

movements in Arabia; and there is certainly a development of what may be called Panislamism, which however is the offspring not so much of religious revival as of the increased facility of intercommunication which enables the Moslem on the banks of the Ganges to see and lament the paling of the Crescent on the Bosphorus. But Islam is a religion of conquest, essentially barbarous and suited only for barbarians; it has never produced a genuine or a lasting civilization: it has never shown like Christianity a power of adapting itself to different phases and successive epochs of humanity. Persia, the second great Mahometan power, seems to have run the same downward course as Turkey, and to be in a state of even deeper decay and fouler putrescence. From Mr. Chisolm's paper in the *Fortnightly*, as well as from every other trustworthy description of Persia, it appears that the filthy barbarian whom the false jewels with which he was bedizened, and the arts of the speculator in whose hands he was, made some years ago the lion of English society, is the head of a system not to be dignified with the name of government, since it neither is nor pretends to be anything but corruption, venality and extortion. The Shah, who is the owner of the whole country sells all authority of every kind in market overt, and the buyers wring the price out of the unhappy people. The public infamy has its spring as usual in a private and domestic morality which defies decent description. Nor does cruelty fail to go hand-in-hand with lust. Justice like everything else is sold to the rich, but the inevitable lawlessness of the common people is visited with savage reprisals, and the traveller sees through the length and breadth of the land little columns of brick closed up with plaster of Paris in each of which a victim has been buried alive, while the horrible forms of wretches with nose cut off, or with mutilated stumps beg alms at the gates of every town or village. Such are the political and social products of one of those "universal" religions which have been set up as the rivals of Christianity. Whatever power would be at the trouble of conquering and suppressing a Gomorrah turned into a torture house would render an unqualified service to humanity.

THE refusal of the United States House of Representatives to pass a bill for giving effect to the treaty with Mexico foretells the doom of all the other reciprocity treaties. The Mexican Treaty, having received the ratification of the Senate, had a better chance of going into force than any of the others; nothing was wanting but the consent of the House. Technically speaking the House has no share in the treaty-making power; but it has shown that it can, by withholding its consent from the bill which is always necessary for carrying a treaty into effect, defeat any international agreement into which, so far as their authority extends, the Executive and the Senate may enter. Mr. Hewitt tried to influence the House in favour of the bill by saying that the honour of the country was engaged by the action of the Executive and the Senate; but it is obvious that the House of Representatives has the power of independent action when the enabling bill comes before it. This is the check which the House has upon the treaty-making power; and if this check did not exist, the tariff might be completely changed in character without the sanction or in opposition to the protest of the Chamber which is supposed to have more than a co-equal control over the purse strings. The Mexican Treaty was opposed by the protectionists because it reduced some duties and abolished others, while revenue reformers saw in it a policy which, if carried out, must be a bar to a thorough revision of the tariff. With these treaties the most marked feature of President Arthur's policy disappears, and all idea of a commercial treaty with Canada, for which negotiations had not even been begun, may be dismissed for the present. Even the Senate is in no mood to ratify any more treaties, and the House of Representatives would certainly refuse its consent to the necessary enabling bills. But the policy which these treaties aimed to realize shows that even a Republican Executive was dissatisfied with a tariff which places heavier restrictions on the foreign trade than the needs of the revenue justify. While the foreign trade would have been stimulated in certain directions by the treaties, they would have put an end to the surplus, and the unmodified parts of the tariff would have been left in their present objectionable shape; the margin of revenue which, if another line were taken, could be spared as the price of reduction, would have disappeared. The House has refused to sanction a policy which would have made any effective revision of the tariff impossible. Congress reserves a power of action of which the treaties would have deprived it. The rejection of the Mexican Bill by the House leaves the legislative branch of the Government master of the situation. But until the two Houses are so modified in their composition as to enable them to act in harmony on the tariff, no general or sweeping reductions will be possible.

THAT there should be academical opposition to University Confederation in Queen's College was, as we said before, perfectly natural: that there should be local opposition in Kingston was almost a matter of course. But the opponents must surely see that, whatever force of a secondary kind their arguments may have, they do not touch the vital point. Can Ontario hope to maintain more than one University sufficiently large and sufficiently well equipped to give a first-rate education, literary and scientific, according to the standard of the present day? This is the real question: and it is presented in a concrete and peremptory form by the growth, within a day's journey both of Toronto and Kingston, of an American University with an endowment which is likely soon to reach ten millions, and which is already giving at the cheapest rate a first-rate education in practical science. "A little oatmeal" will go as far in supporting a student at Cornell as at the most diminutive University; and he will there get intellectual compensation for any cutaneous inconvenience which his Caledonian diet may entail. Queen's will not find the price of a railway ticket sufficient to protect her. True it is that Confederation by raising the standard for degrees is likely to lessen the number of graduates in the Province. But this loss will be a gain. Cheap degrees are a social as well as an academical evil. They tempt into intellectual callings youths who would be more useful and happier on the farm or in the store. All the callings which a graduate will condescend to enter are already overstocked, and to add to the glut is to accumulate the materials of discontent, perhaps of disturbance. But we must be patient. Association is strong. The principle of Confederation has on the whole triumphed. We shall see it practically recognized even by Queen's College in due time.

As was sure to be the case under a political Minister of Education, the School Reader Controversy has assumed a thoroughly party character, and the merits of the question are lost in the din of combatants assailing or defending the Mowat Government. Once more we are led to question the wisdom of the Government in allowing the late Superintendent to gratify his vindictive insolence by kicking the Council of Public Instruction out of doors, instead of maturely considering what functions such a Council might usefully perform. One of the functions which it might usefully perform unquestionably is the selection of school books, in which it would be above the suspicion of any sinister influence and would command, as no Party Minister can, the general confidence of the Province. The Minister of Education would at the same time escape the storms by which the barques of both holders of the office have been tossed. The present question is not free from difficulty in whatever hands it may be. There is danger to the quality of everything in the exclusion of competition. Yet on the whole it appears best that Government should have its own set of books and supply them to all the pupils at cost price. They might undergo periodical revision. There seems to be no good reason, by the way, why School Readers should be so insufferably dull. A pleasant tale would serve the purpose of teaching to read just as well as a series of dry extracts. Specimens of style are useless in books for children; they can be appreciated only by mature taste.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

THE Female Suffrage movement in the Ontario Legislature has now arrived at the second of its four inevitable stages. The first stage is municipal suffrage for unmarried women, which has been already carried; the second is parliamentary suffrage for unmarried women, of a Bill for which notice has been given; the third is the suffrage, both municipal and parliamentary, for married women as well as for unmarried, and the introduction of political division into the family which has hitherto been a political unit; the fourth and final stage is the eligibility of women to Parliament and to political offices of all kinds. Bella Lockwood for President crowns the destined series. The logical connection of the last two stages with the third is not doubtful, nor are the leaders at any pains to conceal from us that spinster suffrage is the thin end of the wedge. The thick end it might be called, since a privilege conceded to spinsters may surely be claimed with greater reason by those who are doing the duties of wives and mothers. Mr. Fraser, then, was right in saying that if a stand was to be made at all against a revolution in the relations between the sexes, it had better be made at the threshold. It is to the credit of the Church to which that gentleman belongs that though female suffrage could hardly fail to add to the political power of her priesthood, she has so far steadfastly upheld the organic principles of Christian society and opposed herself to sexual revolution. The influence of the Church of Rome would probably