

mand at the same time a dignified social position in England and the pecuniary means to sustain it with propriety? It is quite certain that the Lords would resent the intrusion of any body of men not so qualified, and there is no doubt that even such men would find themselves more at home outside the House of Lords.

#### UNWARRANTABLE WARRANTS.

IN the debate on the issue of Governor General's warrants for large amounts during the Parliamentary recess, Mr. Mitchell very well earned his title to be called an independent member. He laid down the principle which party men are so slow to admit, that if one party does what is wrong the other party is not justified in following the bad example. If Mr. Mackenzie's Government issued an extravagant number of such warrants, it is not necessarily the duty of Sir John Macdonald's Government to imitate them. It may be taken for granted that any exercise of the Governor General's prerogative that is calculated to lessen the practical control of the House of Commons over the finances of the Dominion is unconstitutional, and threatens the original foundation on which the whole fabric of representative government was built up. That system has grown steadily from a small beginning, the power to grant or refuse money subsidies, and if that power is even weakened, a government is practically despotic, at least until the next general election.

#### THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SUBSIDY.

THE "Little Jack Horner" who sits in a corner of the Dominion is Prince Edward Island. That lucky boy has already got his plum in the shape of an additional subsidy of \$20,000 a year from the Dominion Treasury. One effect of this will be to encourage extravagance in an Assembly less numerous, less important and less wealthy than several of our county councils, and to delay the union which must sooner or later take place between all the Maritime Provinces. Another will be seen at the next general election, when there will certainly be a break in what is now a solid delegation of Reform members.

#### WOMAN TO THE FRONT.

THEY are a progressive people out west. This we say in perfect candour, and not at all by way of a sneer. The town of Arigonia, in Kansas, has made a new departure from established precedent by electing a woman as its mayor. Not only so, but the experiment, so far, has proved eminently satisfactory to everybody concerned. The mayor-elect is a Mrs. Susanna Medora Salter. She is twenty-seven years of age, the wife of a resident lawyer, and the mother of four children. She is represented as no Draco in petticoats, but as an intelligent, attractive and thoroughly sensible woman, who is fully alive to the responsibilities of her situation, and who manages to do her duty by her husband and children as well as to the municipality. It is said, indeed, that the one line of duty does not in any respect clash with the other, and that Mrs. Salter is known to all the town, not only as a model chief magistrate but as a model wife and mother, being at once beloved by her family, and respected by the community as an upright and thoroughly competent official. There are some—but we hope not many—readers

of this item of news who will turn up their noses in disdain, and mutter something about woman's proper sphere and the leavening character of United States institutions. But woman's proper sphere is wherever she can be most useful, and if there are a good many Mrs. Salters in Canada we should gladly see some of them occupying important public offices. We have a pretty good mayor in Toronto, and have no desire to part with him for some time to come, but there are plenty of communities where a mayor like Mrs Salter would be a veritable God-send.

#### MR. RUSKIN ON THE BICYCLE.

MR. RUSKIN, having failed to annihilate the railway, has fallen foul of the bicycle. He does not denounce it in such glowingly picturesque terms as he applied to the steam horse, but his objection has the same foundation. It is not natural. Man was formed for walking, and no machine formed by man's hand should prevent the natural exercise of his legs. Mr. Ruskin is as doleful a prophet as Jeremiah, and the Egypt he denounces is the whole civilized modern world. He prophesies against friends as well as enemies, like the other prophet, and his theme is somewhat similar. Everything is idolatry in his eyes unless it is "fresh from Nature's hand." But he forgets that Nature has implanted in man's breast principles as natural as arms and legs, and one of these is the love of variety, which is really the love of Nature herself. As long as man can get pictures and jewels he will not be content to admire nothing but flowers. In this Mr. Ruskin concurs, but when man gets tired of using his legs and supplements their use by varied forms of locomotion, Mr. Ruskin anathematizes him and his works. We should like to have Mr. Ruskin's opinion on the use of Nature's own means of locomotion in six day go-as-you-please contests. Probably such a brutalizing exhibition would produce an addendum to his jeremiads equivalent to the Book of Lamentations.

#### THE TIMES AND THE IRISH MEMBERS.

SOME very smart fencing has been exhibited in the Imperial Parliament during the debate on the attack of the *Times* on Mr. Parnell. The Irish members are very anxious to keep out of the courts of law, and their opponents are eager to get them there. A severe cross-examination under oath would be a trying ordeal for men who have long been working and scheming against the Government, though we have no right to assume that their schemes have been against the law. But a case conducted by a committee of the House of Commons would be a different matter, and Irish members could fairly count on a consideration from their fellow-members that they would not look for in a judge. The law, as a rule, is no respecter of persons. But in such a case it would be only fair to allow equal latitude to the defence, and this would render such an investigation a dignified farce, for the *Times* would employ counsel fully capable of making the most of the situation.

#### O'BRIEN AND THE DAILY NEWS.

THE way red-hot partisans can injure the cause they have at heart is well illustrated by Mr. O'Brien's last exploit before leaving Ireland. This was to turn out of a meeting