

strange stories of the inner working of the Trinity beer. These strange stories received an impetus, it seems, from one or two men who have recently left the University and who, for reasons best known to themselves, but not altogether unknown to their former associates, industriously circulated little tales, having for their foundation—so far as they had any foundation at all—certain misdemeanours in which they themselves played the chief if not the only parts. These interesting tales gave the enemy a chance to blaspheme, and the prohibitionists to say "I told you so." Things came to a head at the late meeting of Convocation, the prohibitionists, mustering in force and overflowing with reminiscences of their own and long past youthful indiscretions and excesses, spoke in strong terms of the evils of intemperance, which, of course, nobody denies, and calling in question the wisdom of Trinity's allowing beer to be procured at the Collegé butteries. It was pointed out in vain by the authorities that sumptuary laws have never been successful, and that the chief characteristic of prohibition institutions, like prohibition states, is the consumption of whiskey. However, it was ultimately decided to refer the matter for consideration to the Executive Committee, the result of its deliberations to be made known at the next annual meeting of Convocation. Pending the action of the Committee the faculty, which had previously been considering the matter, decided that beer for dinner only should be supplied from the butteries, though it was announced to the students, as reported in another page, that no misconduct on their part had necessitated the change. On the contrary the men had shown themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them. As the authorities readily admit that the old system worked and that there was no cause for any change in it, it is evident that the new regulations have been put in force out of deference to the wishes or opinions of people who think they know better how to manage the domestic concerns of the University than do the dons themselves. Whilst we wish the intentions of these good people the success they deserve we would beg to remind them once more that Trinity is not a Divinity School. Apart from necessary discipline, the freer the men are in a University the better it is for all concerned.

THE NEW EMPIRE.*

WHEN we say this is perhaps, the very handsomest book as yet published in the Dominion of Canada, we would not, for a moment, be understood as drawing off attention from the intrinsic excellence of Mr. Howland's work, which is very great, to the beauty of its exterior. Yet this latter is by no means of small importance, and it is with sincere pleasure that we note the increasing attention paid by Canadian authors and publishers to excellence of paper, printing and binding.

But there is something still better in the volume now before us. It is, perhaps, the most important contribution which the press has yet given us to the subject of the relation of Canada to the Empire; and this, not merely because of the sobriety and largeness of mind with which the whole subject is treated, but also because of the large knowledge of the question which the author exhibits, and the able and skilful manner in which he uses his knowledge.

When Mr. Howland speaks of the New Empire, he does not of course mean that there is any real break with the past. The New Empire is the more full and frank recognition of the principle that all legislation and all government should have

regard to the good of the people at large, and that all privileges should cease which are not calculated to promote the common good.

Mr. Howland agrees with Professor Goldwin Smith in holding that the most friendly relations should be cultivated between the Dominion of Canada, and indeed the whole Empire, on the one hand, and the "Great Republic" on the other side. Only he differs widely from that distinguished writer as to the means to be employed for reaching that end. He believes neither in political union nor in commercial union, but in following out our own destiny as part of the British Empire.

The author, very properly holds that an accurate knowledge of our past history is of the greatest importance, if not of absolute necessity, in order to the understanding of our true position and relations, and the duties which flow from them.

Accordingly he begins with the fall of the Old Empire, synchronizing approximately with the American Revolt and the French Revolution. He next takes up (Chapter II) the Treaty of Partition and its fulfilment, pointing out some of the errors committed, and the defective fulfilment of the Treaty. In the next chapter he proceeds to give an account of the constitution of the New Empire—"a people of many nations," and "a federation without centralisation," showing the existence of defects in our present arrangements which might be removed without difficulty. We might here remark that we are not quite sure that some system of *zollverein* might not be found quite practicable between different parts of the Empire, notwithstanding the author's remarks on the difficulty of establishing such an arrangement.

In Chapter IV, on our centenary year, the author points out with great propriety and force the ruinous effects of hesitation in our own view of our position; and we would earnestly commend his remarks on that subject to those agitators who seem preparing to petition for admission into the American Union. There can be no doubt that this country has been injured by the McKinley legislation; but, if we are to be shaken and paralysed by doubts of ourselves, of our possibilities, of our future, then we shall inflict greater injuries upon our best interests than any neighbouring or unfriendly power could bring about. In the concluding chapter on the Crisis of the Empire, Mr. Howland advocates the inclusion of Newfoundland in the Dominion, and pleads for a frank and bold assertion of the principles of the Unity of the Empire. "Let us," he says, "make our election now. Let the great colonies at once assume their place beside the mother country, at a time when the future is not free from uncertainties, nor wholly unclouded with perils; but then our very decision must help, in some measure, towards a right solution, and may lead to a happy issue from all those possibilities that menace interests more general than our own. Is not this the action which wisdom would advise, and which our honour and our duty to humanity, seem to command?" These words are certainly not too strong, and we believe they will be weighed and accepted by the general judgment of this country.

We have been able to give only a brief outline of this most important work; but we have said enough to show our estimate of its great value. It will be indispensable for Englishmen who may wish to learn the state of things here; but there are few among ourselves who will not learn something from its admirably written pages.

MR. AND MRS. FOLKES have come up from New York on a visit, and are staying at Deneside. Mr. Ffolkes, who has been very seriously ill for some time, is much better and it is hoped that he will soon be quite recovered.

The New Empire: Reflections upon its origin and constitution, and its relation to the Great Republic. By O. A. Howland. Price \$2.50. Toronto: Hart & Co., 1891.