

tier, Mr. J. A. Macdonald, Mr. Brown, and others, have trodden the thorny path to greatness, bespattered with the vituperation of their opponents; and Mr. Holton is apparently wending his way to the same goal. Our readers are acquainted with Dr. Walcott's story of "The Pilgrims and the Peace." Before starting on his journey, one of the penitents had taken the precaution to boil the pease which he was condemned to carry in his shoes, and he performed his pilgrimage with great ease and comfort; the other, who had neglected the culinary process, crept painfully over the same road with weary limbs and bleeding feet. It is thus, too, in the race of politics. While some go lightly over the course, some sink on the route, or come in wounded and distressed. We imagine that Mr. Holton is one of those who have forgotten "to boil his pease," and that he suffers more from the omission than his pride and self-respect would willingly confess. But, if so, he ought to remember that he is only paying the penalty that others have paid before him, and which many will pay after him if matters are not greatly altered in this respect in the days to come. Perhaps, after all, these fierce onslaughts are merely "pretty Fanny's way." Certain African tribes, as a preliminary ceremony to electing a king, nearly stone him to death.

It is a pity, nevertheless, that this habit of showering personal abuse on the heads of political opponents should not be reformed. It is almost useless, often meaningless, and generally detrimental to the public welfare. That it does not improve either the manners or the morals of the community, we need scarcely say. Like the pillory in the olden time, it ceases to be a punishment even for crime, when it falls equally on the just and unjust; and political censure knows little distinction now-a-days. We have called it a habit; and, like similar habits and customs, it is destined to run its course with us as it has done with our elders, and perhaps our betters, since the days of Thersites downwards, leaving it a legacy to posterity, as a portion of our annals which our children will not be proud of. We need not go far for proof of our assertions. Within living memory every public man of any eminence among us has, at some period of his career, been the butt of slander and vituperation. Yet who believes now that Denis B. Viger was the enemy of his country? Who believes that Robert Baldwin was a hypocrite and a traitor? And both were called by these, and if possible, worse names, for several years before and after the union of the Canadas. The writers and orators of the United States have indulged in the vice of personal and political outrage in a degree seldom witnessed elsewhere in the present century. But, the instances are so numerous and so familiar to every one that we shall not attempt to recapitulate them. England has outgrown the era in the political life of a nation when opponents are covered with filth, as a substitute for argument; yet she has seen the day, when, both in Parliament and the Press, she was quite as guilty as her neighbours in that respect. The contests between Walpole and his assailants were of the most violent character; and Fox told Lord North that he would never rest contented until he saw his head rolling on the scaffold. The curious sequel to this ferocious threat, as all the world knows, was that shortly after, the accuser and the accused joined in forming

the celebrated coalition Ministry of 1783. We have at the present moment a parallel to the last case in the coalition between Mr. George Brown and his old enemies Messrs Cartier and J. A. Macdonald, whom he had been combating for years, and denouncing as the most corrupt ministers who ever managed the government of this or any other country, but whom now he has discovered to be, not "corruptionists," but pure statesmen and patriotic citizens. We do not blame Mr. Brown for the course he has pursued to allay the dangerous spirit of anger and discontent which certainly prevailed in both sections of the Province at the period that he accepted office, but we mention the fact as a warning to others, and the remembrance of which ought not to be lost on himself. A good rule in newspaper controversy is to write nothing about any one which you would not say before his face, in open debate, dispassionately and deliberately. If this were always done, much injustice would be avoided. Of course, however, no rules can bind the tongues or the pens of those mere *condottieri* of party who unfortunately are too numerous in the political world. There is one excuse, such as it is, which the Canadian journalists can advance in extenuation of the violence which often disfigures their columns. Daily papers prevail in great numbers, and most of them can only afford to employ a single editor who has to rack his brains for matter to spin into one or more articles, some 313 days every year. Few are entitled to more commiseration than such a man—unless it be his readers. Now, of all sorts of writing—not even excepting the prosy—the easiest is the abusive. Such is one of the chief sources of the violence of the Canadian press.

We are aware that this our homily will avail little in amending the evil of which we complain, and which is so detrimental to the respectability and usefulness of a noble calling. But we have discharged our conscience in the premises, leaving our words to fall upon good or barren ground, as fate and circumstances may direct.

REVIEWS.

Books for review should be forwarded, as soon as published, to the Editor, SATURDAY READER, Montreal.

THE INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE.

THOSE who have read Dr. Draper's "Intellectual Development of Europe" do not need to be told that its author stands in the front rank of those bold thinkers who have pressed the study of speculative philosophy on the world of letters. The publication of that great work in 1863 created a profound sensation among the learned of Europe. Those who agreed with the author in the peculiar theory he sought to establish were enraptured with his powerful, and, apparently conclusive arguments, no less than by the literary ability displayed in every page; while those who disagreed with his theory found in his book such an imperial store of treasured records of uncounted histories and biographies, portraying, in a manner at once graphic and accurate, all the grand turning points in European story, that it immediately became a valued accession to almost every library. In the preface to his present work* the author tells us that "The Intellectual Development of Europe" has already run through a great many editions, reprints, and translations, and that this appreciation was again exhibited in regard to the four lectures delivered last winter before the New York Historical Society, which supply the frame-

* "Thoughts on the Civil Policy of America," by John William Draper, M. D., LL. D. New York: Harper Brothers; Montreal. Dawson Brothers.

work of his present book. The proposition that mankind, as well as all inferior creation, is completely under the control of fixed natural laws, and that the social advancement of the human race is entirely dependent upon external circumstances, is not new. Comte, Buckle, and other eminent men have propounded the same theory, but to Dr. Draper is due the credit of putting it into something like practical shape, by bringing the history of the European and Asiatic races, the teachings of every accredited science, and all new discoveries, to its demonstration.

Dr. Draper has studied history; that is very plain; but whether the theory he deduces from it has been the result of the study, or the study the result of the theory, is another matter. The object of the present work is to show how this theory applies to America, with the view of giving direction to American politics and statesmanship. The book is divided into four parts, the first of which is devoted to an examination of the "Influences of Climate" or the social condition of man. We propose to confine our present remarks to this part of the work. It is difficult to compress into the limits of a review, even the outlines of a work of so wide a range, and of such unusual ambition; abstruse theories, are always made more intelligible by illustration; and it is not without regret that we are compelled to pass over the similitudes of unsurpassed beauty with which our author has adorned his pages. The doctrine sought to be established is the existence of "Controlling Law," to whose resistless influence man and all animal and vegetable creation are subject. This natural law, which exercises so important functions in the role of life, is made apparent to us by the influence of climate upon man. "The aspect of man," we are told, in colour and form, oscillates between two extremes. Submitted for a due time to a high temperature, he will become dark, or if to a low temperature, he will become fair. The form of the skull will also alter." No race, it would appear, is in a state of unchangeability, or able successfully to maintain its present physiognomy if the circumstances under which it lives undergo alteration. It holds itself ready with equal facility to sink to a baser or rise to a more elevated state.

"There are two typical forms of skull, popularly distinguished as the savage and the civilized. The former gives a detestable aspect to the countenance—a receding forehead, over which the hair encroaches on the eyebrows; the nostrils gaping, and seeming to enter directly backward into the head; the jaw projecting, the mouth open, the teeth uncovered. In the other the forehead is vertical; the brow expansive, and with an air of intellectuality; the face capable of expressing the most refined emotions; the eyes in an indescribable but significant manner manifest the exalted powers of the mind, and the lips are composed or compressed.

"Between these two typical extremes there are many intermediate forms. Extreme heat or extreme cold, a life of physical hardship, tend to the production of the baser; a life of ease in a genial climate, to the higher type. And since our pursuits, and therefore our modes of thought, and therefore our feelings, depend upon the climate we are living in, its influences will be indicated by the general construction of the brain, and therefore by the form of the skull.

"For perfection in the construction of the brain many conditions must be satisfied. It is not mere mass alone that is required, but also symmetrical organization of the several parts. The most prominent characteristic of this organ is its symmetrical doubleness. It consists of two halves, a right and a left; halves they ought hardly to be called, for each is complete in itself, and resembles its fellow. Every person has thus two perfect brains, each of which can conduct most of the usual mental acts. And, indeed, this symmetrical doubleness occurs throughout all that portion of the nervous system which is devoted, as physiologists term it, to animal life: so much so, that it might be affirmed that every person is composed of two symmetrical individuals, a right one and a left, which to a certain extent lead independent lives; for instance, one may be struck by palsy, the other may escape.

"These double organs do not double the intensity of our perceptions, but only render them more precise. For current uses one side of the brain alone may be employed, but when we require greater exactness both are brought into play. They can give a separate, or a conjoint, or, as some singular facts show, an alternating action. How often, when one hemisphere is engaged in some ordinary pursuit requiring its