

to the subjects of which it treats, it will occupy the field fully. A staff of the ablest writers will contribute regularly to its pages, and everything possible will be done to heighten its interest and value. We ask from the public a continued recognition of our efforts, and that fair reciprocity to which our merits entitle us. Thus stimulated we shall deal vigorously, truthfully and fearlessly with the issues that are presented to us for discussion, at whatever cost, and endeavour to establish still higher claims to public approval.

CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY.

The judgment of men regarding the future is often far astray. What is frequently at first esteemed a curse turns out to be a blessing. Thus it is with our commercial position at the present time. When the United States first proposed to close their markets against our productions, except on payment of heavy duties, some Canadians looked with gloom and despondency to the future, and all served to fear it would be a serious injury to us. But the experience of a few months seemed to dispel the illusion, and we have no hesitation in asserting the present to be a great opportunity for the Dominion—an opportunity, the proper improvement of which will greatly influence our future prosperity, and the like of which we may not soon be favored with again.

The United States was long considered the most prosperous country in the world. Throughout Europe it was recognized as such, and hence almost the entire stream of emigration flowed to its shores. It was there the poor man could most quickly improve his circumstances; there he could most easily support himself and his family; and there he had the least taxation to pay. These attractions rapidly increased the population of the United States, and this population's labor and wealth were the source of the nation's prosperity. Canada's attractions were, to a large extent, overlooked. By the side of our big neighbor, our advantages as a country were but partially appreciated. The tide of emigration swept past us to the "Great West," and even some of our own population migrated across the lines.

Canada's opportunity just consists in this: that to-day much of this is reversed! The Dominion, now on the eve of national life, has become the most attractive portion of the continent for the working man. The United States has lost the foremost place in this respect, and Canada now stands in the proud position of being the best home for the immigrant—the one in which he can secure the best reward for his labor—can give the the cheapest, and have the least

taxation to pay. These circumstances lie at the foundation of national prosperity. They have been one of the chief causes of the rapid progress of our neighbors in the past. The opportunity arising from them is now ours—at least for some years to come—and it behoves our Government to use all legitimate endeavors to improve it to the utmost.

That the Dominion now offers greater inducements to the mechanic and laboring man than the United States, does not, we think, admit of a doubt. What are the things these classes most desire in a new country? They desire to make good wages, to live cheaply, to be taxed lightly, and, we may add, to enjoy free institutions. Regarding the latter point, we are, at least, on a par with our neighbors; in all the others we consider we are in advance of them. Inflated as everything is by a superabundant currency, the United States are far from securely prosperous. When Mr. McCulloch was Secretary of the Treasury, he described their prosperity as "false and delusive," and it is not much better yet. The cost of rents, of living, of fuel, &c., may be justly set down as nearly, if not quite, 100 per cent. more in the Republic than here. Wages, it is true, have advanced throughout the Union generally; but Mr. Wells, the Revenue Commissioner, plainly proves, in his report for 1869, that the necessities of life have advanced still more rapidly. Take up an American price list, and compare it with the moderate cost of living in Canada, and the difference will be found much greater than is generally supposed. And what shall we say of taxation? Formerly the people of the United States were lightly taxed; now they have a debt close upon \$2,500,000,000, and the burden presses the people on every hand. Nor can this state of matters—which is so oppressive to the poor man—be of temporary duration. In the very nature of things it must continue for some years; and if anything like a crisis were to occur, the burden would become as heavy as the bundle of sins which pressed poor John Bunyan into the slough of despond.

From these considerations, it must be apparent that Canada and the United States no longer occupy the relative positions they did before the late civil war broke out. Our neighbors have lost, and we have gained the high position of being the most attractive country for the poor man in America, and we are consequently now enjoying a golden opportunity to turn the tide of foreign emigration to our shores, and add to the material prosperity we are now enjoying. We call upon our Government and legislators to improve this opportunity, by increasing the attractions of the Dominion as a home for new settlers. The contrast we now present

to the United States in the particulars stated is most favorable to us; our interest lies in rendering that contrast still greater. Let us endeavor to keep the cost of living as low as possible. Let us develop our resources and so provide an abundance of labor. Let us offer our wild lands on terms quite as favorable as our neighbors. This is the policy which, in our opinion, will enable us to make the most of Canada's opportunity, and best promote the welfare of the country at large.

BUSINESS AND GAMBLING.

There seems to be but little that is analogous in these terms suggestive of the occupations of the merchant and the gamester. The high-toned trader of former days would regard the placing in juxtaposition of these words as a foul stain upon the class to which he belonged, and would indignantly hurl back the stigma upon those who had the hardihood to venture to assume that they had any connection. But the old theories of slow and sure, tardy but certain gains, is too tedious and wearying for this progressive age. In our business, as our travelling, the fast train is the favorite; the goal must be reached—the game played sharp and quick in order to suit our advanced notions.

The greed of gain and reckless speculation has so bridged the gulf between business and gambling that there is now only an almost imperceptible dividing line. So rapidly has this been accomplished, and so acceptable has been the change, that men of all trades and callings have set themselves diligently to the task of harmonizing these incongruous elements. True, the task is rather a difficult one, but so fascinating, that notwithstanding scores and hundreds are yearly withdrawing, beaten and worsted from the attempt, the ranks are rapidly filled by ardent believers that to their lot will fall the credit of success.

The most striking result of the inroads of the gambling element into our business affairs, has been a lowering of our moral business tone and a gradual development and assimilation of the characters symbolized by our heading, till callings once honorable have become so tainted that the merchant with strict notions of probity has but a poor chance when pitted against the tricksters of the day. We have now gambling in stocks, gambling in gold, gambling in grain, coal oil, lands, gold mines; bulls and bears and rings, and the necessary concomitants of short sales, false receipts and repudiated bargains; mingled with the chicanery and deception of the real professional gamester and faro-player; the stakes issued are gold; the commodity played with represents the "counter" that gives the business coloring—the risks and chances the lure.