

to have military drill taught in the common schools to all boys over a certain age. If this were done, even if the knowledge of manœuvring or the steadiness in executing movements were never great, still a military spirit would be infused into the population for the boys on becoming men would naturally be more willing to give military service to the state, and in a few years the whole people would be defensively warlike. The masters at the Normal School could soon learn enough drill to enable them to teach all that would be necessary, for the benefit would be more from the impulse given to the military spirit than the precision of drill the boys would attain.

Although a valuable lesson has been taught this country by the neighbouring States in the matter of common school education and a good example set us, yet there are many points upon which the more we diverge from them the better. On no point is this more clear than on the worship of money in itself.

Canada will certainly be a powerful agricultural community, and by her shipping will excel in maritime strength, but it is doubtful if she will ever be a very rich country and it is hardly to be regretted. The immense fertility and boundless resources of the United States have made them wealthy. Money is rapidly and easily made and the natural results of great wealth easily acquired have ensued. In the political sphere corruption and dishonesty of the worst type organized into rings and monopolies forms the every day occupation of the politicians who fill the places statesmen alone should occupy, the greatest politician being that one whose unscrupulous cunning enables him to secure the largest spoils at the expense of the community, and who has tact enough to properly impress the public with the idea of the great wealth he possesses.

The worship of the almighty dollar in the States is demoralizing the whole people. Politicians could not hold power by dishonest and corrupt practices if the moral sentiment of the nation did not endorse the proposition that the end justifies the means, and that the possession of wealth ennobles the possessor even though he has obtained it by swindling the very dupes who recognize in it alone the patent of nobility.

The following anecdote will show the effect of political training in the States. A citizen of the Republic who had lived some years in Canada and become naturalized, had on one occasion voted for a very estimable and honorable member of our parliament. On the member returning for re-election the Yankee refused to vote for him again, because, as he explained to a friend, "I voted for him for one spell but he don't seem smart enough; I don't see that he has done anything for himself, there is no use casting a vote on him." His whole idea being to give some friend a opportunity of swindling the state for his own benefit.

Our Statesmen should legislate so as to check the slightest attempt at imitating the weakness of our neighbors on this point. The Controverted Elections Act of the Ontario Legislature was a step in the right direction and has given a great blow to the corruption in elections which was fast becoming a disgrace to the country and rapidly destroying the political morality of the people.

The founders of the United States wisely adopted the policy of changing everything on the acknowledgment of their independence and of adopting in every day matters, customs which would be national by their originality. New editions of the Bible following literally the English translation of James 1st time, but omitting the dedication to King James, and containing in its place a sneer at him, were published for use by their people. The Church of England prayer-book was altered sufficiently to make a difference, and the system of drill for their army before they adopted the French as a basis was similar to the English with the words of command slightly varied so as to make the people feel that a change had come upon them.

We are close neighbours, we trade continually, and to a great extent with them; we travel in their country and they in ours, and although we originally sprung from the same race and living on the same continent, yet we may thankfully say that in all our peculiarities we are diverging, and every day becoming more distinct in our characteristics. Nature, climate and habit, are creating two new races on this side of the Atlantic and our Statesmen should encourage the distinction as much as possible. Fortunately Canada has the northern and best end of the Continent, that is to say, the end sure to produce the hardiest and most dominant race.

Every measure should be taken to perpetuate and increase this divergence in our national characteristics, for the more we differ the more cause we shall have for national pride. A Canadian travelling in the States feels that he is in a different country, the flags and eagles stuck about in every conceivable position, the accents of the people he meets, the unequivocal sneers at our great mother country enthusiastically received in the theatres and places of public entertainment, the absurd enquiries everywhere as to whether his native country is not longing to be absorbed in a foreign and hostile one, all make him feel that he is in a foreign land, one inately inimical to the British Empire, and all tend to strengthen his patriotism and love of home. One can well sympathize with the gentleman who after travelling through the States on crossing the Suspension Bridge said he could have welcomed the service of a writ for the satisfaction of seeing "Victoria by the Grace of God" at the head of it.

Our most important public duty is to increase this patriotic feeling and to encourage a national sentiment in our people, and

there is no reason why this sentiment should not be distinctly Canadian. Canadians have hitherto drifted along without any national aspirations or hopes, encouraging those feelings which nature creates in the heart of man for the land of his birth, to wind themselves around the traditions of countries that they have never seen. They have been too much in the habit of stifling or at least carefully concealing any affection for their native land. They have too long looked upon themselves as colonists and acquiesced in the inferior status that name seemed to give them in the eyes of those in the mother country. It is time this was changed. Our fathers and grandfathers were colonists but we are Canadians. We are not as proud of this name as we should be. The national societies praise-worthy in their objects as they are, and evidences of a national sentiment on the part of the members towards their own native lands, have been continued and opened to their descendants; and Canadians, born in the same town or village or on the same concession or side line and educated in the same schools, have been taught that because their fathers did not come from the same kingdom they are not fellow-countrymen. This is all wrong. In the United States they are wiser than we are on this point, for in the second or third generation they are all Yankees irrespective of their origin. So should it be in Canada. When Canadians cease to connect themselves with National Societies and feel that the proudest boast they can make is that they are Canadians, when our people begin to feel that the Dominion can produce sons the equal of those of any country in the world; when Canadians are no longer looked upon by their own rulers and their own citizens as inferiors because they are Canadians; when it is considered possible that Colonial Volunteer Officers might sometimes be the equals of those imported from abroad; when Canadian engineers are no longer set aside on their own railways because they are not foreigners, then and not till then will this country have that self-confidence and self-respect which is the mainspring of national power; then the Dominion will have made the first step towards the attainment of national greatness.

Two bronze rifled muzzle-loading 9-pounder field-guns with carriages and limbers complete, but with no internal equipments, have been purchased in England by the Baron de Grancey, on behalf of the French Government, with a view of their ultimately adopting the British system of rifling. 700 filled cannon shell and 650 empty of the same description, together with 3,300 lbs. of powder, and 1,350 empty flannel cartridge cases, have been issued with the guns. It will be remembered that the *Cutier* took over to France two rifled muzzle-loading steel and iron field guns in November last of the latest approved pattern, one as a present, the other upon payment. The Prussian Government likewise received from us in the spring of last year one of the bronze guns,