

of the most factious, but of the most mercenary kind. The Government which emanate from these are for the same reason totally devoid of stability; and if any really great questions were concerned the consequences would be disastrous. In the United States, in like manner, the parties were devoid of significance and dignity till the question of slavery, long suppressed and excluded from legislative discussion, forced itself into the foreground, when the struggle of factions for office merged at once in a civil war.

* * * The executive government is, in words before quoted, "vested in the sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," and is "to be administered according to the well-understood principles of the British constitution, by the sovereign personally, or by the representative of the sovereign duly authorized." The authors of this solemn declaration know perfectly well that they would never permit the representative of the British sovereign, much less the sovereign personally, to perform a single act of government. In England, their original seat, these constitutional fictions, tacitly interpreted by practice, are comparatively unobjectionable. They are analogous to the legal fictions by which the spirit of our old law was liberalized, when prejudice would not permit an alteration of its consecrated forms. But when they are transplanted, and embodied in the written enactments of a new constitution, they become at once degrading and injurious. Put the reality in place of the figure in the case before us—say, in plain and honest terms, that an executive power of limits undefined by the constitution, together with the power of nominating the Upper House of the Legislature, shall be vested in the leader of the party having the majority for the time being, whose acts shall be called those of the Crown—and the whole arrangement will assume a very different complexion. Politics are not so opposite in their nature to any other department of human action as to admit of the advantageous or even the innocuous use of hypocrisy and self-deception.

And this brings us to the last point we have here to mention. The powers of the Northern American Parliament are expressed to be conferred with a due reservation of the "sovereignty of England." It has become necessary without delay to ascertain in what, practically speaking, this sovereignty consists. * * * That a British dependency claiming to be an integral part of the empire, and requiring to be defended as such by British arms, should impose protective duties on British goods, is surely not only injurious to the Imperial Government, but ignominious. Yet this Canada does, and she laughs all complaints to scorn. Assuredly a complete resettlement of the Northern American colonies ought not to be ratified without an express engagement, one way or the other, on this point.

Local and other Items.

The Department of the Minister of Finance, Canada, has issued an interesting statement "explanatory of the Financial position of "Canada, and a comparison thereof with the position of the other "British North American Colonies." The funded debt of Canada in 1864 was \$61,824,367, to a sinking fund of \$1,536,792, leaving a net funded debt of \$60,287,575. The revenue of Nova Scotia in 1863, was \$1,185,629, while that of Canada was \$9,760,316. As regards expenditure, however, this Province had in 1863 a surplus of more than \$100,000, whereas Canada during the same period went nearly a million into debt. The Canadian returns for 1864, however, shew an increase of more than a million in the revenue, and a decrease in the expenditure of over £100,000. The revenue of Canada was, in 1863, more than eight times that of Nova Scotia, and more than ten times that of New Brunswick, the joint revenues of New Brunswick and P. E. Island being less than that of this Province by more than \$88,000. The total population of British North America, as calculated to the beginning of 1864, was 3,628,151, of which 2,783,079 must be credited to Canada. The rate of annual increase is, we regret to find, smaller in Nova Scotia than in any other portion of B. N. America, except Newfoundland. It is largest in Canada and New Brunswick. The total area of B. N. America is 419,345 square miles, and up to Dec. 31st, 1863, not fewer than 54,097,993 acres had been disposed of either by sale or grant, leaving 214,282,817 acres in the hands of the Crown. The average population to the square mile is 8.32, while in Nova Scotia it is 18.72, and in Prince Edward Island 40.95. The population of Canada is but 8.40 to the square mile, while in Newfoundland it falls as low as 3.41. The debt of Nova Scotia is \$13.91 per head, that of Canada being \$21.69, and of New Brunswick \$20.91. The corrected average debt per head for the entire population of British North America is \$19.83. The value per head of exports is much larger for Newfoundland and New Brunswick than for any of the other Provinces, and Nova

Scotia imports more largely than New Brunswick by 74 cents per head. The exports from P. E. Island are more valuable than the imports by \$1.32 per head, while the imports of Nova Scotia are in excess of the exports by \$5.00 per head. The average imports of all the Provinces are more valuable than the exports by 76 cents per head.

Even in the British House of Commons we occasionally find men of extreme views talking the most arrant nonsense. But they never obtain the ear of the House unless their nonsense is, to a certain extent, amusing. Mr. WHALLEY's remarks about recruiting are more amusing than any it has for some time been our good fortune to peruse. "It was still," thought Mr. WHALLEY, "some-what doubtful how far members of the British army belonging to the Roman Catholic religion, could be relied on in certain "emergencies." We wonder what "emergencies" Mr. WHALLEY could possibly have had in his mind's eye. Imagine a British soldier being placed, by virtue of his profession, in an "emergency" which necessitated a nice calculation upon the relative merits of the doctrines of the real presence and purgatory, versus the teaching of the thirty-nine Articles! The chances are—he would either be shot down by a foe, or consigned to a friendly guard-room, before he had time to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion one way or the other. But, men of the WHALLEY stamp are useful in their way, albeit they occasionally talk nonsense of the most original kind.

We are glad to find that the question of sewerage is about to receive at the hands of the City Council that attention to which it is so justly entitled, and we trust that no questions about retrenchment will be allowed to interfere with the absolute necessity of a thorough reform in the drainage of Halifax. The pipes laid down in our main streets were calculated for the requirements of about 10,000 people, and although the population of the city is now nearer 30,000, the main drainage has been little, if at all increased. This is not a question of dollars but of life and death. We have, thank God, hitherto been spared the ravages of pestilence, but let us not delay a proper system of sewerage until reminded of our shortcomings by disease and death. There is perhaps no city in the world possessing more natural advantages for complete drainage than Halifax, and we hope to see a thorough reform effected before the hot weather sets in. Delay in this matter may cause us bitter though unavailing regret.

We have received a "Journal of proceedings of the First Annual Session of the Worthy Provincial Grand Lodge of the order of British Templars in the Province of Nova Scotia." The Committee on the state of the Order in this Province, recommend a variety of things. Here are some of them:—

To continue and increase our present prosperity, your committee recommend, 1st, Regular attendance at Lodge meetings. 2, Comfortable Lodge rooms. 3, Appropriate Regalia. 4, Obedience to the Constitution. 5, Due performance of our sublime Ritual. 6, Obtaining the Degrees. 7, Brotherly and polite conduct among members. 8, The avoidance of unprofitable discussion in Lodges. 9, Temperance zeal. 10, Love of our order. 11, Reading the Annual Reports to the Lodges and suitable conversations upon them. 12, Consistent regard for our pledge and obligation. 13, The interchange of visits between Lodges. 14, The union of Lodges for purposes of public demonstration. 15, Punctuality in forwarding to the proper officer the Quarterly Dues and Reports. 16, That the \$3 belonging to the W. P. G. Lodge from each Charter fee be paid to the Provincial Deputy W. C. Templar, together with the \$3 that come to him as per the Constitution. All of which is submitted in F. H. and C.

We trust that recommendations 4 and 8 may be strictly adopted.

The *Express* informs us that "Moore's poem—"The Epicurean," has been done into French verse." Our contemporary should have read, or at least seen "The Epicurean," before volunteering to inform the public as to the nature of the work. Everyone moderately conversant with English literature knows that "The Epicurean" is not a poem, but a very charming prose work.