

were sufficient. The facts brought to light by the recent financial commotion in England seem to show that they do not always enquire very closely into the character of the inducements before investing in countries no nearer and no better known than Canada. A small part of the money which the Dominion Government is asked to invest would enable it, or the Ontario Government, to obtain full and trustworthy examinations and reports by scientific experts, such as could hardly fail to induce capitalists in any part of the world looking for that kind of investment, at least to follow up the enquiry with a view to action. Certainly one condition precedent to giving the guarantee required should be such enquiry as would satisfy the Government that the proposed outlay of \$150,000 is really necessary to the success of the project. Further, it would seem but reasonable that, should the country assume the chief risk of the undertaking, it should, in some shape or other, secure to the public a fair share of the direct, as well as the indirect, rewards of success. The sum of the whole matter, we should be inclined to say—and on this conclusion we believe all who understand the situation will be pretty well agreed—is that no pains or expense should be spared to secure, if possible, not only the vigorous working of the Sudbury mines, but also the manufacture of the ores either on the spot or in the country, rather than the exportation of the crude material. If the giving of the guarantee in question is the only means, or the best means, by which this end can be reached, then let the guarantee be given by all means. But Mr. Ritchie can hardly expect his terms to be accepted until it is very clear that no better arrangement can be made.

THE Address in reply to Lieut.-Governor Royal's Speech in opening the North-West Assembly is a singular document. The majority of the members of the Assembly are evidently of opinion that the custom of making the Address in reply a mere echo of the sentiments of the Speech is in their case better honoured in the breach than in the observance. Two or three brief extracts will show the kind of reply which, in their view, the occasion demanded. Witness the following:—

"Additions to our library were much needed. We regret, however, to say that some few of the books recently procured do not commend themselves to the Assembly as usually found in a legislative library of the small proportions which ours must necessarily be."

"The well-boring operations of the year, while successful in many instances, show a regrettable lack of success, owing apparently to the management which has characterized their operation. Your Honour's Advisory Council seem to need some assistance in making the best use of the facilities at their disposal in this direction."

"The disregard for and violation of all constitutional rules, the infringement upon the rights and privileges of the House and usurpation of its prerogatives by its members composing the Advisory Council, in our opinion render those members unworthy of taking any part in the business of the Assembly. As the only means in our power of vindicating in our case the common rights of majorities in representative assemblies, it is our duty to refuse all legislation and motions offered by these members."

We shall probably have to wait until the opening of the Dominion Parliament to learn whether and to what extent the course of Lieut.-Governor Royal, in those matters which have brought him and his advisers into so pronounced a conflict with the representative Assembly, has been directed or approved by the Dominion Government. As we have before said, it is not improbable that Mr. Royal's claim of right to control, with the assistance of advisers chosen by himself, the appropriation of the subsidies voted by the Dominion Parliament may be in strict accordance with the Act. Whether it is in accordance with sound policy is another question. But whatever may be the tenor of the Lieut.-Governor's instructions it is hard to believe that anything less than a serious want of tact, or of due respect to the opinions of the majority, could have aroused so direct and seemingly bitter opposition from the great majority of the House. The struggle, which, in some of its features, will remind many of our elder readers of incidents in the Ontario Legislature of half-a-century ago, can hardly fail to injure the progress and prospects of the Territory. It is a serious question whether, in any event, the usefulness of the present Lieut.-Governor is not so far impaired that the best interests of all concerned would be promoted by a change. The action of the Dominion Government will be awaited with interest, not only in the Territory, but all over the Dominion.

THE revelations in the O'Shea case, which was concluded the other day in the London Divorce Court, came no doubt as a painful surprise to the trusting friends, whether

many or few, whose admiration of the great abilities of Mr. Parnell as a Party and Parliamentary leader may have led them to put the most charitable construction upon his former lapses from rectitude, and the suspicion-breeding mystery which enveloped his life. By all such, his confident assurances, or reported assurances, that he would come out of the ordeal with reputation unsullied, were accepted as sufficient. But there must have been many, even among his political friends, whose faith in the personal honour of the astute Irish leader was so seriously shaken by his own evidence before the High Commission, that this greater shock was scarcely needed to overthrow it. The man who was shown, by his own admission, to have solemnly affirmed a deliberate untruth, knowing it to be such, on the floor of Parliament, could scarcely fall to a lower level in the estimation of high-minded Englishmen and Irishmen. The wonder has been how such could continue, as they have done, to tolerate him as leader even of the Irish members in the Commons. Though he has now sent out the usual circular, summoning his followers to be prompt in attendance at the approaching session, as it was still his place as acknowledged leader to do, it can scarcely be doubted that he will make haste to relieve the strain of the situation, by tendering his resignation as soon as Parliament assembles. Nor can there be much hesitation in accepting it, great as the loss of his really remarkable talents will be to his party. To retain a convicted, and virtually a confessed, habitual adulterer, in the position he has hitherto occupied, would be to incur a degree of odium such as neither the Irish party nor their English allies could endure for a session—unless, indeed, the standard of Parliamentary morality has fallen much lower in the Mother Country than there is any reason to suspect.

MR. BALFOUR, the Irish Secretary, deserves great credit, we were about to say, for having at last visited Ireland, and studied with some degree of patience and thoroughness the condition of the wretched peasantry over whom he rules, by virtue of his official position and the Crimes Act, with a good deal of despotic authority. But after all why should he be deemed worthy of special praise for doing what is so obviously his official duty? His journey appears meritorious mainly by reason of the contrast it presents not only with the custom of his predecessors but with his own previous methods. It matters little whether it was the sting of Mr. Morley's taunt, or the voice of his own conscience aroused by some other influence, that goaded him into this visit. As Cabinet Ministers go in these days he does pretty well who sacrifices pleasure and comfort to duty, even to escape the reproaches of an adversary. It is reassuring to know that Mr. Balfour, as he gazed upon the abounding destitution, was able to assure at the same time the famine-threatened Irish peasants and anxious onlookers the world over that steps will be taken to avert the danger and alleviate the wretchedness of the dwellers in the impoverished districts, and that this relief will be given in the safe and sensible shape of employment upon works of public utility. The political influence and results of Mr. Balfour's visit it is harder to estimate. It would probably be easy to overrate the significance of the apparent warmth of his welcome in some places and the absence of hostile demonstrations in others, both seemingly unexpected. To the warm-hearted Irish, hospitality to the stranger is a second nature. On the other hand it would be a singularly intense malignity that would insult or maltreat a Cabinet Minister come on an errand of mercy. What effect the scenes witnessed and the discoveries made by shrewd observation may have upon Mr. Balfour's own views and policy remains to be seen. The fact that his visit partook so largely of an administrative rather than a political character would, no doubt, detract largely from its value as a means of enabling him to decide in regard to what is now the crucial matter, namely, whether the Irish question is or is not synonymous with the land question. But he will certainly be in a better position to judge whether his own Land Bill is likely to solve even the land question by transferring the ownership of the soil to the people, or whether it will simply give the suffering peasantry, in the place of a few large absentee landlords, ten times their number of petty resident landlords not a whit less exacting and oppressive. But whatever else may come of it Mr. Balfour's example can hardly fail of one excellent result, that of making it impossible for future Irish Secretaries to abstain from personal investigation of the condition and needs of the Green Isle, and content themselves with taking all their information at second hand, through the media of prejudiced and often

exasperated officials, many of them alien in their views and sympathies.

WITHOUT attempting to base a homily upon the painful history of the young man who the other day paid the penalty of his last great crime, in the prison yard at Woodstock, we may advert to one phase of his career, for the sake of the lesson it suggests. Internal as well as external evidence makes it pretty certain that the first part of the unsavoury autobiography so strangely given to the public must be to a considerable extent true. We refer to his manner of life at Oxford. It is impossible to read the accounts of his College career, which come from various sources, without being struck with the obvious insufficiency of the moral safeguards provided by that ancient and renowned institution for the protection of its students from evil associations and influences. We do not, of course, imply or suppose that the discipline of the Oxford colleges is worse than that of those connected with other great universities in England or elsewhere. But what could be more unscientific, if we may use the term, not to say futile, than the methods of government thus incidentally revealed? How feeble, comparatively, appear to be the influences brought to bear for the formation or strengthening of right character and habits! Maugre head-masters and tutors within, and proctors without, the evil-disposed young men seem to have done about as they pleased, setting at defiance all authority and rule. What makes the matter worse from the character-forming point of view, this freedom from restraint is gained for the most part by systematic evasion and deception. A baneful ingenuity is constantly in exercise to aid the student in transgressing the laws and outwitting the authorities of the institutions. It would of course be very unsafe to deal with Birchall's as a normal case, or to draw any general conclusions from the history of one in whom the moral sensibilities seem to have been preternaturally dull, or almost wholly wanting. Ample allowance must be made, too, for the difficulty of dealing with the many thousands of young men, representing all varieties of disposition and training, who come up to such a university. The difficulties arising from numbers are lessened, but cannot be done away with by the multiplication of colleges. The fact remains, however, and it is one for the serious consideration of all university authorities, as well as of parents having sons to be educated, that for all except those whose characters are exceptionally mature and well-balanced, there are in the atmosphere of the great universities elements of temptation and of danger which cannot be too carefully studied and so far as possible guarded against, by those who are responsible for the results. To what degree these dangers might be minimized by a more stringent discipline, or by the substitution of better methods for those now in vogue we shall not attempt to determine. Certain it is that in so far as the present methods tend to the espionage which is so often complained of, and which seems to be in some measure inseparable from the English tutorial and proctorial system, and in so far as they tend to degrade university life, in its disciplinary aspects, into a battle of wits between the university authorities and mischievously disposed students, they cannot be too strongly deprecated. Certain it is, too, though many seem to assume the contrary, that no young man can give up even an occasional night to revelling and rowdiness, to say nothing of worse vices, during the years of College life, without contracting both habits and stains which no correctness of after-life can ever wholly efface. It surely ought to be possible for a parent to send up his son to a great university without incurring the grave moral risk which now attends such a step. Radical reform of methods is needed in some direction.

IMPORTANT and probably far-reaching issues are pending upon the decision of U. S. Secretary Windom, in the investigation which he is now conducting. The immediate question to be decided, that of the continuance or discontinuance of the practice in accordance with which Consuls of the United States at Canadian ports have hitherto sealed goods from foreign countries for transportation over Canadian territory to places in the United States, though of itself of great moment to Canadian railroads, is by no means the whole, or even the most serious part of what is involved. The legal and international question around which the main arguments seem to revolve is whether or not Article 29 of the Treaty of Washington is still in force. On the one side it is contended that this article was abrogated in connection with the fishery clauses of that Treaty. On the other it is