Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 1888.

VICTORIA'S DETRACTORS.

The *News-Advertiser* of Vancouver, in its lumbering way, misrepresents our position with respect to visitors to Victoria who come to it for the express purpose of finding fault with it and placing it before the world in a false light. We can assure our very heavy contemporary that we are not by any means disposed to be "angry" with those who tell the truth about this city. We have no objection in the world to fair and honest criticism. But we do object to the false and flimsy statements made by tourists who, influenced by those who envy the wealth, the business importance, and the progress of Victoria, do their best to decry and belittle it. If this city were what its blatant enemies, the *News-Advertiser* among the rest, wish the world to believe it to be, a poor, tumble-down, deserted village, in which nothing is done, without trade and without industries, they would not spend so much of their time crying it down. But it is because it does a flourishing business which is steadily and rapidly growing in spite of all that has been said and done against it, and because it refuses to bow to the idol of their worship that those who are trying, and trying in vain, to be the rivals of its business men, seem never to be weary of spreading the grossest falsehoods about its business and its inhabitants. If the citizens of Victoria placed their necks under the feet of the magnates of the Canadian Pacific Railway, if they did all their business with the East by means of the railway under their management, and through the medium of the merchants of Eastern Canada, the sycophants, the tale-bearers and the romancers of the C. P. R. might have, now and then, a good word to say for Victoria. But as the Victoria merchants assert their independence of that intolerant monopoly, they are bound to effect their ruin if it can be accomplished by the most persistent lying and the most outrageous misrepresentation. But the merchants of this city conduct their business in the way that best suits their own interests and the welfare of the province. They carry on their trade with Great Britain principally by sea. At the present moment there are no fewer than nine vessels in berth and on the way in the trade between Victoria and England. They are the:—

Argylshire, from London, (just arrived.)
Viola, London.
Antrim, Marysport.
Æthelberth, Liverpool.
Meunock, London.
Thomas S. Stowe, Liverpool.
Paul, London.
Wanlock, London.
Dois Brodersen, Liverpool.

These ships have an estimated capacity of over ten thousand tons. This is a most satisfactory showing and proves to a demonstration what we have in these columns always maintained, that Victoria is the business centre and main distributing point for the whole province. It also shows that Victoria is not suffering from the competition of the very boastful towns that have been recently established in the province and that it is not going to the dogs because it has not been made the ocean terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. We may say in passing that the cargoes of these nine ships, although they are to be landed in this port, are required for the general trade of the country and will be distributed by its merchants as required by the traders throughout the province.

If some of the places in which so much time is spent in traducing Victoria had a tithe of this foreign trade there would be no end to their boasting. Their great and growing foreign trade would have a prominent place in every prospectus, and, would be used as a means of booming the trade in town lots by which a community not a thousand miles from where we write expects to make itself rich. It was only the other day that the *News-Advertiser* referred with a bray of rejoicing to a report that a vessel had been placed on the berth in London for Vancouver direct. Our contemporary declared that this fact pointed to the release of the Mainland from the thraldom of Victoria merchants. But it will not appear very strange to those who are acquainted with the ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain of the boomsters of the Mainland, that the name of the mythical vessel was not given, and we have not been able to find out from any source on this side of the Atlantic that there is a vessel loading, or that there is any prospect of one being loaded, for that port direct. Indeed it is pretty well established that there is no vessel on the berth at London for the port of Vancouver. We are inclined to the opinion that if any of our neighbors placed the least faith in the *News-Advertiser's* statement, which is perhaps not very likely, they will be grievously disappointed.

Those who take a delight in contemning and abusing Victoria and everything and every person connected with it, will not be comforted to find that the indications are that Victoria will be in the future, as she has been in the past, the centre of the foreign trade of British Columbia. Our merchants, we are quite satisfied, have intelligence, enterprise and energy enough to retain the advantage they have gained. They will not misuse their position in such a way as to jeopardize the control they have gained of this special trade or that of the province in general. They have too enlightened a regard for their own true interests to endanger it by exacting unreasonable prices or by placing such impositions on the consumers of the province as would be calculated to cause dissatisfaction or even complaint. They will, we have every reason to conclude, by fair and honorable dealing, and by making the best use of the situation of Victoria from a mercantile point of view, keep it in the high position relatively to the other towns of the province which she has so long occupied.

We have a few parting words to say to the detractors of Victoria. They should try to realize that they can never elevate themselves by trying to drag down their neighbors, that bragging is not enterprize, and that booming is very frequently a ruinous misdirection of energy. These are very poor substitutes for persevering legitimate industry and a pious determination unswervingly to mind one's own business.

A LONGER TERM.

Intelligent men in the United States, now that the election is over, are beginning to count the cost of the struggle for the presidency. They find that what with loss of time, misdirection of energy, uncertainty as to the future and the interruption of business everywhere, the election just ended has cost the people of the United States not less than five hundred millions of dollars. This is the calculation, not of visionaries who dislike republican institutions, but of practical men who look upon the American form of government as the best on earth. Mr. Chauncey Depew is one of these and no one suspects his loyalty to republicanism. He said to a representative of the New York *Herald*: "The cost to the country of the presidential election is almost incalculable. It has far exceeded anything ever dreamed of by the founders of the constitution and accumulates with each election. The only possible good the disbursement of the vast sums which are expended is that the money circulates and is distributed and is not lost. But for the much larger sum which is permanently lost by the stoppage of business and labor there is no compensation." The *Herald* shows that the expense of the presidential election amounts to many times more than the whole internal business of the country in 1787. A hundred years ago all the business of all the States did not aggregate more than $30,000,000. This year the expenses of the presidential election are computed to be $500,000,000. The remedy proposed for this immense waste of treasure and energy is to lengthen the presidential term to six or eight years. The longer term is preferred to the shorter. The political advantages of a long term are said to be considerable, and the disadvantages and dangers very few. It is likely that this is one of the questions that will come up for discussion in the States during Mr. Harrison's term. It does not seem necessary that the Republic should be convulsed from one end to the other every four years to elect a President. If the term were doubled the people would be saved much harmful agitation, business would not be discouraged and the administration of public affairs would, as far as we can see, go on quite as regularly and quite as safely as it does now. But the Americans tell us it is not for Canadians to find fault, for we have general elections every four years which are to us what the presidential election is to the people of the United States. This is not exactly the case. And, anyhow, we take things much more easily than they do on the other side of the border.

THE QUEENSLAND DIFFICULTY.

The refusal of the most active of the Queensland politicians to accept Sir H. A. Blake as Governor is but the sequel to a long and bitter disagreement which they had with their late Governor. Sir Anthony Musgrave was Sir H. A. Blake's predecessor. During the last days of his administration he had a lively and very serious dispute with his constitutional advisers. In March last a man named Kitts was tried for stealing a pair of boots from his employer's shop in Townsville north Queensland. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years penal servitude. Application was made to the Government by the friends of the condemned man and the Minister, recommended his release. The Governor, after consulting the judge who tried the case, would not pardon the man. The Ministry, after deliberating upon the matter for some time, again urged Kitt's release in a more formal manner. The Governor, not thinking the reasons they gave sufficiently strong, again disregarded the advice of his cabinet. The Premier believing that a very important principle was involved, tendered his own resignation and that of his colleagues. The Governor consulted the leader of the Opposition, who declined the task of forming a new government, saying at the same time that, in his opinion, there was no need for the resignation of the Government. The Governor cabled for instructions from the Colonial Office. But the Premier insisted on the resignation of the Government being accepted at once. He would not wait for Lord Knutsford's decision declaring that he did not care a straw what it might be. The decision of the Colonial Secretary was adverse to the Governor. So the Premier, Sir Thomas McIlwraith, had his way. Sir Anthony Musgrave died soon after the defeat, and this is how Sir H. A. Blake came to be appointed. It will be seen from this that the Queensland Government is hard-headed and stiff-necked, and not by any means disposed to recede from any position which it takes. It must not be thought that Sir Anthony Musgrave declined to act upon the advice of his Minister, from mere caprice. He considered he had both right and law on his side. He was convinced from the representations made to him by the judge who tried the case that Kitts deserved the punishment he received, and he considered that the prerogative of mercy is inherent in the Crown and can be used independently of the ministry. He states in his memorandum that it was always, until the present reign, exercised by the sovereign in person; that though a change had been made recently, it is accounted for by the fact that the present sovereign is a woman. Her Majesty is advised, not by the Cabinet or the Prime Minister as leader or member of a political party, but by the Home Secretary as one of her confidential Secretaries of State. But the Premier did not, or would not, comprehend these legal subtleties. He considered that the Governor in the matter of pardon, as well as in all others, was bound to act according to the advice of his responsible Ministers, and he held that it would be quite as unconstitutional for him to disregard their advice with respect to the building of a bridge or the construction of a railway as in the withholding of a pardon which they recommended. Constitutional lawyers will, we think, differ as to which had the right in this dispute, but the disagreement and its result show that the Governor of Queensland, whoever he may be, will occupy a difficult position. Sir Anthony Musgrave's forty years' experience did not prevent his coming to a deadlock with his advisers, and Sir H. A. Blake, unexperienced as he is, would hardly have a more stormy time than his veteran predecessor. The Queenslanders have been of late very hard to manage. They have refused to be a party to the arrangement by which the Australian colonies agree to contribute towards their own defence, and they kicked very vigorously in the New Guinea and the New Caledonia affairs. We see that, notwithstanding the dark prospect before him, Sir H. A. Blake is willing to accept the governorship of the quarrelsome colony, and the Colonial Office shows no disposition to yield in this matter of the governorship. We are therefore likely to hear a good deal more about Queensland before very long.

A CLEVER ARRANGEMENT.

The Republicans have no sooner attained power in the United States than they set about devising to make their tenure of office permanent. They find by the late election that they have very little to boast of, a few votes comparatively in a few States would place power and office in the hands of their opponents. To prevent this they are going to create a number of States which are, in their opinion, certain to be Republican. They do not wish to be at the mercy of New York and Indiana, which are capricious, and which, at the next election, may return Democratic majorities. Washington Territory, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota have for some time been knocking at the door of the Union, but through the jealousy of the Democrats have been refused admission. Now it is believed that the Republicans have a majority of between six and eleven in the House of Representatives, so there will be nothing to hinder these territories being endowed with all the privileges and powers of States. This will give the Republican Party, as its leaders calculate, at least fifteen sure votes in the Electoral College. Mr. Hermann, one of the representatives of Oregon in Congress, said a few days ago to a New York *Herald* reporter:

"One of the first things they will do will be to make several new States. They will admit Dakota, probably as two States, thus giving us four more Senators and perhaps six new representatives. Montana, too, is ready for admission, and there we will have two more Senators and a Representative. Then Washington Territory, which with Oregon, has gone heavily Republican, wants to come in, and has enough population for it; and there we get still another pair of Senators, with one and perhaps two Representatives. This will make the party so strong that there can be nothing to fear from the solid South for years to come."

However, "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft aglee," and there is no telling what may happen in the course of the next four years.

CALMED DOWN.

Now that the Presidential election is over Senator Frye has calmed down wonderfully. He shows no disposition to twist the lion's tail; he seems rather inclined to deal gently with the animal whose very appearance rassed his ire to such a pitch a few short weeks ago. He pats him and smoothes him down in a mild and most conciliatory fashion. His impression is now "that we are not going to have much trouble with the fisheries. Canada will now arrive deliberately at the conclusion that we mean to deal fairly and justly." Canada was never in the least discomposed by Senator Frye's fire-eating speeches. She knew exactly what they meant and was quite satisfied that though there was a great deal of bark in the noisy, irate Senator there was no bite. The speech which he made the other day in Lewiston, after the result of the election was well-known, shows that Canada was perfectly right in her estimate of Senator Frye's violent utterances. He now suggests, not war with all its terrors, but a very harmless kind of a reciprocity. He says:

"I think the true policy to pursue touching that question is to allow Canada to name the privileges she shall enjoy in our ports. If she wishes the right to tranship, she must concede it to us. If she desires her fishermen to buy supplies in our ports, she must extend the same right to our fishermen in her ports. If she wishes to buy bait here, she must allow us to do the same thing there. All this can be easily provided for under existing laws. This is no retaliation nor manifestation of an unfriendly spirit. It is simply allowing her to measure her own privileges."

Just so. When Canadian fishermen want to tranship their fish in American ports, when they run into them to buy supplies and to purchase bait, they will be quite willing to concede the same privileges to American fishermen in Canadian waters. But Canadian fishermen never enter United States ports for these purposes. They want no favors from Americans that they are not ready to extend to the fishermen sailing under their flag. This has been the case all along, and it is hard to believe that Senator Frye did not know it. If Canadian fishermen required anything in American ports such a reciprocity would be quite fair, but as they never by any chance need to use American ports for anything but shelter, and not often for that, his reciprocity would not be reciprocity at all, but a one-sided arrangement by which the Americans would get everything and the Canadians nothing. But is pleasant to see that the fiery Senator has so greatly cooled off already. When once Mr. Harrison is securely seated in the presidential chair and the Republican party have command of the ship of state for four years at the least, there are good grounds for believing that he will become even more moderate and consent to a fair common-sense adjustment of the fishery difficulty. This is all that Canadians have ever required.

WHAT STRIKES COST.

Some figures published by the Bureau of Statistics of labor for the State of New York show that strikes are very costly things. They result in loss both to workmen and employers. But the workmen feel the loss most keenly. A month without work means to many workmen much anxiety and actual suffering. It means deprivation to their families of much that they need, and from every point of view it is, as the figures show, an exceedingly costly way of settling labor difficulties. It is no wonder that the most thoughtful men of the labor organizations have come to took upon a strike as a last resort, only to be tried after every means of amicable settlement has failed. There were in the State of New York last year 1,604 strikes. Of these 694 were successful and 696 unsuccessful; 190 were compromised and 24 were left undecided. According to these statistics the chances of a strike's failing were a little greater than of its being successful. These 694 successful strikes cost the workpeople of the state $2,013,229 in loss of wages and it is hard to say how much in trouble and suffering that cannot be counted in dollars and cents. The labor organizations paid out $217,070 as relief to the people on strike. The loss to the employers is computed to be $1,102,577. This makes the strikes of the year to cost $3,332,876, two-thirds of which were borne by the work-people. The advantage gained in the shape of increased wages is calculated to be $944,633. The number who benefitted by this was 11,472 persons while the total number on strike was 50,726. This shows that not quite one-fourth of the hands on strike were benefitted by the contests with employers. The other three-fourths, after their loss of wages and all the suffering which that implies, had to go back to work without gaining one single cent. This shows that strikes in New York State, at any rate, do not pay. In loss of wages and for relief the strikes cost the working class $2,230,299. Not quite one-fourth of the strikers gained $944,633, making a clear loss of $1,285,666, and then more than three-fourths of the strikers did not receive the least benefit. We should say that these statistics give a rather favorable view of the result of strikes everywhere. They are exceedingly expensive and the gain, when there is gain, is only partial. In view of these facts it seems reasonable that labor combinations should seek for some better way of settling labor disputes than by strikes. There are a few hot-headed agitators who are not too fond of work themselves, who are ready on the slightest provocation to try to persuade their steady and prudent fellow-workmen to go on strike. Mr. Powderly and men of his standing seeing that these agitators are the workmen's worst enemies do not hesitate to warn workingmen against them. Thinking men now know what a strike costs and they are slow to advise men to throw down their tools to face the hardships and privations of voluntary idleness.

PAUPER LABOR.

People talk of the "pauper labor of Europe" without attaching any very clear or definite idea to the expression. Many people have a notion that labor is very cheap on the other side of the Atlantic, but how cheap it is or how long the people work to gain the pittance they receive very few can tell. A commission which was appointed to enquire into the condition of the laboring classes in Holland obtained information on this subject which shows how miserable must be the condition of the working people of at least one European country. Long hours and low wages were known to be the rule in Germany, Russia, France and Italy, but in Holland the hours appear to be longer and the pay lower than in any other country of Europe. There are in Holland a great many small establishments insufficiently equipped and they have to compete with large concerns where the work is done most economically. In order to keep up the little factories the hands must work for beggarly wages. Although protective duties are high in Holland the home competition is so great that the wages of the laborer are now down to the starvation point. The hours too are long, the average day for the great majority of the factories is from 13 to 14 hours. In the flax industry a grown-up man earns 4 cents an hour, and in special cases $4\frac{1}{2}$. Allowing the day to be fourteen hours this man, who has most likely a family depending on him, earns from 56 to 63 cents a day, or from $3.36 to $3.78 a week. A woman in the same industry gets 3 cents an hour and children from $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents to 2 cents. A young person in an Amsterdam bakery gets two cents. an hour and a man four cents., and in some of the larger establishments six cents. In paper factories the wages of a man are 5 cents an hour and of a woman $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents. In sugar refineries men get 6 cents. an hour, and the highest wage in the country is $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents. an hour. This is 91 cents. a day of fourteen hours and $5.46 a week. The average income of a Dutch workman who works ten hours a day and is in constant employment amounts to the insignificant sum of $180 a year. How a family is to be maintained on that pittance must be a constant puzzle to the unhappy worker. Life with him must be a constant struggle with want. Some of the workpeople are actually paupers. A man with a family of a wife and two children, who was paid only $2.40 a week wages, had to receive 60 cents. a week from a charitable fund to be able to live. Although the Dutch laborer gets so little for his work the proportion paid for labor in the selling price of the articles he produces is greater than in countries where labor receives a much higher rate of remuneration. It does not appear that Government has been able to do much for the unfortunate Duch worker. The circumstances of the country are such that he must work for extremely low wages or get no employment at all.

A runner named Matthew Kilpatrick, employed in the Union Colliery, Comox, was jammed between a coal box and the wall of the slope a few days ago, receiving dangerous injuries.

PROHIBITION IN THE NORTHWEST.

The Northwest Assembly has agreed to submit the question of prohibition or license to the people at the polls. The nature of the prohibition or the limit to the license is not defined. The people will be required to vote upon the bare principle, yes or no. This is of not so much consequence as the vote of itself is decide nothing but, as we understand it, is to be little more than a guide to legislators. The vote of the people of the Territories is to be regarded as a whole. This over an area of such vast extent may be awkward. There may, for instance, be a large majority in Assiniboia for license, while the larger number of the population of Alberta may favor prohibition. It seems rather hard to fasten prohibition on Assiniboia against the will of the majority of its inhabitants or to force the settlers in Alberta to submit to license when they would much rather have prohibition. The circumstances of the Territories are peculiar. They are united now merely for convenience sake. In a very few years each province will have a Government of its own and it does seem a little hard, while the provinces are only temporarily united, to force one province to submit to the decision of another in such an important matter as the regulation of the liquor traffic. It is just possible, however, that the majority of all the provinces will arrive at the same decision. If it is prohibition it must be a very different sort of prohibition than that which has been in force in the territories for many years. That system has been a most signal failure. It has not prohibited. The trouble with liquor laws, whether prohibitive or not, have hitherto been that they have not been stringently enforced. It is to be hoped that the liquor law, whatever is may be, to be enacted for the Northwest will be faithfully and rigorously carried out. If it is a good law the people will then derive all the benefit from it that it is capable of conferring. If it is a bad law its strict enforcement will make its evils manifest and cause a new and better one to be enacted. A law which cannot be made to work is worse than no law at all.

STILL FORMIDABLE.

The anarchists are far from being dead in the United States. They form a large and well-organized body actively preparing to make war upon existing social and governmental institutions. They have their missionaries everywhere, and are untiring in the propagation of their principles. Inspector Bonfield of Chicago, who makes looking after the anarchists a special branch of his department, says that they have Sunday Schools in which children are taught to hate law and the officers of the law, and in which they are made to believe that resort to violence of the most deadly and treacherous kind is perfectly justifiable, indeed the most effective means to attain the objects which anarchists have in view. The anarchists are hopeful. They believe that the day in which they will be able to act according to their principles is not so far off as many who live in fancied security imagine. Bonfield says to his personal knowledge there are five thousand anarchists in Chicago ready and organized waiting for the appointed time. The lesson which the Hay-Market outrage has taught them is not to induce them to abandon their principles as dangerous to themselves as well as to society, but merely to be more cautious in their propagation. They have their meetings and take good care to keep just within the law. This man, who knows more about their organization and their objects than any one in America not a leading anarchist, declares that trouble must come sooner or later. "They have," he says, "a day set for it at headquarters, but in the meantime they will avail themselves of every opportunity to carry out their object which is the destruction of all organized law and order institutions." The one hundredth anniversary of the fall of the Bastile has been agreed upon as the day for the concerted uprising, not only in the United States but in other countries. The anarchists are strongest in France; Germany comes next, the British Islands third, and they are weakest, but still quite formidable, in the United States and Mexico. It seems to us that Inspector Bonfield attaches too much importance to the plottings of anarchists on this side of the Atlantic. In the United States and Canada the people, as a whole, are too well off to pay much attention to the teachings of anarchists, and they have a horror of their methods. This was seen after the Chicago outrage. Nowhere in the world could the dynamitards meet with less sympathy, and in no other country could they be more severely treated. The demand for their immediate punishment was loud and it was universal. The people of the United States then showed that they were determined not to allow anarchy a foothold in their country. They gave the anarchists to understand in the clearest manner that the men who resorted to assassination to accomplish their objects would be shown no quarter in the United States. In no country of Europe could their crime have excited deeper and more general indignation or be punished with greater severity than in that in which the people are sovereign. If the provocation had been greater, the probability is that the people of the United States would not have waited for the slow process of law to punish the bomb-throwers. They would have applied to the anarchists their own principles, and would have strung up not only the men who had been apprehended, but all whom they had good reason to suspect to be connected with the criminals. The disposition shown by the people of the United States must have convinced every reflecting observer that the time is far distant when anarchy can gain a foothold in that country. For many a long year to come anarchy will be an exotic on this side of the Atlantic. The great bulk of those who profess its creed and approve of its practices will be importations from Europe, and many even of these will, as they acquire property, drop away from them. The man who has a balance to his credit in the banks, who owns a house and lot, or a farm and stock becomes, it may be unconsciously, conservative and law-abiding. He wants to enjoy what he has earned and he desires that his children after him shall peaceably possess what he is able to leave them. The rant of the anarchists and socialists becomes distasteful to him and he is before very long, found in the ranks of the upholders of law and the lovers of order. When standing room for its inhabitants becomes scarce on this continent then there may be some danger from anarchy, but as long as there is land enough for those who choose to cultivate it and as long as the workingman can earn enough for his own support and, if he is frugal, temperate and provident, be able to lay something by for a rainy day, the peaceable inhabitants of America will have little to fear from anarchy and anarchists.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSION.

The work of the Special Commission goes on slowly. The object of the *Times* counsel, so far, appears to be to connect the outrages that have been committed in Ireland during the last few years with the National League. For this purpose a large number of witnesses have been examined, with what result will appear later on. To the outside public the proceedings of the Commission are by no means interesting. What the British people expected the Commission to find out within a reasonable time was whether Mr. Parnell and his associates were implicated in the murders and other outrages committed in Ireland. Very little has as yet apparently been done towards accomplishing this object. In popular opinion it is not the National League that is on its trial, but Mr. Parnell and the other Home Rule agitators. Even if it is proved that the League is directly or indirectly responsible for much of the agrarian crime committed in Ireland, the complicity of the Home Rule leaders is about as far as ever from being demonstrated. It was expected that the prosecution would proceed without delay to prove that the letters which bore Parnell's signature are genuine. If it were once shown that the Irish leader was mixed up in murders, or was so intimate with the murderers as to make his complicity in them a certainty of the next thing to a certainty, there would be no need for the *Times* to prove anything else. Whether the National League connived at the crimes or not, would be a matter of indifference to the English public. Englishmen are concerned to know whether Parnell and his associates are guilty of the crimes laid to their charge by the *Times* in its articles on Parnellism and Crime. What part the Natfonal League as a body has taken in the agitation is to them a matter of comparative indifference. As the commission has done little or nothing in the way of proving the charges made against the Irish leaders personally, the English public are disappointed and are losing their interest in the proceedings of the commission. Those proceedings bid fair to take up a great deal of time and to be enormously expensive. Part of the expense must be borne by Mr. Parnell and his friends, and it is not in accordance with British ideas of fair play to compel men who may have been guilty of no offence against the law of the land, to be compelled to incur ruinous expenses in order to prove their innocence. The course which the commission are pursuing may be the only one open to them, or it may be the one best calculated to attain the end proposed, but to the unprofessional observer it appears to be an exceedingly roundabout way to accomplish an apparently simple purpose.

THE EXAMINATION PLAGUE.

The evils of examinations are becoming so great that men of learning and practical educationists have considered their duty publicly to protest against them. The protest appears in the *Nineteenth Century* for November, and is signed by such men as Froude, Freeman, Lubbock, Frederick Harrison, Max Muller, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Sir Henry Thompson and many others, both men and women eminent in science and literature. They complain that examinations are made the end of education and are doing much harm to the minds and the bodies of the youth of the country. "It is enough," the Protesters say, "now to affirm the moral effect of the system, viewed broadly, is distinctly bad. We have made of our education a body without a soul. Our misdirected efforts result in a *corruptio optimi*. They point to the many brilliant young men who leave the universities as the great prize winners and do little or nothing in after years. Everyone has seen these most promising young men and has wondered how it is that they cut so poor a figure in after life. College seems to have taken all the intellectual vigor they possessed out of them. They have expended all their energy in absorbing and they have none left for utilizing what they have learned. The chief end of man was to them to prepare for answering questions, and when there were no more questions to be answered their occupation appeared to be gone. The British Government is to a very great extent responsible for the hurtful prominence which is now given in all educational institutions, from the highest to the lowest, to examinations. It has introduced a system of examinations for the civil service by which the attention of the candidate is directed, not to the duties he is to perform after his appointment, but to the lessons he must learn and the examinations he must pass in order to be in a position to obtain the appointment. This evil is not forgotten by the eminent Protesters. "We protest against the assigning of Government positions by competion—a system which sets an evil example throughout the country *and which does not ensure the choice of the most fit*. That the Government should required a high class of knowledge and attainment from those seeking for its appointments is reasonable; but the difficulties which attend the selection should not be allowed to bring upon upon us in wholesale fashion (though indirectly) the great evils which result from competitive examinations." The Protesters would have students seek knowledge for its own sake. They would have young men and young women educated with a view to the duties they will have to perform in life, and not as if they were so many human parrots. They say: "We can only hope that with the abolition of the class and prize system there will grow a much more delicate appreciation than exists at present of the subtle influence, both for good and evil, of education; and that the easy credulity with which this generation has placed 'book learning' before a careful training of the senses and higher faculties, may slowly give way to truer views." Every man and woman who has anything to do with education should read this protest. The examination system has been stupidly taken up by educationists, on whom it was not forced by law, and children and students have been crammed by their teachers instead of being educated.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

Although the vote has been taken and the result ascertained, the President of the United States is not yet elected. A very important part of the business has yet to be performed. As most of our readers know, the electors on the 6th of the present month did not vote directly for the President. They voted for Electors who, according to a form which has now become a fiction, are to select the man who is to be the President of the United States. The object of the founder of the Republic was to lift the election of President and Vice-President above the passions of party strife. It was thought that the electors chosen would be non-partizan, and that they would be better judges of the qualifications necessary to make a man a good president or vice-president than the average voter. Each state is is entitled to as many Presidential Electors as it has senators and representatives in Congress. It was very soon found that it was impracticable to carry out the idea of the framers of the constitution. The electoral college after Washington's first term became quite as partisan as the people themselves, but before the end of his second term the electoral tickets were nominated and supported as partisans, and the whole theory of electors exercising any discretion in voting for President and Vice-President expired with the contest between Adams and Jefferson in 1796; so to-day they are correctly described as mere party ministers or trustees without discretion when elected beyond casting the Presidential vote of the States which elected them. The electors do not even faithfully represent the constituencies which delegated to them the power of voting for the President for they completely ignore the minority of the State however large it may be. It can be understood how under such a system the candidate of the minority of the people of the United States can have a majority of the votes of the Presidential electors. This has taken place more than once. The St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, writing on the subject, says:

"John Quincy Adams was elected over Jackson in 1824 by the house although Jackson not only had a plurality of votes over Adams in the electoral college, but a plurality over Adams in the popular vote of 50,551. Under our electoral system the election of 1876 threatened to breed serious disturbance in settlement, but this was prevented by the passage by congress of the famous compromise bill which was enacted January 26 and approved by President Grant January 29, 1877. Hayes thus became president although the count in the south gave Tilden a popular majority of 157,000 and a plurality of 250,000."

It is asserted that in the election which has just taken place more votes were polled for Mr. Cleveland the unsuccessful candieate than for General Harrison, who will be declared duly elected. This can easily be accounted for by the fact that Cleveland's majorities were very large and Harrison's very small. If the whole of New York state had voted for Harrison he would not have any more or any fewer votes from that state in the electoral college than he has now when very little more than half the popular vote of the state was polled in his favor. On the other hand if in Maryland nine tenths of the electors voted for Cleveland and one-tenth against him the whole electoral vote of the state would be cast in his favor. There is no way of making his large majority in his favor in Maryland offset his small majority against him in New York. Our readers will see from this that it is quite possible for a President of the United States to be chosen by a minority the duly qualified electors. The vote of the Presidential electors is to be taken on the first Monday in January in the capitals of the several states. "When the votes are duly counted and the vote taken, the Executive of each state transmits a certificate of the electors appointed, giving their names and the canvas of the votes for each person to the Secretary of State of the United States who is required to publish such certificates and transmit copies thereof to each House of Congress at its first meeting." Congress meets on the Second Wednesday of February. Two tellers are appointed by each House to whom are handed all certificates and documents purporting to be certificates after they shall have been opened by the President of the Senate, who is the presiding officer at the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress. The tellers count the certificates. They compare the votes and declare the result to the President of the Senate, who announces the result, and such announcement is made by law a sufficient declaration of the election. If there are objections to any of the certificates, they are heard by Congress and considered by each House separately. It is quite possible for the election of a President to be made the subject of a general party fight in the Congress, and after all, as was the case in the Hayes election, to be decided inequitably. There are many in the states who are not satisfied with the way in which the the President is elected, but the question is a difficult one to handle. It is much more easy to show where it is inadequate and unfair than to suggest a feasible remedy.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The difference of climate on the east and west side of the mountain ranges is shown in a very striking manner by the telegrams from the east. Here the weather is as mild as May. There are roses still blooming in the gardens and there is no snow to be seen nearer than the Olympian mountains. In the east there have been snow storms and the thermometer has shown three degrees below zero. Here the ground is bare and the grass is green; there the surface of the country is covered with three feet of snow. There has not been more than enough frost here to nip the most tender plants; in the east the streams are frozen over and navigation is closed until the return of spring. It is difficult to believe that in the same country and under the same parallels of latitude there should be such a very great difference.

There is, we hear, a drummer in this city, representing a Montreal firm, who is trying to sell to its inhabitants prison-made carriages. Is it fair that the cheap products of prison labor should be brought into competition with the work of honest men? Government should not permit the cheaply produced work of convicts to be put on a market already overstocked with the products of factories carried on by private enterprize. It is not their place to take the bread out of the mouths of honest workmen and their families in order that prisons shall be maintained at less expense. If the work of convicts must be thrown on the market, it should not be taken out of the province in which the penitentiary is situated.

It is funny to see how little Americans, supposed to be intelligent, know about the Dominion of Canada, its institutions and its public men. The Toledo *Blade* has a wide reputation and it might be supposed that its editor would know something about the public affairs of the Great Republic's next door neighbor. Yet this is how it speaks of the Dominion Premier, who ought, one would think, to be pretty well-known by this time, to at least every newspaper editor in the United States:

The Governor-General of Canada is Sir John Macdonald, who is classed among the most astute of modern English statesmen. He made a speech at Ottawa recently, after dinner (our English kin take the intervals of filling the stomach to empty the brain—with great skill sometimes), in which he alluded to the annexation scheme. He did not advise it. He felt that it would not be congenial, in many ways, for the Queen to part with any more colonies, especially Canada. His occupation, apparently, would be gone, since his is an appointive office, and for many other good and sufficient arguments he would vote against it.

It would be hard for any men supposed to be intelligent to pack more crass ignorance in the same space than the editor of the Toledo *Blade* does in the sentences quoted above.

Gravel mining is reviving in California. The old beds of the rivers are being searched for, as it is believed they are rich in gold. "For twenty years," a California exchange says, "miners have been trying to find the ancient beds of the north fork of the American in Placer county, near Auburn. . . . . Quite recently, it is said, the old bed of the river has been found and the gravel, as expected, proves exceedingly rich. As usual, we are assured there are millions in it. We hope that they will materialize." The writer goes on to state that in the beds of the ancient rivers of the gold-bearing district there must be vast stores of gold. "The surface," he says, "has only been scratched." Deep down under the detritus of the volcanic period deposits of gravel rich in gold are to be found. "It is our business to tear away the upper cloak of lava and debris and to get at the river beds, where the precious metal was deposited by the water and lies in its gravel envelope. In a word, the gold of the future in this State bids fair to be found rather in the 'high gravels,' which must be worked by sinking and tunneling than in quartz veins.'" This theory is plausible. There is no doubt that if some of the old river beds could be found, the finder would be richly rewarded for his patience and his toil. But can they be found? Is it so easy to tear away the cloak?

Mrs. Voorhies, of New York, gives a dreadful description of the cruelty and immorality practised by some of the American residents of Alaska. She uses very strong language which is quite justified by the incidents she relates. She says: "If people realized that in the wilds of Alaskan territory this civilized, refined, advanced, nineteenth century United States holds a perfect inferno of crime and torture, where helpless women and mere children are being sacrificed and gradually exterminated. Surely some remedy ought to be found. In all that country there is no law—there can be no restraint—and the lowest animal passions of the rough miners, trappers, hunters, soldiers and sailors rage unchecked." What Mrs. Voorhies says is confirmed in a no less direct manner by other travellers. And the official reports, though discreetly worded, show that the white men in Alaska, freed from the restraints of civilized society and law promptly and impartially administered, act in the most brutal manner. The St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* shocked at the outrages that were committed in that northern country with impunity demands immediate and thorough reform. It says: "For the honor of the nation, if not for mere humanity, let the helping hand be shown. Give to this province some sort of Government. Fill it, if need be, with troops under the rigid discipline of war. Establish their courts clothed with ample power to protect the weak. Give its inhabitants representative voice at Washington under the territorial system, so that the people shall at least be heard. Though it take all the revenue that we are likely to receive from Alaska for the next half century, let us show that cruelty and rapine cannot flourish where the flag of this country waves as the symbol of hope for the oppressed. Alaska is to-day the shame of the Republic."