

Macdonald, who did so much to preserve it. We have not, indeed, their bodies. They rest more fitly in the regions where they lived and laboured; but here to-day we consecrate their memory and their example. We know nothing of party politics in Canada on this occasion. We only recognize this—that Sir John A. Macdonald had grasped the central idea that the British Empire is the greatest secular agency for good now known to mankind; that was the secret of his success, and that he determined to die under it and strove that Canada should live under it. It is a custom, I have heard, in the German army that when new colours are presented to a regiment the German Emperor first, and then the Princes and Chiefs in their order each drive a nail into the staff. I have sometimes been reminded of this practice in connection with the banner of our Empire. Elizabeth and her heroes first drove their nails in, and so onward through the expansive 18th century, when our flag flashed everywhere, down to our own times, when we have not quailed nor shrunk. Yesterday it wrapped the corpse of Tennyson; to-day we drive one more nail in on behalf of Sir John A. Macdonald. But this standard so richly studded imposes on us, the survivors, a solemn obligation. It would be nothing were it the mere symbol of violence and rapine, or even of conquest. It is what it is because it represents everywhere peace and civilisation and commerce, the negation of narrowness and the gospel of humanity. Let us then to-day by the shrine of this signal statesman once more remember our responsibility and renew the resolution that, come what may, we will not flinch or fail under it."

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The following remarkable reply was received to the invitation of the Alma Mater Society to McMaster to send a delegate to our *Conversazione* :—

"TORONTO, Dec. 9th, 1892.

"MR. D. W. BEST,

"*Sec'y Alma Mater Society.*

"DEAR SIR:—It was decided at a meeting of our Literary and Theological Society not to send a delegate to your *Conversazione* of the 16th inst., as invited, because we fear a repetition of certain features of last year's program, which we feel as a christian College we cannot participate in. Otherwise we should have

been much pleased to be represented. Thanking you for your courtesy,

"I remain, respectfully yours,

"ROBT. ADAMS,

"*Sec'y of Society of McMaster University.*"

It is scarcely conceivable that at this time of day a body of students should undertake to send a reply like the above to the offered hospitality of a sister institution. We fully recognize how the students of a Theological institution might have scruples against partaking in all the "features" of an entertainment gotten up by a Society representing a number of *different* faculties in a University. But to couple with their acknowledgment of their invitation to enjoy any part of the entertainment a gratuitous condemnation of what *they* consider unchristian features is certainly to violate the simplest requirements of common courtesy. To decline an invitation should never give offence, but to offer as reason that to accept would be to compromise their position as a Christian College is, to say the least, a wonderful expression of Pharisaic self-righteousness. We can respect our McMaster friends' conscientious scruples, even though we may consider them unfounded: but we cannot allow any institution the undisputed right to judge for another what is or what is not "christian" in matters on which christians are by no means agreed.

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We have received a specimen copy of *The Quarterly Register of Current History*, published in Detroit, the price being \$1.50 per year. The departments are headed, "International affairs: Affairs in Europe: Affairs in America," &c. It does not aim to bring events right up to the day of publication, but "to treat them *after they have passed into history*," and after "sufficient time has elapsed for verification." It seems to us to be very good indeed; wholly free in particular from the great fault of so many American magazines, which are almost entirely occupied with their own petty parish politics. While the affairs of the United States are, as is but right in an American publication, treated at slightly greater length, yet events in Canada and Europe are carefully detailed. The copy sent us has been placed in the reading room.