

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION.

For the next two weeks our provincial politicians will be busily engaged in reviewing and comparing the records of the last two Nova Scotian administrations; but while the electors will naturally feel a deep interest in the unfolding of these two pictures as represented upon Liberal or Conservative canvass, they must not lose sight of the issue upon which the outgoing government desires the verdict of the people. Those who are now so vigorously advocating the dismemberment of the Dominion should be in a position to show the electors what the results would be if repeal is obtained. They should be prepared to prove that Nova Scotia, as an isolated Province, without free trade with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and without reciprocity with the United States, would be financially and commercially in a better position than she is to-day. They must, moreover, give the electors their solemn assurances that the repeal which they are advocating is not a mere political stalking-horse, and that they are in a position to obtain that which the Hon. Joseph Howe and his contemporaries failed in securing. On the other hand, the opponents of repeal should clearly define the policy in which they believe. They should state openly their views as to the financial condition of the Province, and how they propose bringing about a readjustment of the terms of the union. They should outline a broad and liberal Nova Scotian policy, such as could be endorsed by intelligent electors in both parties. We believe that an honest, fair discussion upon the foregoing points will convince our people that the true interests of Nova Scotia cannot in any way be served by an agitation which is without definite aim, and which, if carried to its logical conclusion, would make the political map of Nova Scotia similar to that of the petty German States prior to their unification. The *Morning Chronicle* admits that if the people of Cape Breton desire to have that fine Island formed into a separate Province, they have a perfect right to have their wishes granted. If this be true of Cape Breton, the same is true of Cumberland, Hants, Colchester, Pictou, and Antigonish Counties, the people of which might, in the event of repeal being granted, desire to remain within the Dominion as a portion of the Province of New Brunswick. The fact is, repeal is out of the question, and the men who are advocating it are endeavoring to mislead the people. We want honesty of purpose in our politicians as much as we want honesty in government. If the financial terms of Confederation are not satisfactory, let us unite as one man in demanding a readjustment of these terms. We may not have a Howe to fight our battles, but we have plenty of men possessed of sufficient brain power and good common sense to settle the financial question satisfactorily to the people of Nova Scotia, without having the Province kick over the traces and endeavor to break away from the Confederate team.

A NOTABLE MEMORIAL.

Probably no man in the nineteenth century has aroused more deep sympathetic interest among all classes, all creeds, and all nationalities, than did the late General Gordon, hero of Khartoum; and we are safe in asserting that no woman ever received such a touching memorial of a nation's grief as that lately presented to the sister of the Christian soldier. The Queen, with commendable zeal, has reproduced the design of the cover and pages of this remarkable memorial volume, with the fac-similes of the signatures of the Royal Princesses. The cover is of white vellum, decorated in the fifteenth century Italian style, with a frame of gold ivy leaves, into which the following appropriate scriptural quotations are introduced: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the path, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." The panel within is decorated with heraldic roses, shamrocks, thistles, and ivy leaves, and the monogram of the hero in the centre. The panel design is repeated on the fly leaf. On the first page is placed the dedication to Miss Gordon in ornamental lettering. The second page bears the address of the ladies of the United Kingdom, which is as follows:—

"MADAM,—We, the Princesses of Great Britain and Ireland, the Peeresses of the Realm, and the wives of Bishops and members of the House of Commons, as representing the women of the United Kingdom, desire to be allowed to associate ourselves with you and with your sisters in your sorrow, and express our heartfelt sympathy in your loss.

We earnestly wish to record our deep veneration for your brother, the noble defender of Khartoum, who sacrificed his life to uphold the honor of his country, and who died a heroic death in a far off land.

In the depth of your sorrow you must find consolation in the conviction that your brother's life has not been lived in vain. He leaves to his country, and to the world, the undying legacy of a life of self-denying faith and of devotion to duty, and to God.

In ages to come British mothers will bid their sons look to General Gordon as an example to inspire them to great and noble deeds, and place him among the heroes of whom she is proud. England will evermore hold in honor the name of Charles Gordon, the brave soldier, the loyal subject, the faithful chieftain, the loving friend of the poor, the desolate, and the oppressed. It is your privilege to be the sister of one whose memory is revered, and whose death is mourned in all countries of the world. We trust that the sympathy which fills the hearts of all English women, and of which these words are but a feeble expression, may in some degree soothe the bitterness of your grief."

This address is within a frame of victors' laurel; at the top of the page is the monogram, C. G. G., and below is the late General's coat of arms, crest, etc., with the family motto, "Semper Fidelis," (always faithful). His orders and medals are introduced here, as also the peacocks' feathers, in accordance with the honors he received from the Emperor of China. The

remaining pages of the volume bear the signatures of the Royal Princesses, the Bishops' wives, and the wives of the members of Parliament, the name of Miss Florence Nightingale, Britain's most philanthropic woman, being added at the end, and such a notable memorial cannot fail to delight the sister and relatives of General Gordon, and will doubtless be treasured as one of the most precious of the family heirlooms.

OUR RIGHTS.

The interest which is evinced by France in the Fishery Question between Canada and the United States, only serves to prove that our fisheries are of much greater importance than Senator Frye and the New England fishermen are willing to admit. It is quite evident that the deep sea fisheries on the banks of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia would be of little practical value to French and American fishermen without their being accorded the privilege of purchasing bait from the inhabitants dwelling in the fishing villages along the shore. This is the whole question in a nutshell. The United States and France claim that our government has no right to prohibit the sale of bait to foreigners, but the contention is as fallacious as it is ridiculous. If a Nova Scotian barque bringing a cargo of sugar from the West Indies to New York wishes to load flour at Boston for Halifax, she must go from New York to Boston in ballast, the law of the United States restricting the coasting trade in the Republic to American vessels. No one in Canada for a moment questions the right of the Washington government to carry out regulations which are presumably framed in the interests of American citizens and ship-owners; but when we in Canada, after having our fish shut out from the United States market by a hostile tariff, after having, for the sake of a peaceful solution of the Fishery Question, allowed our American cousins the free use of our fishing grounds for nearly a year after the abrogation of the Washington Treaty, and after agreeing to have the whole question submitted to a joint commission for arbitration, choose to stand upon our rights, we are at once exposed to the artillery of the American press, and to the vituperation and bitter denunciation of American politicians. But we have no idea of taking back water. If our contention that Canada has a perfect right to manage her own affairs be correct, and if it can be proved that under no existing treaty has the United States been accorded the privileges claimed by Senator Frye and his associates, then it is plain that we must strictly adhere to the policy of protecting our fisheries, come what may; but Americans will do well to remember that this policy has been forced upon Canada by the United States, and that so soon as the lawmakers in the latter country agree to the appointment of an arbitration commission, Canada will hail it with pleasure, believing that by arbitration alone can the question be settled in a permanent and satisfactory manner.

THE SPY SYSTEM.

The customs authorities are incurring very severe censure by maintaining a sort of spy system for the detection of fraud; and from the imperfect data before us, we are disposed to concur in this censure. It is always a pity when law must sail under the colors of illegality, even in order to discover the methods adopted by the law-breaker. But we frequently learn of instances in which the cunning artifices of swindlers are detected by apparent participation in their crime. Two striking cases of this have come to light during the past few days. A number of ticket agents in the offices of the G. T. R. have been under suspicion for some time. To certain trusted passengers they have been selling long-distance tickets, and accounting for them as covering short distances. Detectives, by assuming a knowing air, managed to buy tickets, as passengers with whom the agents were in collusion. They kept the tickets and exposed the fraud.

A bolder and more cunning swindle has been recently exposed by the Ontario detective, Rogers. A man named Martin, making his headquarters at Blythe and Lucknow, addressed circulars to various individuals, who he learned were out of employment. He professed to be engaged in making counterfeit bank-notes, so good that they could not be detected. As specimens, he enclosed small clippings of real bank-notes, offering to sell \$100 of such notes for \$30. He appointed a place of meeting, enjoining the strictest secrecy in everything. His victim was told, at the rendezvous, that the last supply of the notes had been sent away with an agent the same day, but was promised that others would be forwarded to any address, if he left the pay for them. Detective Rogers learned that a Guelph baker had received one of the circulars, and he induced him to communicate with Martin, enclosing a marked bank-note. The result was, that Martin was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for inciting to fraud.

Many of the operations of detectives have to be carried on by means of feigned accomplices in crime—otherwise called spies. It seems an unworthy method for authorities to adopt; but we may well doubt whether, after all, there are not many kinds of fraud which can only be detected by fraud. While admitting this, however, we feel certain that, by the adoption of a proper system of checking returns, both railway systems and customs departments could dispense with the obnoxious and degrading occupation of the spy.

The strikes for the eight-hour system in the United States meet with varying success. In Pittsburg and vicinity the claim has been granted in several instances. In St Louis the master plasterers have allowed their men to work eight hours for \$2.50 instead of ten hours for \$4.50 as heretofore. In many cases the demand has been refused, on the ground that other competing companies would obtain an advantage by adhering to the long day system.