

old, it may be, in the skin of a white hair, may have to describe how the spectrum of the then feeble sun has passed into the class of stars which shine with red light."

The fourth section of the Provincial Act respecting the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors prescribes that every Inspector, at the time of his nomination and during his continuance in office, shall be a member in good standing of some recognized temperance organization within the municipality. Surely such a clause is ominously significant of the readiness of politicians to hand over the liberties of the subject to any organization that may succeed in making its votes desirable.

FRANC-TIREUR.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

SNAPS AND SCRAPS.

An eminent London firm will publish in a few months a novel dealing largely with Halifax society, by an anonymous gentleman formerly connected with the garrison here, and specially qualified to handle the subject.

There are various symptoms of a local reaction against over-legislation of the inquisitorial and grandmotherly types. A correspondent of the *Evening Mail* objects to the legislator trying "to put an end through his omnipotence to the acts and very thoughts of those who fail to see eye to eye with him." A second correspondent of the same journal sarcastically suggests that a city ordinance should be passed against wearing curl papers, and against men and women walking arm and arm, as being unseemly if not indecent acts.

"Why," says the slipshod egoist of *Truth*, commending Mr. Plunket's decision to allow boating in the parks on Sundays, "why any being endowed with the gift of reason should think it more sinful to propel himself in a boat by means of his arms than to walk on a road by means of his legs is a mystery I cannot fathom; but the arguments of Sabbatarians are a tissue of such mysteries."

Some sincere and more spurious indignation has been evoked by Mr. McColl's frank avowal in the House of Assembly that he was an annexationist. For my part, as one proud of my citizenship in the grandest and most beneficent empire on earth and zealous to maintain it, I have no ill-feeling for any one who openly favors annexation, provided he does so actuated by love and not hatred of the mother-country, regretfully and not exultantly, only because he sincerely thinks that the interests of his native province as well as of the empire demand it. A man who is not disloyal, a man who would neither conspire nor intrigue nor fight against his sovereign lady the Queen, her crown or government, might advocate annexation in this spirit.

Some who cry out loudest against professed annexationists of every kind do so in the vain wish to burke or at least retard the inevitable decision between annexation, independence and closer federation, wishing to live on indefinitely under the gratuitous protection of Great Britain, while they put prohibitive duties on British wares; to invite British capital and British immigration to the country, while disposed to treat British settlers as outsiders and foreigners; to take British blood and money in defence of their local industries, while desiring to give their money and blood in defence of the general interests of the empire or the local interests of other parts. Give me outspoken annexationism rather than this parasitic loyalty.

If it is necessarily disloyal to advocate annexation, it is equally disloyal to advocate independence. Both mean separation from the empire. The former strikes me both as the grander destiny of these two and as more likely to secure cordiality between the great branches of our race. I therefore believe that eventually Canada will either form three or four fine States in the American Union, or will be co-ordinate with Scotland or Ireland or England in the British Empire—and the decision may be earlier than most people think.

Individuals and congregations, as well as the Provincial and City Governments, are being raided for subscriptions to jubilee projects to such an alarming degree that some of them will hold a private jubilee when the public one is over. The city councillors seem inspired with a magnificent faith in the resources or prospects of the city which should cheer the drooping spirits of tax-payers and make them forget their selfish fears of private bankruptcy.

I have no particular objection to make against the sum promised the proposed art school. This is an intelligent scheme to meet a public want, and it is being promoted with admirable public spirit by ladies and gentlemen who have nothing personally to gain from its establishment. Indeed from an economic standpoint it is perhaps more justifiable to expend public money, whether of a city or a province, upon technical and art education than upon instruction in Latin or French. The former expenditure is likely to increase the aggregate wealth of the people more, to bring higher wages to many workers, and to give added value to many manufactured articles.

This is not only the jubilee year of the Queen's reign but the centennial year of the Nova Scotia Anglican episcopate, which was the first established of existing colonial bishoprics. The Church in England will hold special services in commemoration of this event. Would not the giving of a chaplaincy to the Queen, or even of an honorary canonry, to some Nova Scotian divine be a fit and gracious compliment to the clergy of the Province in this year of royal and ecclesiastical jubilee?

The cost of either gift to the Queen or her Government would be nothing or next to nothing, and yet it would be keenly appreciated by the church

in Nova Scotia. If no clergyman having a cure of souls in this Province is in a position to discharge the light annual duties pertaining to such a post, could not some Nova Scotian parson resident in England be found who would be a fitting recipient of the honor?

Not long ago there appeared in an English paper, under the heading "A Race of Church Workers," a notice that the Rev. Rupert Cochrane, Rector of Langton in Lincolnshire, had just completed the 133rd year of his family's service to the church. "His grandfather gave 43 years of his life to the work, his father 56 years, he himself 34 years." His grandfather was the Rev. Dr. William Cochrane, the venerated Vice-President of King's College; and his father the Rev. Canon Cochrane, Incumbent of Trinity Church in this city; while he himself was ordained in the Province. Would not such a Nova Scotian, albeit benefited in England, be a worthy representative of our Provincial clergy, and a fit recipient of any good-will offering tendered to the Church in those parts in this memorable year?

SNARLER.

COMMERCIAL.

The weather during the past week has been unusually inclement—snow, hail, rain and fog alternately nearly all the time—and has seriously retarded the course of trade, so that little has been accomplished.

A heavy snowstorm in lower Quebec and northern New Brunswick, on Friday night and Saturday last, blocked up the railway so that trains have been unable to get through, and a further heavy fall on Sunday night and Monday further piled up "the beautiful" over long miles of dreary waste. The "fast" mail train from the Upper Provinces that should have arrived here on Saturday in the forenoon with passengers and mails to sail by the steamer from England, did not arrive in time, having become "fast" in the snowdrifts along the St. Lawrence. The "Peruvian" was delayed, in the hope that the train would arrive, from Saturday noon—her advertised time of sailing—till Tuesday morning. Then, the postal authorities having ascertained that the train was "somewhere" between Trois Pistoles and Rivière du Loup, the steamer was allowed to proceed without further delay.

We utterly disclaim the slightest desire or taste for captious fault-finding, and are willing to give full force to and allowance for the plea of weather detention; still it strikes us, that, if the Intercolonial was properly equipped or its managers alive to their duties, much of this delay could have been prevented. This railway has been now completed many years, and everyone knows that certain sections are subject to snow blockades every winter and spring. Though a great deal is said every year about building snowsheds in these sections, nothing is done. Then, if the railway had enough snowploughs and, if what it had were promptly brought out, the blockade would not, could not, have become as bad as it is. This is proved to be a fact by the trains on the Maine railways, where they had about as much snow as there has been on the I. C. R., forcing their way through all right.

Mattheson, Harley & Co., wholesale and retail dry goods, suspended payment and assigned a few days ago. Their liabilities are stated to be about \$34,000, but no statement of their assets has as yet been made public. About half of their liabilities are preferred in their deed of assignment. This failure will surprise no one, for it has long been discounted, from the time some months since, when one of the strongest partners—financially speaking—withdrew from the concern, taking with him what he could secure of his capital. It is an open secret that when they ordered spring goods, conditions were demanded with which they did not find it convenient to comply.

One of our largest coal and shipping houses is reported to be in straightened circumstances; owing, it is said, to New York complications on the part of the senior partner of the local branch. It is uncertain as yet how they will pull out, but their creditors are strongly inclined to take measures to guard their own interests as far as possible.

Neither of the two incidents noted above are likely to disturb the satisfactory progress of general business here, and we can see no present reason for modifying our confidence in the near future, and in our anticipation of a large and profitable spring and summer trade being done.

The management of the street railway has determined to run a branch which will leave the main line on Barrington Street at Bell's Lane, and running down to Upper Water Street, will proceed through that and Granville Streets till it forms a junction with the branch running down George and through Hollis Street. The preliminary surveys have been made, and the work of construction will proceed as soon as possible—probably in a very few days.

The excavation for the dry dock is nearly completed to the projected depth. The contractor is pushing the work with his accustomed vigor, and means, barring accidents, to finish it within the time allowed him.

The demolition of the old Dalhousie College building has been begun, preparatory to the erection of the new City Hall.

Building operations will be extensively conducted in the coming summer, but principally on public institutions, so that there will be plenty of occupation for labor. Still it will not be advisable for laborers from the country to come here seeking for work, as we have enough men here to do all that is to be done without the importation of any.

The immediate effect of the new license act has been to intensify the dullness of trade about the city, incident to this season of year, without decreasing to the slightest appreciable degree the consumption of liquors. The effect in this regard is, so far, bad; for, while some few persons are undoubtedly prevented from small indulgences because they cannot buy a pint or more at a time, many others do buy more than they otherwise would. Rentals are also seriously depressed by its workings, as many