

CORRESPONDENCE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

To the Editor of the LAW JOURNAL.

The long agony is over ; the guns are firing, the troops drawn up and his Excellency ready to tell us how good and useful our legislation has been, and how Canada will flourish in consequence of it ; including of course the Franchise Bill—so *conservative* when brought in and so very *liberal* now, as to give all but manhood suffrage, and that too in certain places and to certain people who had it before. The cry of the innocents doomed to slaughter has gone up unregarded ; some forty of them, whom their fathers and godfathers held to be masterpieces of legislation are doomed to "carry their beauties to the grave and leave the world no copies"—by the Queen's Printer. The ten thousand questions have been asked, and answered in forms which the questioners by no means accepted as to be noted Q. E. D. like those put and answered in Euclid. The voice of the great querist is silent, and ministers who have been subjected to that inquisitorial mode of torture enjoy the quiet of a silence which they admit to be golden, though the speech of the querist was by no means silvern to their ears. The expectant Commissioners of Railways, Judges of the Court of Claims, Commissioners in Bankruptcy, and Registrars in the N.-W.T. feel now like Tantalus when the water fled from his lips ; but hope like Tantalus that another session may give them the prizes that have now eluded them. The 200 expectant Revising Officers are enjoying that delight which attends the prospect of enjoyment of the sweets of office ; and albeit the amount and value of those sweets have not yet taken positive form and substance, yet the anticipation of the unknown quantity thereof is perhaps not less delightful than the reality will be. Sir John will see that they are good and sufficient.

But what more need I tell ? Are not all those things written in 3,700 pages of the Chronicles of Hansard, where the eloquence of the 211 Commoners of Canada is recorded in letters of light for future generations to admire and compare with the works of Demosthenes and Cicero, or Chatham and Gladstone. They differ mainly from those of the great orators of old in not declaring what they believe ought to be the policy of the future, contenting themselves with attacking or defending what has been done, according as it was done by Tory or by Grit, and seeming to be

convinced beyond a doubt that they must be right if they can show that their opponents have gone astray.

"Each tries by others' faults his own to smother,
And the great argument is,—'You're another.'"

But on one subject all agreed ; Tory and Grit stood up together, and praised as they ought our citizen soldiers and the excellent soldiers who led them : Middleton and Strange, Otter and Williams, received the praises they so well merited. Nor were the men forgotten ; and it was told in eloquent words how, when rebellion reared its head in the North-West, and their country called its citizen soldiers to arms :

"The loyal then at once arose
As one brave man,—and to their foes,
Soldier and soldier citizen,
Their faces turned, and struck,—and then
Beneath the blow the rebels quailed,
And sympathizing brigands failed."

And then, when the mortal remains of Osgoode and Rogers were committed to the grave, their fellow citizens of the Canadian Metropolis turned out in sorrowing crowds, and honoured the heroic dead as patriots should honour those who die for their country. Young and old, rich and poor, Tory and Grit, French and English, formed one long procession of mourners sorrowing for the dead, but proud that the dead were their countrymen.—

"Such honours Canada to valour paid,
And peaceful slept each gallant soldier's shade."

Yours most truly,

A PROUD MOURNER.

Ottawa, July, 1885.