

pretation of the Imperial clause the Government, acting, of course, under the opinion of their Attorney General, must have acted in allowing the Provincial Acts cited by Mr. Mowat in his address to the court. The Dominion Parliament never claimed the power of preventing the construction of a railway by a Province within its limits, and when the Government declined to prevent the construction of certain railways, as not consistent with the general advantage of Canada, the Act passed for the purpose only declared that such construction would not be sanctioned; and this declaration was acted upon by the exercise of the power of disallowance. The Railway Act does not forbid such construction or require such disallowance, and therefore does not re-establish the monopoly you so justly denounce as inconsistent with good faith and equity. Abiding by their consistent interpretation of the Imperial provision, the Government was not bound to call the attention of members to the possibility of a pretension on the part of the C.P.R. Company, invalid in law, and which seems only to have been raised for the sake of profitable delay. How far the managers of the Company are justified in not having called attention to this point when the Railway Act was under discussion is for them to show. The Company, and not the Government, is contesting the right of the Province to make a railway declared to be for the general advantage of Canada.

W.

"THE SILENCE OF DEAN MAITLAND."

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—The following, taken from *Appleton's Literary Bulletin*, will, I think, have interest for general readers. "Miss Uttiet, better known as 'Maxwell Gray,' is the only daughter of a physician at Newport, Isle of Wight, and is a hopeless invalid. It is said that when *The Silence of Dean Maitland* was published Lord Tennyson read it with great interest, and was anxious to know the author. He wrote to Miss Uttiet, inviting her to visit him at Freshwater, but she was too ill to do so. Thereupon, he drove over to Newport and called upon her. The author's new novel, *The Reproach of Amesley*, is now in course of publication in *Murray's Magazine*, and will appear in book-form early in the spring."

It may be remembered that in the notice of the former novel which appeared in THE WEEK, the opinion was expressed that it was the work of a feminine hand. The "Maxwell Gray," with the evident ring of an assumed name, on the title page of the book, afforded no clue. We now know that Alma Lee, with her lapse from chastity, made prominent as the foundation of the plot, her inexpressible iniquity, with all its ingratitude and cruelty, accomplished by means of perjury—bearing false witness against her neighbour—is the creation of one of her own sex.

Faithfully yours,

D. FOWLER.

METHODS OF M'GILL.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—In a recent issue of THE WEEK I published a contribution discussing the question which has now become known as the "difficulties" at McGill University. In a following issue my statements were declared by a Governor of that Institution to be "downright lies." As I did not think that an assertion from that gentleman, even if upright instead of downright, could be accepted in preference to an assertion of mine, I was compelled to call upon the parties interested to prove or disprove that Governor's accusations by publishing the official correspondence. Prof. Clark Murray, two weeks ago, acknowledged my right to do so, by publicly authorizing the publication of his part of the correspondence, and I have allowed what may be considered ample additional time for the Board to reply.

It is useless to suggest to the readers of THE WEEK the peculiarities of the two attitudes. Such a suggestion would merely expose myself and them to further insult, without in any sense serving the interests of justice and truth.

The question originally was:—

1. Whether a professor in McGill University is to be excluded from the privileges of freedom of speech enjoyed by mankind;
2. Whether, if he should not possess and inculcate individual thought and opinion, his existence in the University be not an absurdity;
3. Whether, by expressing an individual opinion, he should bring himself under the penalties of the statutes of the Institution he is serving;
4. Whether, when he is imagined to have expressed some such individual opinion, the occasion is one for unearthing a statute possibly embodied to cover the most distant possibility of a crime represented rarely in the lowest of our jails;
5. And whether, when the Board discovers that it has made a hideous blunder it can be permitted to make the *amende honorable* à la Mr. Hague?

The question now has acquired wider issues, namely:—

1. Whether THE WEEK is to be exposed to rash statements from "Medicus" or any one else;
2. Whether its contributors are to be attacked by "responsibility," under cover of irresponsibility;
3. And whether its readers are to be subjected to the treatment which McGill's Governors evidently think good enough for its professors?

In these circumstances I have but one course open to me. Prof. Clark Murray's letters by themselves will not satisfy myself or THE WEEK, whose interests Mr. Hague has implicated, and any statement from him to make them

intelligible might be submitted to the uprightness by which I have suffered.

I must, therefore, with the most emphatic insistence, demand from Prof. Clark Murray the publication of his entire correspondence, without a remark from him, except what of an introduction is required for the fullest and fairest comprehension of the question from both sides.

MEDICUS.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—In my last communication I gave extracts from a report submitted to the United States Senate and Congress, on the question of the fisheries. I also referred to the absurd statement that American fishermen did not require to fish in Canadian waters, and that they had a superabundance of bait on their own coasts.

Time works great changes, and from the opinions of the politicians of the present day let me revert to the same subject—the fisheries—but of an earlier period, and while doing so let it not be forgotten how immeasurably more valuable the fisheries of Canada have become, not only because of the continuous protection that has been given since 1857, but in the more than doubled increase in population, both in the States and Canada, and from the facilities afforded for the transit of fresh fish.

No wonder our neighbours so much desire "open ports," for the transit of their cargoes of fresh fish, for the boon to them would be priceless.

And now let us see what was the opinion of American statesmen as to the value of the British fisheries at the time of the Reciprocity Treaty.

Diplomatic correspondence had taken place, and discussion had arisen in the United States Senate on the importance of passing a treaty that would give to the American fishermen a concurrent right to fish in Canadian waters. Mr. Seward and other members of the Senate and Congress frankly admitted that the right of fishing in British waters, and within the three miles limit, would be a most valuable concession to American fishermen, and should be acquired, if possible, at howsoever great a cost.

Such was the expressed opinion of Mr. Secretary Seward, while other members used more expressive language, for they affirmed that without such a privilege their fishermen would be ruined, and their vessels seized and sold. Indeed, so depressed had become the fishing interests on the New England coasts that Congress came to the relief of the fishermen, and granted them large subsidies, in the shape of bounties, out of the public chest.

This evil they had brought on themselves from the injudicious use of "trawls," "seines," "trapnets," and such other destructive appliances.

The New England papers gave the sound of alarm, for the fishing ports were in a fair way of being shut up. Trade of all descriptions was stagnant, so that it was necessary that something should be done to relieve the fishing interests. Hence the bounty relief. Hence the agitation for the passing of the Reciprocity Treaty.

It was during the administration of Lord Elgin that this treaty was carried, and one of its provisions gave to the American fishermen the boon they had so long urgently sought for, viz., the concurrent right to fish in British waters, and as an equivalent for this concession there was a rearrangement of fiscal duties, etc.

Upper Canada and the Maritime Provinces may have benefited by the treaty. The fishing interests of Lower Canada were largely in the hands of the Robins, the Le Boutilliers, the Fruens and others, who shipped their cargoes to the Mediterranean ports, to Portugal, to the West Indies, to Brazil, etc.

Thus it was that Lower Canada was benefited only to a minor degree by the passing of the Reciprocity Treaty.

This it was that induced your correspondent to urgently pray for some assistance to our Lower Canadian fishermen, for they were being driven out of their own markets, being handicapped first, by French fishermen, with their bounty of ten francs per quintal, and again by American fishermen, with a bounty of four dollars per ton, an equivalent almost equal to the selling price of the fish in the Quebec and Montreal markets at that time.

And now commenced a new era—the treaty had opened up our coasts to American fishermen, and soon their vessels were to be seen in all our waters.

The results of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the benefits derived therefrom by the New England States, will, perhaps be the subject of another communication.

Ottawa, Dec. 10, 1888.

SPECTATOR.

P.S.—Will you please make a correction in my last letter. The conclusion of the last sentence on page 10 should read: "Mr. Bayard appears to have been led to make some very erroneous statements, in the interests of designing men," not "of a designing man." There were too many designing men surrounding him, and that may have led him to the shade of retired life.

S.

MUSIC.

THE Campanini Concert on Monday evening was not nearly as well attended as its excellencies merited. It was, taken altogether, a concert of undoubted and even value. Signor Campanini was in good voice, and sang with all the artistic effect that has made his reputation a world-wide one. He gave a splendid rendition of Gounod's "Salve Dimora." Signorina De Vere was a strong attraction. She has one of those fluent voices which seems to find no difficulties, and certainly shows none in the

work it undertakes. The *floriture* in the rondo from "Lucia" and in the "Shadow Song" from "Dinorah" were sung with exquisite fidelity, every note coming out crisp and distinct, yet most beautifully joined to its neighbour. Especially was this the case in the chromatic passages. Mlle. Groebel sang neatly and conscientiously, a trifle too much like an amateur perhaps. She has a contralto voice of agreeable quality and considerable volume. The gentlemen in the company, after Campanini himself, were headed by Signor Carbone, who is a splendid Italian buffo. One wishes to see him in some opera, such as "Chispino," where his powers could find full play. The basso, Signor Bologna, was exceptionally good, and made a very able *Mephistopheles* in the Faust selection, which closed the concert. Signor Stehle, in spite of his Germanic name, sang his Italian very well. He has a fine robust tenor voice, and uses it well, but does not moderate its force at all. That absurdity, an act of opera in costume on the concert platform, was the final passage of the concert, and was as satisfactory as it could be under the circumstances.

B NATURAL.

VOCAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT

THE Toronto Vocal Society's concert, to be given at the Pavilion on Tuesday next, December 18, will, no doubt, afford a treat to our music-loving citizens. In addition to a fine selection of choruses and concerted pieces given by the society, the following soloists have been engaged: Ovide Musin, Whitney Mockridge, and Annie Louise Tanner. See advertisement in another column.

ART.

MR. BRUENECH'S RETURN.

MR. G. BRUENECH, who has returned from his recent tour through Europe, has opened a studio in the Union Loan Buildings, 28 Toronto Street, where his sketches, comprising views in Great Britain, the Channel Islands, France, Sweden and Norway, are now on exhibition, and where his friends will be cordially welcomed.

ARTISTS' SALE.

A COLLECTION of oil and water colour paintings by well-known Canadian artists will be offered for sale at McFarlane's to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock. The collection comprises not only much of the present season's work, but also many pictures that have been admired at art exhibitions in Toronto. Among the artists represented are Perré, Hannaford, Matthews, Homer Watson, Fraser, Harris, Ede, Sherwood, T. M. Martin, Bell-Smith, Humme, Baigent, Gagen, J. Smith, Coleman, G. H. White, and many others.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

TWO GENTLEMEN OF BOSTON. Ticknor's paper series of choice reading. Boston: Ticknor and Company. Pp. 481. 50 cts.

The popularity of this clever, anonymous novel is evinced by the fact that it has reached a fifth edition. The heroine tells her own story, which is one of great interest, told with wonderful art. The plot is ingenious and the narrative abounds in description and clear-cut portraiture of character.

SARA CREWE, or What Happened at Miss Minchin's, and EDITHA'S BURGLAR. By Francis Hodgson Burnett. London and New York: Frederick Warne and Company.

Sara Crewe, which was originally published in *St. Nicholas*, and has since passed through several editions, requires no special notice. *Editha's Burglar* has been its constant companion, and is equally well known. This edition is beautifully printed on heavy paper and is embellished with numerous illustrations by Reginald B. Birch. It is an excellent gift book for the holidays.

THE FATE OF A FOOL. By Emma Ghent Curtis. New York: John A. Berry & Co., 12 mo. cloth \$1.00.

The scene of this novel is in Colorado. We do not know whether the picture of western life presented by the author is a true or distorted one; but it is certainly repulsive. Mrs. Curtis has written this novel "with a purpose." She describes it as a cry of "alarm and shame at the boldness of an evil which mankind should have long since lived down." The work is written with vigour and earnestness; but we doubt very much if a book of this kind will have very much influence in suppressing or even lessening the evil against which it is directed. As a novel it is worthless, as a tract on morals it is a mistake.

THE SECRETS AT ROSELADIES. By Mary Hartwell Catherwood. Boston: D. Lothrop Company. Pp. 187. \$1.00.

This story first appeared as a serial in *Wide Awake*, and is now issued in attractive book form with numerous illustrations by W. A. Rogers. The book is rather disappointing. The secrets are not very important, one of them being that of "Cousin Sarah," a girl of seventeen, who is still addicted to the childish habit of playing, surreptitiously, with dolls, and the boys' secret society of "Heroic Diggers," organized to investigate the mysteries