

connected with the dismissal by the United States Government of Sir Lionel Sackville-West, the accredited representative of Great Britain at Washington. All that has hitherto been known touching this important international episode was that shortly before the Presidential election of 1888 Mr. Cleveland sent Sir Lionel his passports because of a letter written by him in answer to a communication received from one Osgoodly—who wrote under the name of Murchison and pretended to be an Englishman wishing for advice as to voting in the coming election. Sir Lionel was indiscreet enough to express a preference for Mr. Cleveland, and so fell easily into the trap. Osgoodly handed the letter to a Los Angeles paper and it was promptly telegraphed all over the country.

Mr. Bayard's
Sudden Change.

When Sir Lionel found he had been the victim of a political plot he hastened to the Secretary of State to explain, and Mr. Bayard cordially accepted his expression of regret at what had occurred. But the Irish took the matter up and clamoured for his dismissal. Thereupon the President, who at first was very ready to accept Sir Lionel's explanation, suddenly discovered that the English Minister had done a very grievous thing and must be recalled. Mr. Bayard made the same discovery. Sir Lionel comments on this sudden change of attitude with much bitterness, which, under the circumstances, can be easily pardoned. He charges Mr. Bayard with using language in the public press "unparalleled in diplomatic history." He accuses him also of flagrant misstatements of fact, of political trickery, and of duplicity. In their desire to please the Irish both the President and the Secretary of State did not hesitate to insult and humiliate the representative of a friendly power, a representative, too, with whom they had been for several years on the most intimate terms. There is some satisfaction in knowing that these frantic and disgraceful efforts to gain a temporary popularity with the Irish faction did not prevent a bad defeat at the election.

Opinions About
It.

As the cable messages which appear in Canadian newspapers come wholly through United States channels and are written originally for United States readers, very little reliance can be placed upon them especially in matters of international concern. We shall have to wait for the arrival of the English mail before it will be possible to pass judgment on Lord Sackville's extraordinary pamphlet. So far as we have been able to learn the truth of none of his statements has been called in question even by the most patriotic of American journalists. His pictures are most effective. Can there be anything more ludicrous than the sight of the President of the great American Republic posing as intensely anti-English, grovelling before the Irish vote, and full of windy words about retaliation and of schemes for twisting the lion's tail, and then writing privately to the Premier of Great Britain and requesting consideration and forbearance on the grounds that his official acts mean nothing and are born of political necessity? It is clear that the Irish are the dominant factor in the Republic, and that Canadians could never expect any restraint to be put upon them by the United States Government should they desire to invade the Dominion again. On the contrary both Republicans and Democrats would vie with each other in furthering the venture, hoping as a result to obtain the all-powerful vote. It is hopeless to expect fair play and consideration from the United States so long as the country is controlled by the Irish as it is to-day. The politicians are but their tools, and the President and his Cabinet tremble at their nod.

Queen's
University.

The University of Queen's College, Kingston, maintains the same steady progress which has characterized it for the last twenty-five years. At the public opening of the Medical Faculty this week notable advances since last session were reported; in particular, an operating theatre more completely equipped than any other in Canada; a Professor in Bacteriology and Pathology who is not to practise but to give his whole time to the duties of his chair; and a new Laboratory for Bacteriology for which the Principal made himself chiefly responsible and for which he asks contributions from the medical graduates of the University. It is not wonderful that the Freshman Class in medicine is large and has a larger proportion of graduates in Arts than usual when students see that new provision is continually being made for modern methods of teaching. On "University Day," or the day on which Her Majesty signed the charter, the Principal presided at the Autumn Convocation. A well deserved tribute was paid to Professor Fletcher, who has accepted the chair of Latin in Toronto University, his own Alma Mater, after having filled it in Queen's for many years with the greatest acceptance. The passage from one university to another, so common in Germany, is almost unknown in Canada, but in our opinion ought to be encouraged, as it must tend to that comity which ought to prevail in the republic of letters. When a man leaves one Church for another the rule is to say nothing good about him. That rule is not observed in Queen's, and let us hope that it will fall into desuetude in time in the Churches. The Principal was able to call attention to new Laboratories in Chemistry and Petrography, to enlarged class-rooms, to extensive additions to the Library, and to other improvements made since the last Convocation. It is very gratifying to be able to note the signs of vigorous life in almost every one of our universities.

A Good
Text-Book.

Several of our contemporaries, notably the Toronto Globe, and Hamilton Spectator, in the course of favourable reviews of Dr. Bourinot's new book, "How Canada is Governed," have strongly urged its adoption by the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools of this country, where so little attention is paid to the study of our institutions of Government. British Columbia has already set a creditable example in this particular, and the Protestant Committee of the Board of Instruction in Quebec are moving in the same direction. In the Province of Ontario, where there is assuredly a plethora of subjects, some relatively useless, room should certainly be made for a subject of paramount importance for the youth of this Dominion, on whose knowledge, ability, and public spirit the future of this country depends. Dr. Bourinot's book, confessedly on all sides, fills a public want by its clearness, conciseness, and accuracy, and, above all things, by its enunciation of those sound principles that every one should follow in the discharge of the duties of citizenship. The approval of the people at large is shown by the fact that the book is already in its second edition.

The Higher
Criticism.

It seems to be the mind of a good many among ourselves that it would be well to shelve indefinitely the question of what is called the Higher Criticism, or the Literary History of the Old Testament. And perhaps it would be as well if men who have no qualifications for such studies would leave them to those who have, and, in the meantime, would abstain from anathemas and denunciations. Practical Christians can get along quite well without being able to solve these questions, and in many cases discretion will be found the better part of