

## BRITONY THE GRAND.

We are indebted to Mr. H. Percy Blanchard, of Windsor, for a copy of the draft of an Act for the federation and government of the British Empire, which we have carefully perused; and, although in several respects we regard it as a praiseworthy production, we think the author has laid himself open to the charge of being conservative in that which affects his native land, and ultra-radical in that which affects more immediately the other portions of the Empire. Mr. Blanchard proposes to divide the Empire into five great Federacies, namely, Anglican or European, Asiatic, African, Australasian and American. Each Federacy is subdivided into provinces and territories, the provinces are to be governed by a Local Legislature elected by the people, these legislatures in turn are to elect representatives to the Federal Assembly or Council, and the Federal Councils are to elect the delegates to the Imperial Parliament. The Imperial House of Delegates is to consist of 203 members, each Federacy sending its quota of representatives according to the proportion its population bears to that of the Empire at large. To this parliament is entrusted Imperial Defense, Army and Navy, the levying of Customs dues, and other matters. The Customs receipts are to be divided among the several Federacies according to population, the Parliament reserving a sufficient sum to meet the estimated expenses for the next fiscal year. The Federal Council is to divide its portion among the several provinces, reserving in like manner a sufficient sum to defray the expenses of the Federal Government, and provide for the services under its immediate charge. The provinces, in addition to the subsidy from the Customs receipts as above specified, may further increase their revenues by direct taxation. There is to be free trade within the Empire, and free trade with the world when the Imperial House of Delegates so decrees. This brief summary will give our readers a pretty fair idea of Mr. Blanchard's proposed Act, which consists of 88 sections, evidently prepared with great care and accuracy as to detail. Mr. Blanchard settles the Irish question once and for all by giving England, Scotland and Ireland, separate Houses of Assembly, with representation in the Anglican or European Federal Council. In like manner he ruthlessly abolishes the House of Lords, not even deigning to mention that august body in his 15 page pamphlet. Evidently the young Windsor barrister is a radical in British politics, but when he comes to deal with his own province he displays decided conservatism, section 22 providing that the Local Parliament is to be constituted as at present. Surely if England is to do without its House of Lords, Nova Scotia might at least dispose of its Legislative Council. The two fundamental objections to Mr. Blanchard's proposed Act are, 1st, The Customs Duties are to be left exclusively under the control of the Imperial Parliament, and 2nd, The Revenues drawn by the Federacies from this source are to be apportioned according to population. These we fear, are insuperable objections, and unless the Act in this respect be amended it is not likely to commend itself to Canadian readers. We like the loyal ring of the introduction of Mr. Blanchard's pamphlet, and, while we have criticized some portions of his production, we unhesitatingly congratulate him upon the effort he has made to attract public attention to a question which must ere long become a live issue in politics throughout the British Empire.

## THE TWINS OF LOCANA.

Since the death of the Siamese twins, Barnum has been at a loss to provide for the curious and equally great sensational attraction. Unfortunately for the great showman his chances for exhibiting the twins of Locana are now very uncertain, owing to one of them being very ill. The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—John and Jacob Tocci, the twins of Locana, who have been shown in almost every city of Europe as the successors of the famous Siamese Twins, are dying in the Prater. Their mother is a strong, healthy countrywoman. The boys resemble each other exactly, have pretty, delicate features, and are now in their tenth year. John and Jacob are separate as far as the sixth rib, and have one abdomen and one pair of legs between them. Jacob moves the right leg, John the left. The twins cannot walk, and keep their balance by lacing their arms round each other's neck. Jacob eats often and heartily, and is the healthier of the two, and to all appearance it is he who keeps his brother alive. Two days ago the twins quarrelled over a toy, and John grew so excited that his heartblood suddenly ceased to flow, and he changed to a condition of complete lethargy, from which he had not awakened on the following morning. The boy suffered from the same complaint a year ago in Berlin, and Professor Virchow then declared that a recurrence of the lethargy would certainly put an end to the twin's life. A number of Vienna physicians are observing the malady, but they entertain little hope for John's life, and if John dies, Jacob must follow him to the grave. The twins as they lie in their bed offer a strange contrast, Jacob with feverish eyes and a red face seems to harbor all the blood that has retreated from John's lifeless body. The conscious boy cries incessantly, because he has often heard Professor Virchow's remark repeated, and knows that his brother's death is but the harbinger of his own. The poor creatures are meeting with the same fate that some time ago put an end to the life of the Siamese twins, the second of whom died of poisoned blood-vessels, after having spent six terrible hours with the corpse of his brother. The advisability of an operation separating the living from the dead brother was discussed at the time, but before a resolution could be taken death had done its work. The twins of Locana, who for the last eight years have travelled to the world's shows, were to have left to-morrow for New York, where Barnum is said to have engaged them for a year at a salary of 50,000 francs. In the event of their death, the parents have sold their body to a London anatomical museum for the price of £8,000.

## A FALSE ISSUE.

The by-elections which have recently been held in Chambly and Haldimand have created almost as much political excitement in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, as that which inevitably precedes and follows a general election. If the issue brought before the electors of these two constituencies had been simply the endorsement or condemnation of the government's policy and record, party journals would have been found extolling or condemning that policy according to their respective political creeds; but, to judge from the editorials of the Liberal press in Ontario, the Riel issue is the only one upon which the people are called to decide. In Quebec the hanging of Riel is declared to be a judicial murder, and an insult to the French people. Liberals do not hesitate to use the cry for all it is worth, as by so doing they hope to oust the party now in power. On the other hand it is notorious that Ontario Conservatives are making the hanging of Riel the principle subject for discussion in public meetings and by stirring the embers of race jealousies, are endeavoring to counteract the damaging effects that the Riel cry is having in Quebec. Through the Riel issue the Quebec Liberals hope to be able to place Mr. Blake in power, and through it likewise the Ontario Conservatives desire to give the Premier a third term of office. In both Provinces the opposing press condemn the introduction of this false issue, but in both Provinces these same journals ignore the fact that the Riel cry is elsewhere being used by their friends. Of all political warfare this present campaign appears to us to be the most dastardly. The Government has a record, that record is good or bad, and upon that record the people should be called upon to vote. Politicians who endeavor to retain or gain place and power by a false issue, such as that of the hanging of a man who everyone admits was an outlaw and a criminal, assume a grave responsibility, when by their inflammatory speeches they arouse the race hatred of two peoples living under one flag. We trust that the Upper Provinces will be allowed to enjoy the monopoly of such a detestable cry, and that, when the elections come off, the electors in the provinces down by the sea will take the square issue of the government's record.

## A CURIOUS LIBEL SUIT.

Most of us are inclined to overlook the trivial pettiness of those whose needy circumstances oblige them to resort to strange and unheard of methods for eking out a livelihood, but the libel suit brought against a London journal called "Tid Bits" by a Mr. Dolby, for having reprinted a paragraph from an American paper respecting his digestive organs, is to say the least laughable. It appears that when Mr. Howard Paul was visiting the United States last winter, he was entertained at dinner by the Clover Club, of Philadelphia, and during the course of some remarks he related how Charles Dickens had told him he brought a Mr. Dolby with him to this country to do his superfluous eating and drinking. "Dolby had a noble digestive apparatus and unlimited powers of suction and was a treasure," said the novelist. "When I was asked to drink, Dolby was on hand, and at many little dinners which I could not attend he ably represented me. I returned to England in good condition, but the profuse hospitality of the Americans was not without its effect on my agent." This was the spirit of Howard Paul's anecdote, which he protested was authentic, and which was published in a Philadelphia paper. *Tid Bits* reproduced the paragraph and excited the ire of Dolby, who, it seems, is a needy man living in London. He has commenced an action for libel against the paper in question, and laid his damages at \$2,500. Libel suits are common in most countries on frivolous grounds, but it is a new departure to lay damages for having one's digestive capacity cracked up in the newspapers.

Parents should not fail to impress upon their children while young the value of deep breathing. Deep breathing and holding the breath is an item of importance. Persons of weak vitality find an uninterrupted succession of deep and rapid respirations so distressing that they are discouraged from persevering in the exercise. Let such persons take into the lungs as much air as they can at a breath, and hold it as long as they can, they will find a grateful sense of relief in the whole abdominal region. Practice will increase the ability to help the breath, and the capacity of the lungs. After a time the art may be learned of packing the lungs. This is done by taking and holding the long breath and then forcing more air down the trachea by swallows of air. The operation may be described by that of a fish's mouth in water. To those who have never learned it, it will be surprising to what an extent the lungs may be packed. Caution at first is needful, but, later, practice will warrant large use of the treatment. The whole thoracic and abdominal cavities will receive immediate benefit, and continuance, with temperance in eating and good air and right exercise, will bring welcome improvement.

Wendell Phillips, the great Bostonian philanthropist, said in one of his lectures: I take the thermometer of the price of English wheat for the last century, and place beside it the thermometer of crime, and I find as the wheat goes up or down the crime increases or diminishes. The great majority of the human race stands just on the edge of necessity. Has the classic genius of Greece and Rome and the common sense of the Saxon race given us nothing better than these apples of Sodom for the golden fruit of paradise. One quarter of the human race lives in ease, and the other three-fourths contribute to it without sharing it. Is this the end of human existence, or will the further advance of civilization give to the hungry masses bread enough to prevent resort to crime.