

OUR PHILOSOPHER.

The political contagion which all classes of Canadian society have caught, is likely, we believe, to have a fatal effect on Canadian literature. The lower orders are possessed by a spirit of political curiosity; the highest intellects are inhabited by a spirit of political ambition. The barrister, whose ambition is divided between the bench on the one hand, and the House of Commons on the other, has no sooner mastered the means which would enable him to devote his undivided attention to literature, than he is heard in the House raising points of order, answering honorable members, or criticising the speech on the budget. Lawyers are so far from being alone in this respect, that, clergymen alone excepted, the members of any profession are few who do not entertain the hope of being at some time or other members of Parliament.

The chronological position of those groups of great poets who, like landmarks in the history of literature, crown with their glory the kingdoms of Greece, of Rome, of France, of Italy and of England, proves that, if their genius was not attributable to the turbulence of the times in which they lived, it is not in times of tranquility, at least, that we are likely to meet with a multitude of poets. One was contemporary with the administration of Pericles at Athens, one with the age of Augustus at Rome, one with the pontificate of Leo the Tenth in Italy, one with the reign of Louis the Fourteenth in France, and one with the reign of Queen Elizabeth in England. There may have been a group in Greece before these; there certainly was one in England after them; and it was with the wars to which the French revolution gave rise that this group of great poets was contemporary.

The constitutionality of the ballot, as practised in Canadian parliamentary elections, was, at the annual meeting of the University Literary Society, seriously called in question. It is possible, it appears, for a member to be appointed to fill any office in the gift of that society without representing a majority of its members. The society's voting capacity is, when candidates are numerous, distributed among them in such small quantities that the successful candidate frequently represents an alarmingly small fragment of the society's franchise. Mr. W. Simpson Walker questioned the constitutionality of the ballot, as practised by the University Literary Society, on the ground that it was contrary to the principle of the representation of majorities.

MCGILL VS. HARVARD.

This annual match took place on Friday afternoon, the 26th October, at a little past three o'clock. It was played in a field usually given up to base-ball, and few spec-

tators except those directly interested were present. The weather was not of the brightest description, but damped no one's ardor, and the game went on with spirit. At first the McGill men carried the ball before them till, for a moment, it seemed as if they would have easy work; but Harvard returned the effort, and kept its players on the offensive during all the rest of the game. There were three touchdowns taken during the first half, one of them in a peculiar way. The crimson jerseys had first tried a goal kick, which fortunately failed; McGill was leisurely surveying matters within goals, when suddenly, before the ball could be kicked up by the latter, one of the former dashed through and obtained another touch-down. The second half of the game was distinguished by determined but unsuccessful attempts to force the ball towards the Harvard goals. These attempts prevented greater disasters, but the beautiful play of our opponents decided the match, and a kick by Blanchard sealed its fate.

The main causes of defeat were the following: first, the fatigue of recent travel, the team having arrived only that morning; second, the small numbers from whom our team are chosen; third, shortness of practice season; fourth, superior weight of antagonists (five of the Cambridge men weigh over one hundred and eighty pounds); fifth, difference in the game played by each college, McGill men always spending more effort in the scrimmages and less on field organization.

The Montrealers were kindly entertained by their friends, who express a desire to see them oppose Yale, which, however, is out of the question just at present.

FRESHMEN VS. HIGH SCHOOL.

This annual match was played on the College grounds on Monday, 15th Oct, and, notwithstanding the disagreeableness of the weather, quite a large number of spectators assembled to witness it. Play commenced at 4.30, the Freshmen securing the kick off. During the first half hour the High School had the best of the game, getting one touch down, but in the second the Freshmen played harder, and weight telling, when time was called at 5.30, had obtained one goal and a try, both of which were kicked by Macpherson, thus winning the match.

The play throughout was good on both sides, the school, however, showing superior practice and knowledge of the game. On the side of the Freshmen good play was shown by Macpherson (captain), McGibbon, Austin, Hague and Falconer; and of the School by Macrae (captain), Bell, Murray, and Parkyn; Mr. J. Seriver acted as umpire for the Freshmen, while Mr. G. E. Jenkins filled that office for the school.