

indirect taxation lasts it will be found quite impracticable. It is yet too soon to assume that Confederation is a failure, but high time to enquire if the constitution cannot be revised in the direction of fairness. It would be a very decided improvement to increase the grant to the Provinces and make them do more for themselves. As matters now stand, with caucuses in No. 3 and No. 5 to be reckoned with, it is not reasonable to expect even-handed justice from the Government. By the way, in what room is it that the Ontario members meet to consult on the weal of this Province?

THE PROJECTED BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

A CORRESPONDENT "has his say out" in another column on the subject of the proposed "Tinpot University," concerning which there has been so much discussion of late. The bill has passed the legislature, and we presume is likely to be carried out, but from all we can learn, a large proportion of the Baptist body are unfavourable to the project, and some of them are actually up in arms against it. Their account of the matter is that one or two professors who are very desirous of obtaining the power to confer degrees have resorted to a regular system of "bulldozing," and have prematurely forced the scheme on the Baptist body before the latter have had time to give the question due consideration. Whether the Baptists want the university or not, the scheme is one which, in the interests of higher education in Ontario, ought to be severely discouraged. We have been wont to pique ourselves on the value of our Canadian university degrees. We shall be able to do so no longer if this degree-conferring power is conceded to all sorts of minor educational academies. The latter have an abundance of useful and legitimate work to do. Let them stick to it, and not arrogate to themselves work for which they are unfitted, and which nobody desires to see them perform.

MONTREAL FLOODS.

"Of moving accidents by flood and"—folly, the Montreal dispatches again inform us. One of the surest signs of permanent spring is the annual recurrence of the Montreal floods. They return as faithfully as the redbreast or the hepatica, but are not so enthusiastically welcomed. The real City Fathers of Montreal not long since ordered prayers to be said in all the churches to avert the expected calamity; but the devastation along the river-shore once more proves that "faith without works is dead," and that "God helpeth those who help themselves." In the ordinary course of natural operations, it may be annually assumed that the Lord will provide spring floods in the vicinity of the city of Montreal, and that it will require a great amount of ingenuity and labour on the part of the citizens to prevent those floods from overwhelming a large portion of their centre. A great annual expenditure of scientific and sympathetic talking and writing occurs, but the wind thus created is of no avail against the tide of water. It is surely time for some practical steps to be taken, if only in the direction of experiment. In an endeavour to effect some lasting solution of the difficulty, convict labour might be used to advantage. The Montreal floods are a disgrace to Canada.

THE CRUCIFIX BILL.

THE Crucifix Bill has been wisely withdrawn. The fact that a large majority of the inhabitants of the Province of Quebec regard the Crucifix as a sacred emblem does not warrant its use in the Law Courts, where others who do not recognize its sanctified power will be compelled to swear by it. The Bible may be used by both Roman Catholics and Protestants without any difference of belief or opinion as to the sacred character of the oath; but to Protestants the act of lifting the hand before a crucifix would be both meaningless and repugnant. In many Roman Catholic communities oaths have been made upon the relics of saints or the Bishop's crozier; but the peculiar halidome of England is a copy of the New Testament, and there seems to be no reason adduced why this should not continue to be used in all British Courts of law by British subjects who believe in the Christian religion. Suppose a native should agitate for a form of oath in Indian law courts, such as swearing on the head of a tiger, or by the holy water of the Ganges, is it likely such an innovation would be forced on Protestant witnesses? Yet there would be as much reason in its favour. There must be some limit placed to the spread of French Canadian intolerance.

CHRISTIAN CONSISTENCY.

IT is not possible for persons in Toronto who desire to attend a church at some distance from home to obtain a conveyance on Sundays. They must either give up their particular place of worship or tire themselves out with long walks backward and forward. On the other hand any number of idle loafers and pleasure-seeking parties may cross and recross the water to and from the Island on Sunday. Is this consistent? Is it more wicked to travel on land than on water? Is driving a street-car a more sacrilegious action than propelling a steam-boat? There seems to be some wide error of judgment somewhere in the present system of Sunday travelling.

WAR OR PEACE.

STILL rumours of war. War scents every breeze in Europe and whole provinces are turned into camping grounds. Italy, as poor as Ireland, and not so populous as England boasts two millions of men ready to take up arms. All are trying to hide the tremors of fear with an over-loud assumption of valour, for none knows how soon a mine may be sprung that will shatter the whole political system of Europe. England alone looks quietly on, strengthens her fleet, and celebrates her Jubilee. We ought to be happy here, where the tax-gatherer sometimes goes to bed and the conscription is unknown. Yet there are signs that seem hopeful to the lovers of peace even now. The nations are more ready to arm and make ready for war than to declare it. The load of taxation is almost intolerable in France, and her free institutions will before long allow the voice of the over-burdened taxpayer to be heard. If France disarms, Germany and Italy will follow the example, and the chief danger to the peace of Europe will be the attitude of Russia and Austria. Then, the peace of Europe will depend on the will of one man, reported to be partly insane and liable at any moment to lose his power and his crown along with his life.