

the opium den, is a far more dangerous temptation than the more slowly acting and more expensive pipe. Truly in this matter John Chinaman is jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

"Moralists may inveigh against the smoking habits," says an inveterate smoker, as he lit a fresh cigar, "but outside of the comfort smoking bestows, the habit frequently acts as an introducer, and a request for a match or a light often breaks the ice and leads to pleasant conversation when two strangers who are travelling together or perhaps waiting for a train. Sometimes acquaintances thus formed lead to lifetime friendships. It did in my case. When I was a young man an elderly gentleman once asked me for a light. We were fellow passengers on the rear end of a street car. We got into conversation and parted on friendly terms. A few days later we met again, and finally became fast friends. There came a time when that man's friendship enabled me to embark in an enterprise which made thousands of dollars for me and laid the foundation for a fortune. My friend and I remained on terms of the closest intimacy until his death three years ago. But for our cigars I might have remained a poor man."

By the next Australian steamer, the delegates are expected to arrive to attend the Colonial Conference to be held at Ottawa next month, and it is therefore necessary for an understanding to be arrived at as to what Canada can purchase from the Colonies and with what she can sell them in return. Hon. Mr. Reid, a member of one of the Colonial governments, has been delivering some very interesting addresses all over the country, on the subject of intercolonial relations. He adduced some important facts, but many are inclined to think that in the exuberance of his loyalty he laid undue stress upon the sentimental rather than the practical side of the question.

Politics is a game at which they play best who laugh last, and in the preliminary skirmishes which herald the coming campaign, it must be confessed that Mr. Davie has so far had it entirely his own way. The Opposition leaders, either from lassitude or from an innate feeling of helplessness, have not thought it advisable to oppose the Premier to any serious extent in his opening campaign, and this is a sign either of unbounded confidence on their part or of sullen despair of making a successful stand against his very vigorous advances. Most people will take the tactics of the Opposition in the latter light, and to any one conversant with politics in the Old Country it will be accepted as a sure

prognostication of the result at the polls. That a party who profess to hold the confidence of the country should fail to announce to their constituents the platform on which they intend to take their stand, for at least six weeks after Parliament has been dissolved, is an anachronism that speaks but poorly for their organization, and that this same party is still in doubt as to who is actual leader heightens the extreme absurdity of the situation. As a matter of fact, the Opposition seem to imagine that they can secure a lease of power by declaring a negative policy, in other words, that by denying to the present Government any credit either in the past or future they may themselves secure the chance of assuming the reins of leadership, leaving to opportunity the road they shall take. Such politics are to puerile for British Columbia.

The writings of Mrs. Saran Grand are achieving world-wide fame. According to Mrs. Grand's idea as expressed in "The Man of the Moment," from the modern girl's point of view, the man of the moment is not of much account. The instinct of natural selection which inclined her first of all to set him aside, for his flabbiness, is strengthened now by her knowledge of his character. She knows him much better than her parents do, and in proportion as she knows him she finds less and less reason to respect him. The girls discuss him with each other and with the younger married woman, and out of their discussions is arising a strong distaste for him. "I'm not going to marry a man I can't respect." "I shan't marry unless I find a man of honor with no horrid past," and "Don't offer me the mutilated remains of a man," coupled with the names of Tom Jones and Roderick Random, are the commonest expressions of it. And it is in vain for the man of the moment when he marries to hope to conceal the consequences of the past from his wife by assuming a highly refined objection to "allowing" her to read any book that would open her eyes. Manners of the new woman are perfect. She is never aggressive, never argumentative; but she understands the art of self-defense, and reads what she pleases. There are people who will disagree with Mrs. Grand's views, but again there are others who will give them serious consideration.

It is some years now since the first serious attempt was made to introduce physical culture into the public schools, but beyond the practising of the most perfunctory sort of "calisthenic exercises" here and there, the results of the movement have been of no special consequence. This is not because any considerable

number of people have opposed the project. It is now generally recognized as it was not forty years ago, that strong, healthy, well developed bodies are pre-apt to support strong, healthy, well developed brains, but it has not seemed to be the affair in most towns of any particular person or persons to bring about the change, and so it has not been brought about. It seems likely now, however, that a new departure in this direction will be taken in some of the schools of the United States. In fact, the proposition has already been acted upon, and unless its promoters carry it so far as to excite organized and considerable hostility, the result will undoubtedly be good, and may lead to a general extension of the idea. As everybody knows, physical culture in the schools is a German notion. The youngsters of Teutonic families are trained physically as well as mentally, and the youngest of the schoolboys and schoolgirls are taught to perform the work of the turnverein. France and England have already followed Germany's lead in this matter, and both were led to do this by the superior physical condition of the German soldiers in the Franco-German war.

Talk about wealthy men, Philip D. Armour is one of the greatest manufacturers in the United States or any other country. In this capacity alone, he employs 21,000 persons, pays six or seven millions of dollars yearly in wages, owns 4,000 railway cars which are used in transporting his goods, and has 700 or 800 horses to haul his wagons. Fifty or sixty thousand persons receive direct support from the wages paid in his meat packing business alone, if we estimate families on the census basis. He is a larger owner of grain elevators than any other individual in either hemisphere; he is the proprietor of a glue factory which turns out a product of 7,000 tons a year, and he is actively interested in an important railway enterprise.

"It is rather a curious fact," said a well-known gentleman who sports a luxurious beard, "that one of the few occasions of my going to church in recent years is responsible for my growing this beard. The minister happened in the course of his sermon to say that a man spent a third of his time in sleep, and that one living to the age of three score and ten, would pass 23 years in slumber. As the sermon was not particularly interesting one, my mind wandered away from it, and I began calculating how much of one's life would be spent in a barber's shop. Allowing a reasonable time for waits and for the actual process of shaving daily, I soon discovered that in the years left to me

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