

towards man." I hope we shall see more of it, and less of persecution. I have no sympathy whatever with men who can pay their just debts and don't; but my heart goes out to those who are persecuted by a well-to-do landlord, for their inability to meet his rent charge.

It is satisfactory to see that in the Provincial Legislature bills have been introduced to secure to workmen the wages they have honestly earned. One of them is entitled "An Act relating to workmen's wages, and to make better provision for the payment thereof." This was, however, killed in committee, Mr. Semlin moving that the Committee rise which was carried by a majority of one. The other is known as the Mechanics' and Laborers' Bill and gives the workman a lien on his work. It is almost identical with the one introduced in 1888, which by the way, is regarded as having worked well until it was repealed. This Bill provides as well for the material man as for the workman. The indications are that this measure will become law and that some of the provisions of the kindred Bill which was thrown out will be incorporated with it.

Almost the most interesting character of Mr. Pope's volumes is that dealing with the personal characteristics of Sir John Macdonald. We are all fond of gossip, whether we admit it or not, and the gossip regarding a great man has really a social value. Sir John was so reticent and owing to the public demand on his time so difficult of access privately during his latter years, that the public curiosity met little to gratify it. But Mr. Pope supplies almost all that is legitimate to meet that want.

Sir John in his later years opened his day by a cup of tea in his bedroom. Then he came down to his library about 9.30 a. m., and

worked at his correspondence or received important visitors until noon, when he breakfasted generally upon a "minute portion of fish, game, or often a marrow bone, of which he was very fond; toast, and butter without salt." He did not go to the Departmental buildings in the morning because the stream of callers there prevent work. But he went there in the afternoon, and stayed till six o'clock, attending to departmental or Cabinet affairs, then he drove home. Mr. Pope proceeds:

"The half hour before dinner was given up to his invalid daughter, whom he loved with all the warmth of his affectionate nature. His first words on entering the house frequently were 'Where is my little girl?' He would sit down beside her, and talk over the events of the day. Such conversations, brimful as they were of light badinage, in which they both excelled, were delightful to listen to. Sometimes he joined in a game with her, or read to her some story in which she was interested. His dinner was simple in character, a single dish and a glass of claret often sufficing for his moderate wants. His leisure evenings were generally spent in the library, looking over the newspapers, or playing a game of 'patience' of which he was very fond, and in the mysteries of which he was always ready to instruct any of his little daughter's friends who displayed curiosity to know what he was doing. Most of the time in which I knew him, he played 'patience' several times a day. Often before going to Council, when his carriage was at the door he would sit down at the table sacred to his amusement, and play a game, which he said had the same soothing effect upon him as a cigar upon a smoker. When he moved into summer quarters at the seaside, those whose duty it was to look after the arrangement of his temporary office always took care to provide a small table and a pack of cards for his exclusive use. I never knew him to play whist, or bezique, or any other game of cards save 'patience.' When invited to join in a rubber he always declined, saying that he was too old to learn. * * *

"What most impressed those who saw Sir John A. Macdonald

at home was the faculty he had of divesting himself of the cares of state. To watch him join in a round game with a merry group of children with Lady Macdonald and his daughter, reading amusing paragraphs out of the newspapers, or descanting upon the topics of the day, one found it hard to realize that he was the same man who, a few hours before, had been harassed by the grave and perplexing problems which awaited him on the morrow. He retired early, but, as a rule, not to sleep, for to the very last he was much given to reading in bed. But sleep came when courted, and after a good night's rest he was always ready to approach the questions which he had banished from his mind the evening before."

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