

The members of the North West Assembly, after hearing Lieutenant-Governor Royal's closing speech the other day, adjourned singing "God Save the Queen." The *Empire* remarks, "they will be calling this a British country next."

The Jersey Lily (now, we should imagine, somewhat overblown,) seems to have met with a decided snub when she recently proposed to honor certain Ottawa festivities with her presence, and, it is said, had to be informed that her presence was undesirable. It is impossible to imagine what else she could expect.

Surely the American jingoes are off their heads with bumptiousness and conceit. Of their meddling there is no end. The redoubtable Senator Frye, not finding immediate cause for declaring war against Canada, smells blood in the South Pacific, and, true to his belligerent instincts, wants to "go for" Germany on account of her proceedings at Samoa, and for England for not "going for" Germany. Why did not this man of war enlist and take a trip to Hayti, when there was a faint possibility of a sniff of gunpowder?

The recent action of the Pope seems to have aroused a strong feeling of indignation among Irish Catholics, who consider their fidelity to the church ill recompensed by the Pontiff's refusal to bless medals and relics for distribution in Ireland, and that he should permit the faithful to conduct their political affairs in their own way. It is believed the affair will only lead to a more determined agitation against landlords and English rule. The broad question of morality, on which His Holiness is unquestionably and clearly right, is evidently of no weight whatever with the agitators.

The following is an extract from a lecture on "Continental Unity," recently addressed to a large audience in the Boston Music Hall by Mr. W. H. Murray:—"How the union can take place is a matter for future consideration. I need not consider it—you need not. Canada has not thought herself to that point. Until she does we have nothing to do with her or her problems. She is intelligent; let her decide her own best course for herself." Exactly; all we desire is that the impertinent meddlers and propagandists of the United States will leave us alone to manage our own business.

We are surprised to learn that the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress view with distrust the introduction of manual training into the public schools. We think it will be a grievous mistake if the workmen of Canada allow themselves to be persuaded to oppose this great educational reform. To train the hands and brains of youth to skilful manipulation of tools and appliances is not to teach a trade, but simply to develop alike the faculties of mind and body, that the future man may be enabled fully to exercise both. "It must be," says the *Week*, "that the Labor Congress misapprehends the kind and scope of the manual training proposed."

Mr. Butterworth, of Ohio, has been encouraged by the specious Mr. Wiman, Professor Goldwin Smith, and the disaffected portion of the Canadian press, to bring in a series of resolutions for what he is now pleased to term the "assimilation" of Canada. After referring to various sources of community of interest he assumes a "substantial identity of governmental systems." This is an utterly erroneous assumption. The constitutions of the two countries are in many important respects entirely dissimilar, and, *pace* Mr. Butterworth, Canada infinitely prefers her own institutions. Mr. Butterworth is no doubt sincere in his convictions, and has the decency to eschew offensive language, but all the same his propositions are, like those of more violent propagandists, distasteful and insulting to Canada to an extreme degree.

France bears the burden of the heaviest public debt of any country in the world, amounting to \$6,000,000,000, the yearly charge on which for interest, sinking fund, annuities, etc., is about \$258,000,000. This enormous burden is, moreover, continually on the increase, owing to the vast armaments the "armed peace" of Europe compels her to maintain. The debt of Great Britain seems quite moderate by comparison, being \$3,612,441,000. Italy comes next with \$2,207,515,000, and after her Russia with \$2,174,159,000. Spain, in view of her general condition of backwardness, is perhaps more heavily weighted than either of the other countries, her debt amounts to \$1,158,242,000. That of the United States is but about \$60,000 greater than that of Spain, and in reality does not count at all, owing to her enormous power of paying it off.

A "Militiaman," who is exercised about water-bottles, writes on that subject now and then to the daily press. We are also impressed, not only with water-bottles, but with the whole equipment question, and are anxious to see something done in the matter. But when our Militia friend pitches into Brigade Majors as "fifth wheels to a coach," he is going beyond his knowledge. The staff is pretty well cut down to the barest efficiency as it is. In any large district, and they are all large, it would be impossible for the D. A. G.'s to get through their work without the assistance of a Brigade Major. An extreme economy has been instituted in imposing the duties of a D. A. G. on the Commandants of Schools in their Districts. In one of these there is no Brigade Major. The very necessary work of inspecting armories, etc., is simply not done in that District, and that means great possible loss to the public from want of supervision. If our Militia friend knew the amount of work got through by Col. MacShane, and the care and pains with which it is done, he would not think a Brigade Major a fifth wheel.

It might be inferred from a quotation given from Mr. Murray's lecture on "Continental Unity," that its tone was reasonable. This would be a false impression to convey. The lecture was full to overflowing of the insolent assumption that the United States is to be the only North American power. "We have a right to grow here unchecked by any other power, and the whole of this continent from ocean to ocean will, must, shall, in the fullness of time come under the banner of this God-raised-up Republic." This is the tone of Mr. Murray's lecture, and it is to be observed that the particular passage quoted was greeted with "loud applause." If this cheap legislator had substituted "God-forsaken" for "God-raised up," he would have been nearer the truth.

Whether it is poverty, or freak, or only a reasonable desire to add to means, or whatever the cause may be, the number of fashionable women going into business in London is increasing in a remarkable manner. Lady Granville-Gordon, Lady Loftus, wife of the ex-Ambassador to Russia, Mrs. Kerr, Lord Dunraven's sister-in-law, and about half a dozen others are mentioned as having recently swelled the business roll of fashionable folk. Dressmaking, hats and bonnets, and bric-a-brac are naturally the businesses selected, the latter being confined to one instance. We fancy the Buonaparte Princess who started a Court modiste's business in Regent St. some few years ago, (and made a pile of money at it,) was the medium of suggestion to impetuous upper-tendom that such things might be done, and if so much is done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?

American eccentricity shows no sign of a return to common sense. American actors are now clamoring for protection against "the pauper actors of England." The *Boston Weekly Globe* pokes some fun at this sort of thing. It suggests that native genius should be protected also against the pauper plays of England, and against Gilbert and Sullivan's operas, though it admits it would be rather hard on the public who would have to sit and listen to the American substitutes. In fact, says the *Globe*, "why should not everybody be protected? Let's protect the actors, and the clergymen, and the composers, and the pugilists. Let's forbid European books, sink the ships and the big steamers that threaten to ruin us by bringing things from Europe. Let's cut the Atlantic cables. Let's shut ourselves up like China, the original high protection country, and insist on supplying our own wants exclusively with our own labor, though we starve to death doing it." In all her career America has never made herself so complete a laughing stock for the nations as she has done within this year of grace. It is to be hoped the new year may bring to her some return of reason and decency.

There is said to be in Labrador a cataract which, if what little is known about it at all approaches correctness, in some respects excels Niagara. The Labrador Indians tell marvellous stories about these falls, but as they believe them to be haunted, and cannot be induced to approach them, their evidence is not very reliable. They were, however, actually visited in 1839 by Maclean, whose further progress into the interior was stopped by them. Maclean gives the breadth of the river immediately above the falls at 1500 feet, but says the actual cataract is not more than 150 feet across; their height, however, he estimates at 2000 feet. Messrs. Holme, (F. R. G. S.) and Duff, (a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford,) recently attempted to reach the falls, but failed, owing to erroneous calculations as to distances, and to their running short of provisions. These gentlemen met with a half-breed named Kennedy, who knew the country, and endorsed Maclean's description of the falls. If these accounts are borne out, this cataract takes rank with Niagara and the falls of the Zambesi in Central Africa. These latter are 400 feet in depth, and the water falls into a chasm, the opposite side of which confronts the stream with a wall of basalt. One of the Zambesi falls is only 100 feet broad, but the other two are each about half a mile wide, and both these and Niagara, therefore, greatly exceed the Labrador cataract in width, but their height is altogether dwarfed by it. Exploration having been once attempted, we shall probably soon hear more about this interesting subject.

We cannot too often call attention to the danger of the civic elections being controlled by the payers of a paltry poll tax, who, in many cases, have very little interest in the welfare of the city. In fact, so little interest have they, that in known cases candidates for aldermanic honors have been able to purchase votes by the payment of poll taxes, thus defeating prominent candidates, who, to use a hackneyed term, have a "stake in the community." The trouble arises through the now unnecessary provision in the new Assessment Act, that no rate payer shall be permitted to vote who has not paid all his taxes at least thirty days before an election. Small property owners, who in many cases are most intelligent voters, are not always in a position to pay their taxes (which are likely to range from ten to fifteen dollars and upwards,) in time to secure their vote, and hundreds are disfranchised on this account. Under the present lien law their real estate is responsible for their taxes, and the city is sure of collecting them sooner or later, so that there is no longer the same reason to enforce the payment of taxes within a limited time that existed previous to the passing of that law, and the clause should be expunged from the Act. Large property owners are in even a worse position, as if their total taxes amount to say \$1000 on properties scattered through the city, they may have paid \$900 and still have no vote, and, as a result, numbers have no voice in the civic elections. Alderman Keefe, and, we believe, Mayor O'Mulvan, are in favor of repealing the clause, and the Council and Ratepayers Association should at once agitate the abolition of a restriction which tends to disenfranchise many of the most intelligent of our citizens.