

Home is a blessed name, and yet the meaning of the forms which our residences assume, their origin and history, is in the region of ignorance or in that of opinion. Perhaps a first-class lecture on architecture, one as good as those which arouse enthusiasm in the class-room, might combine the quickening of the artistic taste with substantial practical gain by being delivered in aid of the gymnasium.

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We are glad to see that one of Kingston's candidates for the mayoralty has come out publicly against canvassing, but are sorry that his proposal has not been adhered to. Of all the precautions taken to secure an honest expression of opinion at the poll, none does so much for the realization of this end as would the abolition of canvassing. A long step toward purity in politics will be taken when Alderman Behan's suggestion is carried out, and canvassing is placed in the catalogue of penal offences.

Not only would it tend to purity by removing to a large extent the opportunities for bribery and coercion, which now exist, but it would also open the way for honourable yet modest candidates to enter the political arena. It can hardly be doubted that many able men are deterred from offering themselves for public service, because they are unwilling to stoop to personal solicitation of votes, and under existing circumstances the candidate who will not do this has little chance of being elected. If circumstances can be so altered that a man's chance of election will depend, not on his ability as a canvasser—which is seldom ability of the highest order—but upon the public estimate of his platform and the sterling worth of his personal character and abilities, then we may expect the best men of the land to be at our service. The abolition of canvassing would do much to bring about such a state of affairs.

Here it will be objected that a law of this kind would be too great an interference with personal liberty. We fail to see this. In many cases it would be a protection of personal rights; for what contest has passed without many electors longing for deliverance from the persistent canvassers, who solicit votes on every imaginable ground, from that of personal friendship to the acquaintance of great-grandfathers in the Old Land? It might be a limitation of individual rights if candidates and their agents were not allowed personally to superintend the education of their fellow-citizens for a couple of months before an election, but it would be no hindrance to an intelligent use of the ballot. When the platform and press are always open to all, and personal instruction might begin as soon as an election was over, we feel sure that the gain from such

a law would more than balance the loss, and the rights protected would be infinitely more than those infringed. We, therefore, commend Alderman Behan's suggestion to the serious consideration of Laurier and Mowat.

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The much debated, much misunderstood dispute known as the Venezuelan question seems in a fair way to be settled amicably. That Britain, in admitting the right of the United States to interfere in Venezuelan affairs, has recognized the Munroe doctrine as a factor in international law, cannot, we think, be denied. But this concession detracts not in the slightest degree from the reasonableness and consistency of Lord Salisbury's contention throughout. Nor has he in any wise receded from the position which he assumed in his correspondence with Secretary Olney prior to that ill-timed outburst of jingoism known as Cleveland's message. At that time he refused to submit to arbitration the disputed question of the Venezuelan boundary line when the court's decision might result in the betrayal of men who, in perfect good faith, had settled in the debatable land, relying on the protection of the British flag. That he has finally agreed to arbitration is explained by the following clause in Olney's proposal:—

"Provided, however, that, in fixing such line, if territory of one party be found in the occupation of the subjects or citizens of the other party, such weight and effect shall be given to such occupation as reason, justice, the rules of international law, and the equities of the particular case may appear to require."

That is to say, all Britons whose settlements may be cut off from the British possessions by the line fixed by the court of arbitration, and who do not wish to live under a half-barbarous, Indo-Spanish government, will be fully compensated for all losses consequent on the demarcation of the frontier. It is this energy in demanding the lives and rights of her people that has brought upon Britain, as it brought upon ancient Rome, the accusation from foreign nations of being actuated by ambition and lust of conquest.

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Will the recognition of the Monroe doctrine by the British Government, which has, in effect, prepared the way for its recognition by the other European powers, result in unmixed blessing to the American people? We fear not. As protector of the continent of America that people has assumed a position, brimful of *la gloire* no doubt, and one which makes the country unique among the nations of the earth, but which entails, also, heavy responsibilities and grave dangers. The Spanish-American peoples are, at best, what a Scotchman would call