

public works. Mr. Blake is quite a different sort of man. He can readily adapt himself to the needs of the hour, and his veins are full of what may be called the "Modern Impulse." He would be a most righteous and capable political leader if he could but keep his ears shut to the hapless advice of some of the tricksters in his following. But he has not so kept his ears closed, and in spite of his brilliant and honest career, history will find at least one episode in his political life to condemn. But, notwithstanding this rather severe estimate the Reform party is, on the whole, a purer though not an able, one than the Conservative party.

However, that with which we are concerned in this article is the doings of the Young Liberals at the Convention recently held in Montreal. We may say that the showing, as we gather from the newspaper reports is, with two or three points of exception, quite a creditable one. The following resolution is unworthy of the Young Liberals or any other respectable political body in this country:—

Mr. A. F. McIntyre (Ottawa), moved seconded by H. J. Cloran, "That this Convention approves the course of the Hon. Edward Blake in relation to the extradition of Lewis Riel, and is desirous of joining in the censure of the Dominion Government for that act, for the reasons stated by the leader of the Liberal party at the late session of the Dominion Parliament."

Messrs. McIntyre, Cloran, David, Mayer Beaupre, and James McShane, Jr., M.P.P., delivered addresses in support of the resolution. They pointed out the unjust and unfair manner in which Riel had been tried and executed when all knew well that he was not sound in his mind. They also severely censured the Government for its maladministration of North-West affairs, and concluded by expressing satisfaction at the fact that the question had been taken up in a broad and natural manner.

It is really hard to keep one's temper in reading paragraphs like these. Just imagine saying in one breath that the Government by its administration provoked revolt, and in the next that the man Riel was insane because he revolted.

Here, however, is a very worthy, wise and patriotic resolution.

Mr. A. Sutherland, Parkdale, moved seconded by Mr. J. W. Harrington, St. John, and it was resolved—

That this convention is convinced that no settlement of the respective fishery rights of Canada and the United States will prove satisfactory unless the policy of England in the negotiations is based upon the recommendations of the Canadian Government.

A few such resolutions as this one is would soon turn the attention of the country to the young Liberals. And we are very glad that the following will commend itself to every honest man who reads it. Nay, some such measure must be written into our law upon our books before the constitution can become purged of corruption.

Moved by Mr. Howe, seconded by Mr. Chrysler, and resolved,

"That in the opinion of this Convention a conspiracy against the Government should be made a crime without the necessity of both bribery and subornation."

WING: by N. SCHOOL the opinion should be wing of the

of a treaty of reciprocity with the United States.

Here is plain speaking, a splendid programme, and one quite worthy of a party who has ambition and looks to a future of honor and usefulness.

"TRUTH'S" WEEKLY BUDGET.

The present number of TRUTH will, we think, be found to contain a very creditable and varied bill of intellectual fare. The editorials are upon timely and important topics. The leading article is entitled "The Island as a Summer Resort," and we commend its perusal to our readers generally, and to the Mayor and members of the City Council of Toronto in particular. The contributed articles are clever and full of interest. "Around London on Sunday," from the pen of our Special Correspondent, is a piece of vivid description. "J. A. L." in his paper, "First and Last of Fields," gives a fine description of Waterloo as it was during its bloody epoch and as it stands now. We cordially commend this contribution to our readers. "Looking Back," contributed by Archie Mack, contains diverse excellent sentiments, graciously and forcibly expressed. The "Observer" takes notice of many things of local interest in this number. Observer dislikes Victoria Park and gives a lurid picture of that resort on Dominion Day. He discusses the propriety of "nice" people making up parties and visiting the Island on Summer evenings, the wearing of Norfolk jackets about town, and the character of our Aldermen as a general rule. There is a great deal of truth in what this argus-eyed contributor says. Our two original stories, "The Broken Seal," and "Four Canadian Highwaymen," continue to increase in interest. The "departments" are tastefully stocked; much good verse will be found; the music and words, "Papa's Pat," we can heartily commend to our readers.

At Carleton Place a few days ago the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Foster), said, among other things in his speech, "We had peace within our borders, whilst disturbing questions were agitating other countries to their very centres. He instanced France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States, in which social questions of great moment were dividing the peoples, and contrasted our condition with those countries." We clip these sentences out as an instance of the sort of thing the public man tells his audience, when he desires them to be in good humour over an administration of which he is a member. Now there is probably not a member of the Government for whom we have greater admiration than we feel for the Hon. George Edley Foster. But let us look at these statements. He tells us that we have peace within our borders. That is not much for us to boast about considering that the numbers are barely extinguished of a bloody rebellion in our North-West Territories. He pointed out that while social questions divided the people in France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States we were enjoying a happy peace. Does Mr. Foster read the newspapers? Or does he think that the small agitation which he sees every day about the departmental buildings is a type of Canada at large. He ought to know that Canada is disturbed by precisely the same social forces that move the United States, and, to a great extent, agitate many countries of Europe. If he had looked at the telegraphic columns of the Free Press he would find that we are in the midst of a bitter struggle between the aristocracy and the people, and he would see how he

as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, could glory over peace, and contrast it with the turbulence of every other country. We cannot for our very lives, when we consider that the chief work of his department during the early summer was the equipment of a small naval force to protect the property along our coasts from the depredations of our huge neighbor to the south. Has he forgotten all about those seizures; or not read the violent speeches made by the American politicians; or the declarations of the English press wherein it was said that the situation was "a grave one?" We do not suppose that we are on the brink of war or anything of that sort; but we are not in an atmosphere of heavenly peace either; neither is our condition in this respect much better than any of the countries cited, the talented minister to the contrary, notwithstanding. We don't like to write a vulgar word, but all the same Mr. Foster was "stuffing" the people of Carleton Place.

Mr. Labouchere, editor of our London (Eng.) namesake, has not a very high opinion of Sir Charles Tupper's style of oratory. It appears that Sir Charles delivered a speech at a meeting of representatives held in connection with the Colonial Exhibition; and in the course of his address indulged in that style of declamation which he found so effective on the stump, and in the House of Commons, in this country. Mr. Labouchere was actually checked. He declares that Sir Charles did nothing but rant and rave, and make violent gestures; that his utterance was illegal as it was undignified; that it was tragedy without ability, and comedy without humor. And much more to the same purpose! We suppose that a speaker like Sir Charles would suffer when measured according to the dignified and collected, the severe and ornate standard furnished by orators of the Gladstonian type.

After the close of the late musical festival we made the suggestion that some of our citizens who have capital to put out, should consider whether it would not pay to erect a music hall or temple commensurate with the needs of this city. We notice that the Globe followed upon our line of argument, and we hope that this or other articles upon the matter will bear fruit.

Mr. Blake is not, and never has been, in favor of the conferring of titles upon pensionists. Our readers are aware that he was long ago offered a knighthood but refused it; George Brown made a similar refusal; so likewise did Alexander Macenzie. We confess that we are much in accord with Mr. Blake in this matter. We can hardly conceive how a very sensible man could accept a Knighthood; but it is easy to imagine how such an honor would delight the heart of a vain man. We give Mr. Blake's words, and we do not believe that any honest man or woman will gainsay them:—"Now, in this democratic country we have but few, and I wish we had no examples, of the class distinctions of the Old World. I think they ought not to have been introduced. They are foreign to our soil; they are unbecoming to our habits; they are not given under the advice of our own leaders of opinion, and I wish it might become part of our unwritten code, that these exotic distinctions should not be by us received. Let, sir, I am a believer in a certain class, in the principle of aristocracy, I believe in the true aristocracy of energy, learning, ability, and integrity; an aristocracy whose marks and titles are found in the earnest efforts of a man to do

his duty and to excel in its discharge; and whose distinctions are such as a free people themselves confer by the expression of their confidence by mandates to the great council of the country, by selections for high offices of public trust, by the commission to regulate the affairs, to guide the high destinies, of the people among whom they live. That is the aristocracy and the only aristocracy which is suited to our day and country."

We perceive with a great deal of pleasure that the University of Kings College, Nova Scotia, has just conferred upon Mr. George Stewart, Jr., our well known Canadian writer, the degree of L.L.D. Mr. Stewart has been one of the most active of our younger writers, and has done much to give an impulse to Canadian letters. In the columns of the Chronicle he has never let an opportunity pass to say a word for one of our own writers; and he has been chiefly zealous in giving words of encouragement to our younger men. The distinguished honor that he has received at the hands of Kings has been well earned; and we extend our congratulations to Doctor Stewart.

Lord Randolph Churchill writes that he does not believe that "Mr. Parnell will influence loyal Parliament to dismember the Empire which that great historic dockyard town has done so much to construct and preserve." "Mr. Parnell, he continues, "leads a party which is composed mainly of rebels, and which is supported by American gold collected by dynamiters, whose greatest ambition is to blow Portsmouth into the air."

Hanlan has once more defeated Rier at St. Johns, Quebec. But the ways of scullers are as inscrutable and as honorable as the ways of race horses. It is a pity that the daily newspaper should devote so many columns to their episodes of gambling and demoralization.

Messrs. Bright and Chamberlain, new two of Mr. Gladstone's most severe opponents, have been re-elected for Birmingham.

Since "Observer" seems to understand what he is talking about, and as his style is attractive, and what he has to say readable, we do not care to omit one of his paragraphs even when his conclusions clash with our judgement. We do not agree with his remarks in a late number upon the Drama Tecumseh by Mr. Mair. Observer says "naturally enough Colonel Denison admires it of (Tecumseh); because the ideal of Mr. Mair is the ideal of our righteous police magistrate." He also says that he thinks there was "quite too much of a hulla raised about it." Colonel Denison is a loyal Canadian and we are unable to put a lower estimate upon the poem because that gentleman finds that in it Mr. Mair has an ideal similar to his own. What virtue is there more noble than the love for ones country; and this quality stands conspicuously out in nearly every page of Tecumseh. As for the "hulla"; we may inform Observer and his correspondent that people are not in the habit of making a hulla over a book, especially a volume of verse if it is "stiff uninteresting and pragmatic."

The Toronto Board of Trade has aroused itself to special exertion in behalf of City of Toronto. They are bringing out a handbook looking into the pages of which the outsider or the tourist will be enabled to see how splendidly we can entertain for a few days, and what a very fine city is this of ours. The Board is to be congratulated for its praiseworthy and public spirited enterprise.