

and priestly domination which "Ulster" so graphically depicts? Surely the experiment of past and present methods has been tried for a sufficient length of time to test the results. If those results are as "Ulster" paints them, any change can hardly be for the worse, so far as the Irish and Catholic majority are concerned. Do "Ulster" and those who think with him, one is tempted to ask, hold the same conviction with regard to the possibility of improving the condition of the Catholic Irish which a certain class of Americans are fond of putting forth with regard to the Indians when they affirm that the only good Indians are the dead Indians, and that the only way to civilize them is to civilize them off the face of the earth?

From the tone of "Ulster's" letter we are not sure that he would prove an adept in "putting himself in his neighbour's place," but we should like to ask him, for argument's sake, to suppose himself to be, as he might have been had the accidents of his birth and training been different, one of the despised Roman Catholic minority, and to say from this standpoint how he would like to trust himself and all his local and personal interests to the rule of a Parliament dominated by the ideas of men who entertained the same views and feelings towards him and his compatriots which he now entertains toward his Catholic fellow-citizens.

"Ulster" informs us that there is no such thing as Protestant ascendancy in Ireland; that Protestant and Roman Catholic enjoy precisely the same privileges so far as the law is concerned. But who has made and still makes the laws? And who administers them? How large a proportion of the ruling and official classes belong to the Catholic majority? How many of these placed in civic and municipal positions in Belfast, or in Ulster generally, are Roman Catholics?

"If Ireland's claims are just and right, the Imperial Parliament ought to grant them and will grant them." The Imperial Parliament has granted many of Ireland's claims after admitting them to be just and right, but which of them all was ever granted save under pressure verging on rebellion? How would "Ulster" like, from the standpoint of one of the conquered and despised race, to depend for his local rights upon the sense of justice of a Parliament dominated by his conquerors, whose descendants were in possession of the soil of his country as the result of the conquest,—a Parliament, too, with the concerns of a vast Empire to absorb its attention? But again, Ireland says, and many Englishmen and Scotchmen and Welshmen now agree with her, that her claim for local self-government is just and right, and ought to be granted. "Ulster" scouts the view that Ireland should be governed according to Irish ideas rather than according to English ideas, as if it were some monstrosity proposition, instead of a

political truism. It is characteristic of Mr. Gladstone that his whole career has been a moving forward from one position to another always more advanced in its recognition of popular rights than the preceding. His course in this respect is typical of that of his country, which is always moving steadily forward, from one precedent of justice and freedom to another, without retrogression. The sum of the matter, as it appears to us, is something like this. The demand of Ireland for self-government in local affairs is, on the face of it, just and reasonable. We do not deny to the minority the sacred right of resistance, even to the point of rebellion, for sufficient cause. But the proposal to rebel against a measure fair and reasonable in itself, on the assumption that it will be unfairly administered, is indefensible and unreasonable. The time to resist and rebel against majority rule will come when some outrageous wrong is being done or attempted, and not till then.

PATRIOTISM AND SCIENCE IN MONTREAL.

Montreal has just celebrated two events, each interesting in its own way, not merely to Montrealers, but to all patriotic Canadians. The first of these was the public inauguration of a new National League, for the promotion of a spirit of true patriotism and the purification of our political life. Its objects have been set forth to be as follows:—

"To disseminate a reasonable patriotism, based on our position as an organized people, whose life interests are bound together under a common Government and common social institutions in a great country, to dissipate obscure, narrow and merely vain-glorious ideas of patriotism; to emphasize the importance to each citizen of his citizenship, its rights and duties, especially among the young; to advance national unity; to spread a knowledge of Canadian history and resources; and to further the improvement of the Canadian people by any practicable means.

This is, without doubt, a "large contract" at this present moment of our history. Still there are few things which cannot in time be accomplished by faith, courage and determination. In Montreal, at least, we cannot forget that "Canadian Thermopylae" which was won by seventeen young Frenchmen at a critical period of our country's history; and there is undoubtedly a moral Thermopylae before us now. Nor is it all improbable that this new "National League" may be one of the forces wherewith we may win the day for the unity essential to national life and the "righteousness" that "exalteth a nation." "I did not think this League was going to amount to much," said a thoughtful man the other day, "but now I think it may become very powerful." If the interested audience that filled the Windsor Hall on the evening of Principal Grant's address to the new League on February 17th, can be taken as an indication of the interest already awakened in Montreal, that interest must be already both wide and deep. The only drawback to the pleasure and interest of the occasion was the absence of the chief projector and worker of the young League, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, who, owing to the

dangerous illness of his wife, was unable to be present. His numerous friends were, however, glad to find a day or two later that the crisis was past, and the main cause for anxiety was removed. A large number of public school children, ranged about the platform, gave a pleasant variety to the occasion by singing a number of patriotic songs, while a number of limelight views, representing important events in Canadian history, formed an appropriate part of the proceedings. Other music and recitations added their attractions; but the address of Principal Grant was of course the main feature of the evening. It was characterized by all his fervent patriotism and faith in the capabilities of Canada for a noble future. He emphasized the importance of maintaining our historical continuity, of merging minor differences in the great central unities of faith and country, of enforcing purity of government and punishing corruption, denouncing in the most emphatic language the scandalous laxity that has of late disgraced our political life,—a laxity which, with telling effect, he contrasted with the just retribution with which France has recently vindicated her national honour and conscience. The applause which re-echoed these sentiments may be taken for an augury of a purer era of public life in the future. But the League, even if it spread as rapidly as it has shown signs of doing, will find work enough before it in stemming an un-dercurrent which, with succeeding years of permitted abuse of power, has gained such a tremendous headway that it threatens to even shatter our national existence.

An event of a very different kind and having an important bearing on the development of Canada on a different plane, is the opening of the completed Macdonald Buildings for the Schools of Engineering and Physics, recently added by private munificence to the equipments of McGill University. These fine buildings have won the admiration of even the critical American scientific visitors, by their completeness of adaptation and apparatus, every requisite being supplied in its newest, most approved and efficient form, quite irrespective of its cost. Physical and engineering sciences have, therefore, a better chance for progress within Canada now than they ever had before; and the enormous importance of these sciences to our modern civilization has been impressed on Montreal very forcibly by the coincidence of this opening with the annual meeting of the American Society of Mining Engineers. Montreal has indeed been deluged with mining engineers! Science—especially engineering science—has been the dominant topic, the engrossing thought. It was, of course, the theme of all the speeches at the opening formalities, which were graced by the presence, not only of the Governor-General and distinguished Canadian visitors, but also of some of the most eminent representatives of the physical science of the United States. One of these, indeed, "magnified his office" to an extent that was almost ludicrous in its unconscious arrogance. Apparently entirely mistaking a humorous use of the well-worn term "Philistine" in Principal Grant's eloquent address on the greatness of Mind and its modern achievements, this speaker, who is Secretary to the American Society of Mining Engineers, struck out for himself an entirely original use of the term and divided mankind into the two classes of "saints" and "Philistines," because the Philistines, by their use of iron implements, gained an advantage over the Jews. He might have