

system of Government, or some insurmountable *obstacle arising from soil or climate*, or a *comparatively limited sphere of natural resources*, to account for the remarkable preference so systematically *shown* by the European world for the American States *when it comes* a question of leaving the old home for one beyond the sea."

As to the use of "obstacle" here—obstacle to what? We speak of a limited sphere of action—but not of natural resources.

*Shown* is the past participle and *when it comes* has certainly nothing to do with the past.

In the second sentence but one from the above, we read :

"Nor would it be difficult now-a-days to find in the utterances of some English statesmen and writers more encouragement for the United States, than for the Canadian Provinces, *who*, so far certainly, have shown no other aspiration than to work out their national destiny in the closest possible connection with the Empire."

The relative must agree with its antecedent in gender : what is the gender of "Provinces?"

Two sentences farther on we read :

"The development of the vast North-West Territory simultaneously with the agrarian difficulties and agricultural distress in Great Britain and Ireland, *have* had the very natural effect, &c."

*Development* is a singular noun, and *have* is the plural form of the verb. If Mr. Bourinot was ever taught the rule that the verb must agree with its nominative in number, the lesson evidently never got beyond the tweed suit in which his youthful limbs were encased.

On page 11, at the close of the paragraph, we read :—

"The speculator and man of enterprise learn from them, &c."

Speculator and man of enterprise mean one individual—the idea is one. Thus again we have a singular noun and a plural verb. If it should be said that two persons were meant, then we have a clumsy ellipsis. If two persons were meant, the article "the" should have been placed before "man of enterprise."

On page 14 we read :—

"Most sanguine hopes are entertained that the *very* recent visit of His Excellency the Governor-General, &c."

Now His Excellency made but one journey to the North-West. What is meant by "the *very* recent visit?" The article appeared in July, 1882. His Excellency's visit was made in 1881.

On page 17 we read :

"The large sums that Canada has been for years, or is now expending, have been directed towards strengthening Imperial interests on this continent"