

PRESBYTERIANISM IN CANADA.

Professor Pellock's Inaugural address is a most masterly production. We present our readers with one or two interesting extracts.

"No one who is familiar with that book which we continue to acknowledge as the rule of life, can have failed to observe how constantly we are warned against judging by appearances. The word of God teaches by declaration and example that, in judging of character, of the effects of conduct, of method and results, of events and their consequences, of preparations and their success, of individuals and their future, of nations and their destiny, we are to proceed further and dive deeper. There is an inner world which we do not see, where there are powers at work which we do not know and which the Ruler of all things employs to accomplish His will. But it ought to please those who complain of a want of harmony between the will of God, as interpreted by Scripture, and the works of God, as interpreted by reason, that this is also a primary lesson in philosophy: whose business it is to enquire by phenomena into realities—to distinguish between the changeable and the unchangeable—between the real and the apparent—and so ascertain those general laws which constitute that revolution which the priests of science unfold to the world.

In contemplating the spectacle of a church in a great country, we should be careful to abide by this rule. It is natural for a mind, moved by the view of a great country like Canada, to swell with some vanity, and to exult upon vast geographical limits, and upon a region that possesses all that distinguishes the fairest portions of the earth, together with peculiar features of its own; where various nationalities and churches, in freedom and toleration, are building up a nation diverse from all nations, and a church diverse from all churches. Inflamed with the spectacle, it is natural for us to dwell upon it. And hence we are likely to have much of that cloud-scenery which mimes the flights of imagination and tries to look big because everything around it is big. Let us care-

fully purge our eyes of this American humor

As in the case of an individual, so in the case of a nation, success depends especially on character. But character is a formation. It is the result of a process, wherein original tendencies are modified by circumstances. This constitutes the most powerful kind of education. In the education of a people, the extent of their land, its climate, its soil, its vegetable productions, its meteorological conditions, its physical changes, its travelling facilities, its scholastic education, its component nationalities, its churches, its political condition, its trade and manufactures and various industries, whether useful or ornamental—in short, circumstances so varied that it would be vain to attempt to enumerate them—are potent agencies. And there is a class of writers who so enlarge upon such influences as to produce an impression that none but external causes are at work; thus ignoring the unbounded energy and wealth of the human spirit and its peculiar susceptibility to influences from above. But while we believe in a Providence which is not a mere name, and in an administration of the Spirit, we cannot accept such views in any materialistic sense.

With this explanation, then, we remark that we lie under conditions common to all new countries. Our people set to upon their task with all the advantage of an achieved civilization.

Political and religious liberty and the lessons of a long and dearly-bought experience are their lawful inheritance. They reap what others have sowed. They have abundance of space and can take their choice of employments. And while all obstructions are removed, so are all supports. Thrown thus upon their resources, their powers are tested and new energies are evoked. With the growth of self-reliance, traditional reverence and all the tasteless virtues of "dumb-driven cattle" diminish or disappear and a freedom from conventionalism in modes of thought and modes of life takes its place. Character is developed and esteemed above office; while a free interchange of thought improves minds and manners. Such are some of the best known