptive demands of the country for dutiable goods will not afford revenue sufficient to meet these debts,—liabilities which seem to be increasing month by month. We cannot disguise the fact from our eyes that a most serious deficit is growing in the Revenue, and which alone calls for immediate consideration.

Supposing then that this deficiency goes on increasing—which it certainly will do the coming fall—is the country justified in continuing to spend money at its previous ratio? We say emphatically it is not; and as retrenchment is an absolute necessity in private and individual life, so is it the duty of the Government at once to shorten sail, ere a serious calamity

overtake us. Sir. A. T. Galt most judiciously and wisely lifts his warning voice; and his experience warrants attention. The lavish extravagancies of governmental and private life have well nigh been our ruin, not to speak of municipal indebtedness. And now that the course of our commerce appears to be more than ever before, diverted towards the United States, the usual profits that always accrue in the handling of goods from places of growth and manufacture are, as it were taken from us, leaving us so much less capital in this country. This is very apparent now—at first it was not noticed—but the continuous drain of Canadian gold to New York and Boston to pay for purchases there, most certainly is being palpably felt in the diminished resources of the people. And so as a people we are getting daily poorer! Looking then at this subject of our changed condition, does it bespeak wisdom to go on spending as we are now doing? Some of the most experienced and careful business houses in the world from time to time succumb to unforeseen reductions and losses in trade; is it not possible for Governments to get into like jeopardy unless they grasp the danger long ere it culminates? Our ministers may be honest, well-intentioned men, but are they sure their financial position is safe? Or if a storm does meet them, is their Finance helmsman equal to the tempest? We have no political feeling, but these are most weighty questions. In conclusion we say the outlook is bad—looks worse;—let us all be wise in time.

M.

#### THE STANDARD LIFE.

Life Assurance companies are our bankers for posterity, and the results of their operations must in a great measure be left to a period when the policy holder shall have passed away. This being the case how much does it behoove every insurer to look carefully into the career and character of any company before entering into such an agreement. There is a critical period in the life of every assurance company when the generation insured has begun to pass away, and then comes the test of soundness. This period the company whose name heads this notice has long passed, and the usefulness of its career is attested by thousands of families who have been made comfortable through its agency. The fiftieth annual general meeting of the company, a report of which we published in last week's issue, is still more satisfactory than the preceding. The amount proposed for assurance during 1875 was over \$9,000,000 on 2,467 proposals, out of which 2,070 were accept-