

to take prompt action to bring about a change of Government. If the Legislature had failed to do this, or if the discredited Cabinet had refused to resign, there would then have been opportunity and justification in the eyes of all upright citizens for the *coup d'état*. As the matter now stands the Governor's main hope of justification in the eyes of the people and of their formal declaration of approval in the forthcoming election must rest upon the expected results of the investigations of the new Royal Commission which has been, or is about to be, issued. Should that Commission succeed in finding clear proof of one-half of the iniquitous doings which it is predicted will be brought to light, it is not likely that the people, or their representatives in the new House, will care to split hairs over the methods by which the facts have been revealed, even though the results indicated could not justify the employment of wrong and arbitrary methods, so long the same end might have been reached by methods which all would have been compelled to recognize as right and constitutional. It is one of the revenges in the history of party politics that the Conservatives of Quebec and of the Dominion should now be called upon to approve in Lieut.-Governor Angers the very act which they condemned in Lieut.-Governor Letellier de St. Just, and to commend the refusal of the former to permit his late Ministers to follow the precedent set by no less an authority than the late Sir John A. Macdonald himself. On the other hand, though it is, we believe, denied on behalf of the Liberals that they approved of Mr. Letellier's act, it is at least certain that they fiercely condemned the Governor-General at the time of the Pacific Scandal, for refusing to adopt a course of procedure very similar to that which is now denounced in the case of Mr. Angers. But the jewel consistency is hardly to be looked for in the mire of party politics.

IF a good name is better than great riches for a people as well as for an individual, and if the converse of the proverb is true of the one as of the other, Canada is greatly to be commiserated. The events of the last session of the Dominion Parliament have given our politics and politicians an evil odour abroad, such as nothing but long years of upright administration could cause to pass away. Our badly soiled political reputation will not be at all improved, we may be sure, by the doings of the election courts during the last few weeks, and, we may but too safely add, by their doings in the weeks yet to come. Almost daily seats are being declared vacant in consequence of acts of bribery. We have already commented on the strange fact that the courts go on day after day to find these acts of bribery proven by satisfactory evidence, and yet there is no word of any steps being taken to punish the really guilty parties, the only sufferer being usually the representative, who in most cases had no knowledge of the crime and probably could not have prevented it by any precaution. Such glaring failure to put any judicial brand upon the real criminals is well calculated to bring our apparent zeal for purity of elections into contempt. There is manifestly nothing in such a law or such a mode of enforcing it to make it a terror to evildoers, or a means of educating the electoral conscience up to a right conception of the baseness of the traffic in votes. But this is aside from our present purpose. The question we set out to ask is, what may we suppose will be the condition of our national reputation after the next sessions of the Dominion Parliament and the Quebec Legislature? In regard to the former the Liberal orators assure us that the scandal investigations of last session are to be renewed and pushed forward with undiminished vigour. As if to add emphasis to these assertions, Mr. Tarte, the prosecutor-in-chief of last winter, now openly avows his ability and determination to convict one or more Cabinet Ministers, against whom no charge has hitherto been formulated, of misdeeds of a corrupt and scandalous kind. In Quebec, too, a second Royal Commission is to follow close on the heels of the first, and will probably be at work even before the first has formally reported, which is confidently expected, if the statements of those by whom it is being appointed may be relied on, to bring to light such criminal transactions on the part of the late Provincial Ministers as will cast into the shade anything that has hitherto shocked the British and Canadian public. Where will it all end? What will be left of Canada's already battered and shattered political reputation for the new or reconstructed Governments to trade upon in the world's markets? We do not ask these questions by way of deprecating these investigations. If the corruption exists, if the money of the people has been fraudulently

misappropriated by the stewards who have been entrusted with it, whether at Ottawa or Quebec, by all means let the truth be known and the guilty made examples of as a warning to all coming politicians. There is, we suppose, no other mode known in our political system whereby such charges can be properly dealt with than that of the open investigation. But none the less all these things are against us and terribly hard on our reputation in the eyes of the world. Let us devoutly hope that an end may be made and a thorough lustration effected within the next few weeks.

WE have often been obliged to confess, though it sometimes requires some courage to do so, that we are of the number of those who are sceptical in regard to the great benefits to result to society and to the State from the great modern revival, if it be really such, of athletics in the colleges and universities. That a liberal proportion of vigorous physical exercise is indispensable to the student of every degree goes, of course, without saying. No one who can recall the typical Canadian or American college of thirty or forty years ago, with its large percentage of sallow dyspeptics and cadaverous book-worms among both students and professors, or who remembers how frequently ambitious and talented young men graduated "with honours" and returned home to die within a year or two, can fail to rejoice that more sensible ideas and practices are in the ascendant in these days. For our own part, though we cannot as yet claim a place among the patriarchs we can very well remember when the sunken eye, the hollow cheek and the emaciated form were regarded with a kind of admiration by the friends of the student who brought them home from college, and were even exhibited by the student himself with something akin to satisfaction, as the credentials, so to speak, of his genius and diligence. Many a misguided young fellow got credit for having killed himself by hard study when, as a matter of fact, his slow suicide was effected simply by neglect or violation of the simplest physiological laws. It is, we suppose, quite in accordance with the tendency of mankind to be always in extremes, which philosophers have deplored, that we have now alighted upon a time when in many an university athletics have usurped the place of honour, and the highest ambition of the average student is to get a place in some team of players or rowers. Alas for the day which has seen the amusements of the playground raised to the dignity of a profession, and college "nines" or other numbers furnishing choice material for the trade of the gambler. But there is some reason to hope that the pendulum, having swung to the farthest limit of its arc, is now on the return. A slight indication of a change for the better is, we may hope, to be found in the fact that the two oldest universities in America, Harvard and Yale, which have hitherto found their only means of contact in their athletic contests, are now devising opportunities of comparing themselves with each other in the intellectual arena. Arrangements have been completed, we are told, for a series of inter-collegiate contests on the debating floor. It is characteristic of the time and nation that the subject of the first debate is not only political, but a question of party politics, pure and simple. The resolution over which the young contestants will first cross swords is the following: "Resolved—That a young man casting his first vote in 1892 should vote the Republican ticket." It may be that the peculiar field chosen for the first trial of intellectual strength is not that best suited for an academic contest, but we cannot but regard it as a distinct step towards elevating the character of inter-collegiate contests, when a meeting in the intellectual instead of the physical arena has been arranged for. There can be no doubt that it is highly desirable and beneficial that students from different institutions should be brought into frequent contact with each other. This will help them to avoid the lack of wisdom which marks those who measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves. This suggests the question whether the students of the somewhat numerous colleges and universities in this city are availing themselves to the full of all the advantages afforded them by their propinquity for profiting by mutual contact and comparison.

CONSERVATISM is dead. Let it be buried out of our sight. State-aided land purchase, a law breaking leases, free education, compulsory sale of land—what have measures like these to do with Conservatism?" So cries out in the bitterness of his soul, Mr. Jennings, a Member of the British Parliament, sitting on the so-called

Conservative or Tory side of the House. His exclamation is pertinent to the situation, and serves to emphasize the fact which every intelligent member of the party must have long since perceived—that the words "Conservative," and "Liberal," so far as they can any longer be regarded as significant terms in British politics, are purely relative. They serve simply to denote degrees of progressiveness in regard to the democratic measures and methods towards which the whole trend of legislation is carrying the country with a rapidity which is truly wonderful in a people whose instincts had always been, until they came in recent days within the sweep of the democratic current, so distinctly conservative. But it is useless for Tories of the old school like Mr. Jennings to cry out and upbraid the leaders of the party. These cannot help themselves. It is with them simply a question of relinquishing office finally, or at least for an indefinite period, or moving on with the tide. The die was cast on the day when the first step was taken in the direction of extension of the franchise. The germ of all subsequent innovations was wrapped up in the Reform Bill of 1867. It may be claimed as a merit or reproached as a fault of the British Conservatives, from the days of D'Israeli until now, that most of the advance movements which have carried the nation forward, or, as Mr. Jennings and doubtless many others of his way of thinking would say, downward, in its democratic career, have been made under Tory leadership. But the leadership has been like that of the captain who, at the head of his company, is borne forward by the rush of his troops, his only alternatives being those of suffering himself to be swept forward or to be crushed by the force of the movement which he is powerless to stay. The example of retaining office by donning the garments of the Opposition, which was set by Mr. D'Israeli on the occasion of the passing of the memorable Bill above referred to, has been pretty faithfully followed by the Conservative leaders since that time, and perhaps by none with more courage and astuteness than by the present Premier. During his term of office some of the most advanced measures that have ever been proposed in a British Parliament have been put on the statute book, with the assent, no doubt, of Mr. Jennings. It is rather late, therefore, for that gentleman or those who may think with him to begin to cry "Halt!" Halting on a down grade, with an irresistible force pressing on in the rear, is not an easy feat. Whether for weal or for woe, it is clear that the halting-place for the British Parliament in its course of popular legislation is yet far in the distance. Under what party name the successive advanced measures shall be passed is quite a secondary consideration, or is at most but a question of a little more or a little less speed. The people have the ballot. It cannot be taken from them, nor can they now be prevented from using it.

ONE would give something to know, if only as a matter of curiosity, whether and to what extent the Emperor of Germany is really responsible for the extraordinary utterances attributed to him. It seems from the rational point of view almost incredible that one endowed with so much good sense and right feeling as the Emperor has displayed on some occasions could, for instance, insult a body of citizen soldiers, recruited from the people of one of the most intelligent nations in Christendom, with such a harangue as the following:—

Recruits, you have, in the presence of the consecrated servants of God and before the altar, sworn fealty to me. You have, my children, sworn fealty to me, which mean you have given yourselves to me, body and soul. There exists for you only one enemy, and that is my enemy. With the present Socialist agitation it may possibly happen that I may have to order you, which God forbid, to shoot down your own relatives, your brothers, and even your parents, but if I do so you must obey without a murmur.

When these words were going the rounds a few weeks ago we hesitated to comment on them, deeming it incredible that they could have been spoken by any European monarch of sound mind at this stage of the world's enlightenment. And yet it now seems that the official organ of the Government half admitted their accuracy as thus reported by the *Nesser Zeitung*. When the brutal Legree, as depicted in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," hissed out from between his clenched teeth, to his writhing victim, "Are you not mine, body and soul?" it was a stroke of true genius in the author to represent the half-dead slave as catching inspiration from the words and crying out in a tone of triumph, "Not my soul, that can never be yours." And yet, so far as appears, these free (?) men of Germany were compelled