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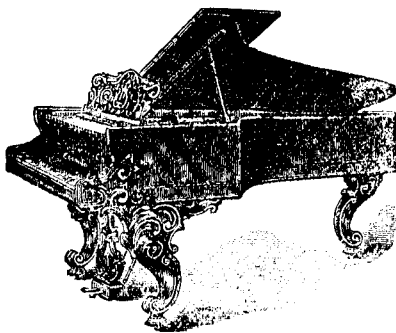
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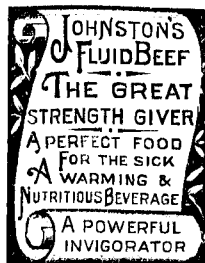
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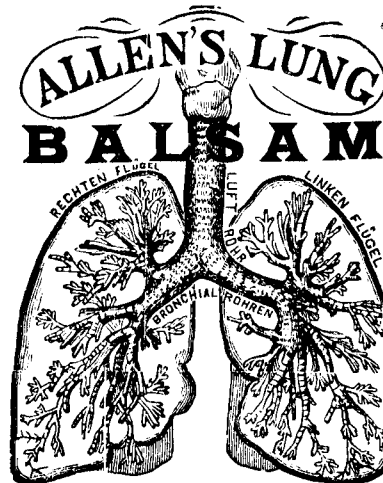
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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

ONE of the most important questions discussed in the Ontario Legislature during the session just closed was that relating to the teaching of English in the Public Schools in the districts in which the French preponderate. If the British North America Act deprives the Government of all jurisdiction in the matter of text-books in the Separate Schools, as Mr. Mowat contends, that is, we suppose, the end of that matter. It is a great pity, however, that it should be so, and as Mr. Meredith quoted a clause of the Separate School Act itself, which seems to make the question doubtful, it is to be hoped that a legal decision will be pressed for. As to the Public Schools in Eastern Ontario, one of the most perplexing things in the case is the contradictory nature of the evidence. The Minister of Education testifies, on the authority of the Inspectors, that English is now taught in every school. On the other hand, the testimony of different persons, apparently competent and reliable, is adduced to prove that in some schools English is not taught at all, and the teacher is incapable of teaching it, while in others the teaching is so inadequate and perfunctory that it is little more than a farce. This is a question of fact and should be promptly settled. It is a pity, therefore, that the Minister of Education was not more precise and minute in his statements. The general impression, we feel bound to say, left upon unprejudiced minds is that the English teaching in many of the schools is, if it exists at all, scarcely worthy of the name. The contention of Mr. Meredith and others that the teaching should in every case be done in English, seem to us, as we have before said, altogether impracticable. Teaching must be done by means of language, and common sense says by means of a language known to both teacher and pupil. On the other hand, it is but a truism to say that the English language should be thoroughly, systematically and constantly taught in all the Public Schools of an English province. There is too much reason to believe that this is not now done, and a remedy should be applied at once.

IT is the duty of all governments to prevent immoralities in trade. The practice of selling staple articles under cost for the sake of attracting trade is immoral. Therefore the Government of Canada should not suppress the trade combinations, whose avowed object is to prevent the selling of certain lines of goods in which they are interested under cost. Such is, reduced to syllogistic form, about the argument used by Mr. Hemming in another column. It is also substantially that of Mr. Blain and other speakers and writers who are opposed to the passage of the Anti-Combines Bill, now before the Commons. Apart from the main question at issue, it may not be amiss to direct attention to what seem to be weak points in the several links of this chain of reasoning. In the first place, it is not quite clear that the major premise can be accepted as a universal proposition. Much will depend on the meaning attached to the word "immorality." There are, we fear, many practices in trade which would fail to stand the test of any strict standard of morality, with which it would be worse than folly for a Government or Legislature to attempt to interfere. When, for instance, a dozen or more competitors publish flaming advertisements, each claiming that his goods in a certain line are better in quality or cheaper in price than those of his competitors, it is pretty clear that at least eleven of the twelve are making immoral statements; but it would hardly be wise on the part of a Government to try to fix the guilt and inflict punishment. Something must always be left for public opinion and personal conscience to do in such cases. Then, as to the second proposition, stronger reasons than have yet been given will, we think, be needed to make it clear that selling goods under cost, for advertising or competitive purposes, is an immorality of the kind which Government is bound to legislate against. And in the third place, even if we should waive all question as to the soundness of the first two propositions, the crucial question would still arise, whether the best and proper way of putting down the immoral practices is to put monopoly powers into the hands of a combination of interested traders.

WHILE we thus write we are far from wishing to scout the idea that the solution of many of the vexed trade questions of the day may be found in a system of carefully regulated and controlled combinations. We have in a previous discussion admitted that the best solution of the problem may yet be found in this direction. It must be evident to all that old trade methods are giving way, old economical theories breaking down. The doctrine that free competition would settle everything has been tried and found wanting, and trading communities are now gradually feeling their way to some better system. Combination in the learned professions is now legalized in many countries. Some of us may even yet be unconvinced that it is either just or wise to permit a "combine" of doctors or lawyers to say who may practise law or medicine, and to forbid all others under pains and penalties. But we do not see any ground on which those who accept incorporated Law and Medical Societies as incarnations of political wisdom, can object to allowing traders and manufacturers to regulate their business on similar principles. The claim of those whose special interests are at stake to protection is as sound, and the plea of safeguarding the unsophisticated public as valid in the one case as in the other. There are, of course, immense difficulties to be overcome not the least of which must be the difficulty in setting a limit to the process when once the principle is admitted. It is, for instance, just as annoying for the retailer who wishes to sell at a fair profit, or for the clerk or the labourer who wishes a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, to find himself underbitten and pauperized by others, as for the wholesale merchant. The grievance is as real in the one case as the other though the persons affected may be fewer and the interests involved of smaller dimensions. But leaving all these questions out of the account for the present, we can but reiterate our opinion that the rights and liberties of the subject are infringed upon by any combination of rivals which interferes between him and those with whom he deals or wishes to deal. If combinations are to have monopolies they must be legalized and the regulations necessary for their protection must at any rate be enforced under forms of law, not by a system of boycotting.

THE decision of the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland to continue the *Modus vivendi* fishery licenses for another year will be approved by all Canadians of moderation and right feeling. During the first year after the incoming of a new Administration at Washington it would have been most unfortunate to have had a revival of old irritations and controversies to any greater extent than may be absolutely necessary in the firm maintenance of undoubted Canadian rights. The happy absence of occasions of misunderstanding and ill-feeling during the period in which the *Modus vivendi* was in operation augurs well for the effect of its temporary renewal. Whether the Government has received any intimation, official or unofficial, that the new President and Cabinet, at Washington, would not be unfavourably disposed towards a renewal of negotiations with a view to a final settlement of the vexatious fishery dispute, will be learned in due time. The continuance of the licensing system will afford every facility for friendly exchange of opinion, and, if possible, reconciliation of conflicting views and interests. The change of attitude on the part of the Dominion Government affords the Opposition an opportunity, which they will not be slow to use, to taunt the Government with instability of purpose, and it can easily be believed that Sir John and some of his supporters will now regret the strength of their language in opposing Mr. Laurier's motion. The fact, however, remains that that motion was, as we pointed out at the time, singularly inopportune. The Government would have been very short-sighted to commit itself unnecessarily before learning the tenor of the new President's inaugural and the *personnel* of his Cabinet. It might have been wise, however, to have contented itself with the stereotyped reply, "Under consideration." A shrewd suspicion will no doubt prevail, unless authoritatively dispelled, that there is some connection between the visit of the British High Commissioner and the changed policy of the Government.

GLOOMY was the picture of the present condition of Canada set before the citizens of Toronto by Mr. Davies in his Shaftesbury Hall oration the other evening. The worst of the matter is that the truthfulness of some, at least, of its main features must be reluctantly admitted. However prosperous may be the state of the three or four cities which are the chief centres of our manufactures and commerce, it can hardly be denied that the increase of population, both in the older Provinces and in the North-West, during the last decade, has fallen far below what seemed reasonable expectation; that the public debt has swelled to almost formidable proportions; and that a most enervating flow of some of the best elements of our population across the border is still kept up. But it is one thing to establish the facts, it is another and a very different thing to connect them with their true causes. It is in the latter attempt that the logic of Mr. Davies, like that of Sir Richard Cartwright and others of the Opposition who follow the same lines, appears, to say the least, at its weakest. It would be idle to deny that the general policy of an Administration, and particularly its policy in such an important matter as that of taxation, has something, and often a good deal, to do with determining the prosperity, or the opposite, of the country. But those who know how narrow, comparatively, is often all the divergence between the system of a so-called Conservative and that of a so-called Liberal Government in Canada, when in power, will be slow to believe that the present condition of things would have been very widely different had Mr. Mackenzie or Mr. Blake been at the head of the Government during the last ten years. To most thoughtful people it will seem more probable that the chief causes of what, it may be hoped, is but a temporary check are to be found elsewhere, especially in the immense wealth and enterprise of the great nation by our side.

ONE might, for instance, be ready to admit that the Liberal plan of a slower construction of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, combined with a more vigorous extension of branches, in all directions, might have been wiser as a colonizing policy, but it will require some more cogent arguments than have yet been brought forward to convince a calmly reflective mind that the difference in procedure would or could have availed to fill up

the great chasm between the 110,000 or 120,000 white settlers now in the Northwest and the half million that a sanguine politician may think ought to have now been there. Or, to use another illustration, one might have a strong and perhaps well founded faith in free trade, or a revenue tariff, but this faith must have a singularly powerful influence upon his reason or imagination if it could convince him that the difference between say a fifteen or twenty per cent. tariff, the lowest probably which any responsible political leader would have deemed practicable in Canada, and that at present in operation, could possibly have prevented, or even very greatly reduced, that exodus which is unquestionably the chief hindrance to Canadian growth. Politicians and orators, on both sides of the House of Commons, might do well to consider whether over-statement does not weaken rather than strengthen the force of their arguments. It is pretty evident to the average non-political Canadian that the country is far from being so prosperous and hopeful as the Government's ardent supporters would have us believe, and equally far from being in so desperate a plight as the opposition orators would persuade us. It is very much to be wished that the best minds in both parties would, leaving for a time the heights of party glorification, and coming down to the level of statesmanlike investigation, devote all their energies to the patriotic task of finding out exactly what are the hindrances to Canadian growth, and to what extent it is possible to remove or lessen them by wise legislation.

THE idea of affording relief to the distressed in over-populated districts by a system of emigration, with Government assistance and control as one of its chief factors, seems to be making headway in the Mother Country. One of the latest converts to the scheme is Mr. Chamberlain, who announces that he has come to the conclusion, after investigation, that real relief to the Highland crofters was "absolutely impossible without migration, or a scheme of emigration accompanied by a scheme of migration." That readjustments of the population of a country and of the world become necessary from time to time, no thoughtful student of history, or observer of current events, can doubt. The difficult point in regard to this, as to many other questions of great interest, is whether such movements should be left wholly to the operation of voluntary forces and agencies, or whether Governments should intervene with such information and assistance as are beyond the reach of those whose future wellbeing is at stake. With regard to pecuniary assistance, Mr. Chamberlain's argument seems conclusive. When a certain part of the population of a country has been brought to a distressed condition through no fault of their own, it is clearly the duty of the rest of the population to come to their aid. And if migration or emigration on a large scale affords the most hopeful, or the only possible means of permanent relief, why should not the aid take that shape? Who can doubt that the great movements of population which have been one of the wonders of history during the last decade might have been productive of vastly better results to all concerned, had the streams of emigration been under more intelligent control? Yet, on the other hand, arbitrary interference in such cases is clearly undesirable and would soon become intolerable. Perhaps the experiments now being tentatively made by the British Government on a small scale go as far as is at present feasible or safe. Should these prove clearly successful there is little doubt that the plan may be hereafter operated on a much larger scale.

THE London County Council is evidently entering upon the work of Municipal Reform with great courage and energy. A resolution passed at one of its meetings is designed and adapted to deal a telling blow to the "sweating" system. This resolution is to the effect that any person or firm tendering for a contract with the Council shall be required to make a declaration that they pay such rates of wages and observe such hours of labour as are generally accepted as fair in their trade. This is certainly a new departure in what most will admit is the right direction. If the course indicated is pursued with tolerable steadiness its influence will reach far beyond even the wide circle of those who may have direct business relations with the Council. It will put the broad brand of disreputability on the practice against which it is directed so plainly that respectable individuals and firms will be constrained to follow the Council's example in their contracts with employees of labour. It has been too commonly assumed that the Council or Board, or whoever may represent the capitalists, has nothing to do with the relations existing

between contractors and sub-contractors and the labourers they may employ. The Ottawa Government has, it is true, but recently followed an established custom, which seems, at first thought, to be of the same nature, in refusing to award contracts to the lowest tenders in cases in which the Chief Engineer reports that the sum named in the tender is lower than the least possible cost of the work. But this discrimination is probably designed rather to protect the Government and the public from delay or loss than to guard the interests of labour. It is well that so influential a body as the County Council of London, in so conservative a country as England, has made an innovation which distinctly recognizes the moral responsibility of the principal in a transaction to refuse to be partaker of any gain resulting from taking advantage of the necessities of labourers, or to permit such advantage to be taken by those with whom he may have business contracts. True, the principle thus admitted has a very wide reach, but the fact that it may involve new trouble and responsibility does not prove that it is not righteous.

LORD SALISBURY, in a recent speech, gave an admirable definition of what a foreign policy should be. "My definition of a foreign policy," he said, "is that we ought to behave as any gentleman would behave who wishes to get on well with his neighbour." Were neighbouring nations to act on this principle, there would be very much less danger of complications and wars than there is under the existing state of things. The trouble is that for the successful working of the policy it is necessary that the neighbour, too, should be a gentleman and like-minded. In the case of nations an additional element of trouble is found in the differences in the codes of etiquette and ideas of right and wrong that often prevail. But, after making all allowances, it is yet in a very wide and important sense true of nations as of individuals, that "it takes two to make a quarrel," and that if either would carefully observe the rules of polite and friendly intercourse in the spirit, as well as in the letter, conflicts would rarely occur. The evil is, as the *Christian World* puts it, that too often "when a Government has a little difference with its neighbour, it points a revolver at its head and demands 'an apology or your life.'" Especially, a cynic might add, if it is pretty sure that the neighbour has not an equally effective weapon ready for use. This is generally the meaning of the "spirited foreign policy" which we so often hear spoken of with admiration. Lord Salisbury's excellent ideas on the matter ought to reassure those who have been ready to suspect him of being somewhat tainted with Jingoism.

RECENT despatches from both Samoa and Germany indicate that the task of the Conference which is shortly to meet in Berlin will not be a very difficult one. With the change of German Consuls at Samoa the objectionable policy of the German commanders there has been changed. The proclamation of martial law and the claim of right of search have been withdrawn, and the conduct of the German officials has become less domineering and aggressive. This change is, no doubt, in strict accordance with the commands of the German Chancellor. It is both explained and emphasized by the instructions given to the new Consul, Herr Steubel, and the severe strictures made upon the course of his predecessor, Dr. Knappe. Referring to Dr. Knappe's proposal to annex Samoa, Prince Bismarck repeats distinctly the view he has before expressed to the effect that to seek to bring about a change in the political situation in Samoa without the consent of England and America would not accord with treaty arrangements. Knappe's action on the question of annexation is, it is alleged by the Chancellor, incomprehensible, because his experience and instructions ought to have shown him that his desire to annex Samoa was opposed to the policy conducted by the Chancellor in conformity with the Emperor's intentions. All question of German annexation being thus removed, and all arrogant pretensions thus frankly withdrawn, it would seem as if nothing could remain to prevent an agreement being quickly reached by the three Powers interested. Although those who are disposed to fear the German Chancellor, even when making the most friendly overtures, may cynically suspect that the unfortunate Dr. Knappe is more the scape-goat than the culprit, it is still clear that the situation is changed for the better. The three commissioners appointed by President Harrison are thought to be singularly well fitted for the mission. Perhaps the chief source of curiosity and possible anxiety will henceforth arise from the unwonted moderation and reticence which have marked the course of the British

Government in the matter, and which have so aroused the ire of the Australians, and are so suggestive to suspicious natures of some secret understanding with Germany.

TWO peculiarities of American politics have been strikingly illustrated since the inauguration of President Harrison. In the first place, the United States is perhaps the only great nation in the world in which reputation and experience in public affairs are not deemed indispensable qualifications for members of the Cabinet. President Harrison's administration contains not more than two men whose administrative ability has ever been proved in any public position. The various Ministers, or "Secretaries," may prove themselves statesmen of the first water, but to both President and people their fitness for the high positions to which they have been called must be at the outset largely matter of faith. In any case their want of knowledge and experience of public life cannot but be a serious hindrance to their usefulness during their apprenticeship, and may lead at any moment to awkward complications. Such a *faux-pas* as that made by Mr. Wanamaker, the Postmaster-General, in the speech in which, soon after taking office, he described Bismarck's heavy foot as crushing the people of Alsace-Lorraine, would hardly have been tolerated from the Minister of a European State. The fact of the comparative isolation of the American nation, and the knowledge that the President in person, and the Senate, together pretty nearly exhaust the Executive authority, conspire to prevent such mistakes from attracting the attention that would otherwise be given them. The mode of selection is, nevertheless, not one to be envied or imitated. The unusual character of President Harrison's selections may perhaps be accounted for by the consideration that it was almost impossible for him to appoint well known public men to the positions without giving mortal offence to powerful political rivals and their friends, and so injure the party.

THE other peculiarity referred to is the outcome of the method which requires appointments to offices of all grades in the Civil Service to be made by the President personally. The spectacle which presented itself a little while ago of a great pilgrimage of thousands and tens of thousands of office-seekers and their friends from the four corners of the Republic to Washington, to interview the President and press individual claims to office, or to the patronage influence which is almost equally prized, is probably unique in the history of the world. When one reflects for a moment on the utter impossibility that the President should be able to know personally anything of the merits of one in a thousand of the applicants, the absurdity of the system is set in a strong light. And then to think further that each one of these thousands of appointments, which the President, after consultation with the local politician who may be lucky enough to get his ear, may make, has to go to the august Senate for ratification! How a people so intensely practical, so surpassingly clever in business and invention, can have so long continued so cumbersome a system, is one of the marvels of history. The machine must surely sooner or later be crushed by its own weight. At present it is a curious political phenomenon.

CONSIDERABLE surprise, not unmingled with uneasiness, was caused by the report, a few days since, that Behring Sea had been declared, by proclamation of the President of the United States, a closed sea, and a warning issued to all persons against entering its waters for the purpose of taking seals or other fur-bearing animals. The full text of the proclamation is, however, quite reassuring. The language of the document puts forth no such arrogant and inadmissible claim. The proclamation evidently leaves the question of jurisdiction just where it finds it. All the prohibitions and warnings of the Act recited relate to offences within "the limits of Alaska territory, or in the waters thereof," and are declared to apply to "all the dominion of the United States in the waters of Behring Sea," or, as described in the proclamation itself, "the waters of Behring Sea, within the Dominion of the United States." The language of this last clause is, it must be confessed, ambiguous; a suspicious person might think it to be studiously so. It may be adapted and, possibly, designed to create uncertainty and apprehension in the minds of foreign fishermen, and so tend to deter them from entering the sea in the pursuit of their calling. But it is very clear that the proclamation makes no attempt to define the jurisdiction of the United States, or to assert any distinct claim beyond the limits assigned by the law of nations.

IS Germany doomed to become a second Russia? It would almost seem so if reliance can be placed on the description of the new Penal bill, given by the *Tagblatt*. Rigid repression of every out-cropping of the spirit of freedom seems to be the ideal and goal of German statesmanship, under the present *regime*. Persons found guilty of inciting one class against another, or of publicly attacking the basis of public and social order, especially religious, the monarchy, marriage, or property, are to be subjected to severe pains and penalties, including years of imprisonment and, in the case of second offences, banishment from certain places. Newspapers twice offending become liable to be suppressed. Almost any extreme of despotism and tyranny is possible under the operation of such a code. And yet the Government is probably strong enough to pass and enforce it. There is something very singular in the spectacle of a people like the Germans, second to none in education and general intelligence, bowing their necks so long and patiently to yokes such as no community of Anglo-Saxons would tolerate for a year.

A RECENT number of the *Canadian Practitioner* has an article by Dr. Canniff, Medical Health Officer of Toronto, which contains some valuable suggestions. One in particular is worthy of consideration by every head of a family in city or country. In no domain of business or social life does the adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," more forcibly apply than in matters pertaining to health and disease. Dr. Canniff dwells strongly upon the necessity that the services of every physician should be heartily enlisted in aid of the health officer of his district. We may remark, though Dr. Canniff does not put the thing so bluntly, that while, as a rule, physicians unquestionably do a great deal of unremunerated preventive work by means of advice and otherwise, they are but human, like other men, and should not be expected to give too much of their time to this disinterested public service, especially as it obviously does not, to say the least, lie in line with their personal interests. Dr. Canniff's suggestion is not new, but it is valuable. It is simply this, that the medical attendants should be engaged by the year to look after the health of individuals and families, instead of, as is the prevailing custom, being summoned only in extremity, and often when it is too late to save a valuable life. It would be easy to enlarge on the benefits of such a change of custom should it become general. The whole interest of all the physicians in the community would be enlisted on the side of sanitary reform. In fact we are not sure that Dr. Canniff might not soon find his own occupation as Health Officer gone. The arrangement would be economical, too, for the physician could afford to content himself with a very moderate charge, and doctor's bills would not be added to the other heavy expenses at the very time, perhaps, that the breadwinner is laid aside by sickness. The reform is surely worth thinking about. Could not the doctors themselves advocate and promote it without compromise of professional dignity or suspicion of selfish ends?

THE JESUITS ESTATES ACT.

THE extreme importance of right opinion and action on this burning question, at the present juncture, must be my apology for returning briefly to the subject. While I desire to thank Mr. Armour for his kind response to my inquiries, I have to confess myself still sceptical on the main point. The fact that Mr. Armour kindly repeats some of his views and reasonings in other forms seems to indicate that I failed to make it sufficiently clear that my difficulties were not with the arguments themselves, but with the premises, stated or assumed, underlying those arguments. I may refer to one or two instances.

Mr. Armour says that the question from his point of view is "a question of the recognition of the Queen's majesty, and loyalty to her person." Now what I was, and am, utterly unable to perceive is that there is any question of this kind in the matter. Does Mr. Armour make it clear that there is? If so there is an end of all controversy. Let us see as we proceed.

Mr. Armour elaborates at some length his reasons for concluding that the Act wants finality. This is, as I before admitted, but a secondary matter. Grant that the enacting part of the Act does not contain a clause to this effect—presumably because it was considered unnecessary seeing that no legal claim had been set up or admitted—it is to the lay mind, I venture to say, incredible that, should the question of further moral claim ever be raised,

it could not be at once settled by reference to the facts and correspondence given in the preamble. Surely these would be sufficient before any tribunal to determine the intention of the Act. Take for instance such a condition as the following laid down by Mr. Mercier and accepted in the very same terms, without condition or reservation, by the Pope's agent: "That you will grant to the Government of the Province of Quebec a full, complete and perpetual concession of all the property which may have belonged in Canada, under whatever title, to the Fathers of the old society, and that you will renounce to all rights generally whatsoever upon such property, and the revenues therefrom, in favour of our province, the whole, as well in the name of the old order of Jesuits, as of your present corporation, in the name of the Pope, of the sacred college of the Propaganda, and of the Roman Catholic Church in general." Is not the Pope's acceptance of the Act, and appropriation of the money it bestows, a virtual and tacit assent to its conditions, so far, at least, as to debar him from pressing any further moral claim? Mr. Armour certainly has not made it clear that the Act lacks finality.

"By the law of Great Britain," says Mr. Armour, "the title of the Crown was perfect; but by the rules of the Roman Catholic Church the Pope had, in Mr. Mercier's opinion, a superior title which the Crown of Great Britain did not and could not divest him of without his consent." Grant it. That superior title was of the kind called "moral." Does Mr. Armour not recognise the possibility of the existence of such a thing as a moral claim? Can he deny that if the moral claim is valid it stands on higher ground than even a legal claim, and is of such a nature that Her Majesty herself cannot divest the individual of it without his consent? Is it not conceivable, for instance, that the Queen might have unjustly confiscated an estate belonging to the ancestors of Brown or Jones at the time of the Rebellion—such mistakes do undoubtedly occur—and that in consequence the heir, Brown or Jones, loses all legal title to any portion of it? Can it be doubted that, the act of confiscation being unjust, the heir in question would have a moral claim of which not even the Queen could deprive him? And, supposing the Government of Ontario, to which the confiscated property had been transferred and which was enjoying its usufruct, should one day recognize this moral claim and vote for the heir a sum of money by way of compensation, would it not be thought unreasonable and absurd for some legal mind to raise the objection that in so doing the Government had "subordinated Her Majesty the Queen" to humble Brown or Jones, and "had thus proved itself unfaithful to British Constitutional usage, custom and law," and that consequently its "Act was void?" Suppose, further, that the heir in question, Brown or Jones, had become a citizen of the United States, or France, would that fact make a tittle of difference in either the moral claim, or the constitutionality of the Act in discharge of it? Would it make any difference were the heir an Archbishop or even President of one of those Republics? And yet we must surely admit either one or all of these absurdities or conclude that Mr. Armour has not succeeded in making good his position.

Mr. Armour further contends that, admitting the canon law of the Catholic Church to be what it undoubtedly is, I have made it abundantly clear "that the Act is a declaration that the Legislature of Quebec is powerless to make laws respecting Roman Catholic institutions, property and rights without the sanction of the Pope." No, it is clear even from the correspondence in the Preamble of the Act that the Legislature of Quebec can make what laws it pleases in such matters. But it is also clear that it cannot make any law respecting Roman Catholic institutions, property and rights, having the nature of a contract, agreement or compromise, in which the Roman Catholic Church is the party of the second part whose assent is necessary to make the transaction mutually binding, without the sanction of the Pope. Nor, we suppose, could the Legislature of Ontario make any such law respecting the Methodists of Ontario without the consent of the President of the Conference, or some other duly constituted official head. Would said President or other head in such a case be "unfaithfully set up over Her Majesty the Queen and the laws of the Province?"

I leave it to the judgment of the reader who will take the trouble to give to the foregoing questions and suggestions a consideration unbiassed by legal or other prepossessions, to determine whether the horns of that formidable dilemma do not resolve themselves, on closer examination, into mere paper bugaboos.

J. E. WELLS.

OTTAWA LETTER.

THE festivals in honour of the Patron Saint of Ireland have received a tremendous enthusiasm from the coincidence of recent events in London. In addition to the usual and imposing services of Sunday, a great gathering was held on Monday evening in the Opera House. Particularly excellent music could have monopolized the programme, had not the special interest centred around the anticipated speeches of two distinguished statesmen, which proved to be veritable orations. The Hon. Mr. Laurier has earned for himself the compliment of "silver-tongued" as he discourses from his seat in the House on the questions of the day. But if any improvement could be suggested, as he threw off the trammels of politics and luxuriated in the higher field of patriotism, it could only be in "golden-tongued." He was not Irish, he told the audience, but his love for France taught him something of their love for Ireland, and if he did not say much they were to know it came from the heart. He would not offend their leading characteristic—modesty—by telling them all he thought of them. But as the Mahomedans turned to the east at prayer, the race who were met in such enthusiasm before him gave the civilized world a lesson by turning towards Ireland, not only at prayers, but before and after. He touched on the sufferings their love of country had brought upon them; on the spectacle of such men as O'Brien and Dillon enduring humiliation for having said something which was distasteful to an English Chief Secretary for Ireland; on Parnell's slanderers, not satisfied with killing with the knife, but, what was more monstrous, with calumny, robbing a man of his dearest treasure—his reputation. But the attempt had, boomerang-like, rebounded on its authors, and Parnell now stood—alas! alas! for Hibernian lungs and Hibernian boots: now and then in the din one heard a cut of a word—darkest hour—dawn—before many more St. Patrick's Days—national Parliament in Dublin.

The Hon. Mr. Costigan caught up Mr. Laurier's hearers at red heat, but with no profession of silver or gold in extempore rhetoric, pronounced from his manuscript a magnificent and flowing epithet upon the wrongs of their Emerald Isle. Not only their Patron Saint had his memory wreathed in immortal language, but Grattan, Curran, Sheridan, Sheil, Burke, Plunkett, O'Connell were remembered in tributes of praise which but helped to crown the feast. The honourable gentleman showed his intimate knowledge of Carlyle and other philosophic seers, and quoted freely from their inspiring words. From these he bade his audience take courage. The blood-stained, weary way had been trod for seven centuries in toil and travail, sore discouragement, calumnies, obloquy, scourges, revilings, martyrdom; but now they saw before them the smiling path of peace, hope, trust, progress, honour, high aims. They represented "the sister, not the slave, of England, the peer of any nation in the world." Under Heaven, the Grand Old Man—(ah! the boots and the lungs!)—and the Grand Young Man—(ah! the lungs and the boots!)—have let in the light of aspiration, and the song of ransom would echo around the world, proclaiming the glory and sweetness of liberty.

A grim thought haunted me. What if we have not yet heard the end of Pigott?

Though Ottawa does not possess a Board of Trade, it once did; and the advantages of having the deceased commercial element revived have been the subject of a couple of rather important meetings. The late Board, it appears, left this earthly scene without paying all liabilities, and a committee was appointed to prepare a statement. In due time the statement submitted that the debts amounted to three or four hundred dollars. The old membership fee of ten dollars was considered out of the question, and a proposal to reduce it to five in the meantime was understood to mean three, or even two, later on; as a Board of two hundred at two dollars was worth more than one of one hundred at four dollars. For further economy, it was proposed to dispense with a paid Secretary, and to secure modest accommodation in the meantime, on the understanding that each member pledge himself to leave no stone unturned to raise Ottawa in this respect to the high position expected of her. Officers were elected, but—the liabilities of the deceased were not paid.

The Board of Health has had a matter of great interest brought under its consideration by an engineer from Montreal. With the enlargement of the city comes the question of increased vigilance over the welfare of the public physique, and this gentleman proposes to remove the scavenging danger in a manner of threefold application: 1, the garbage is to be burned; 2, it is thereby to

be utilized as a fuel for the production of a fertilizer, and for extracting oils from deceased animals; 3, the scheme will cover cost of site, construction, chemicals, labour, etc., and the royalty of \$5,000 for the patent, as well as the source of large profit to the city besides.

It appears that about a hundred of the streets have been poaching on each other's names, in some instances as many as three being known by the same cognomen. The Board of Works is engaged settling the rival claims.

An amateur circle has for many weeks been working up a comic operetta in two acts, called "The Doctor of Alcantara," to be performed at Rideau Hall, and which, amid stage effects, crimson lights and rare flowers, was presented on Friday evening, before a distinguished audience. The cast and orchestra were composed of the *élite* of beauty and art, including some members of the Vice-Regal party. The play is woven of the usual fabric of love, hopeful and hopeless, plot and counterplot, and introduces us to a full share of surprises, serenades, poisoned detectives, imaginary murders, and death-like swoons; and ventures upon a Falstaffian imitation of a lover in a basket—all of which are doubtless necessary to smooth the crosses (often self-made) of passionate love, and to prove that everybody had thought so, if only every other body would have believed it.

Captain and Mrs. Bagot, being compelled to return to England for a few months on private business, a select party of admirers paid them the compliment of a God-speed at the station on Monday. The greater part of the Vice-Regal Household were present, as well as many citizens. The travellers were sent off with good wishes smothered in bouquets and baskets of flowers.

A luncheon party of the Central Canada Exhibition Association was given in the Russell, and the gentlemen thereafter adjourned for the consideration of a project to hold a mammoth agricultural demonstration in Ottawa, the suggestion having been sent to the Association by the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture. A discussion elicited the opinions that the idea was excellent; that men might come from every part of the country to deliver addresses on agricultural matters; that the show ought to be held between seed time and harvest; that other associations might join; that everything would be provided for, except the advertising; and that the Government ought to pay that.

To an unaccustomed observer in the Capital, one thing is perfectly evident: that our Constitution requires an amendment in the shape of a new Department, called the Department of Public Paupers.

A movement has been started to secure Government aid for Art Schools, to supplement what is given by the Provincial Legislatures. Much interest is exhibited, as the desire has long been felt to place our country, in this respect, on a level with the principal countries of Europe.

Special committees of Frenchmen and Irishmen are deep in the most complimentary details of a reception to His Grace, the Archbishop, which is to take place in the Basilica. A deputation of one hundred will go to meet His Grace in Montreal, and accompany him to Ottawa in a special train.

The saw-dust from the mills of the Messrs. Bronson is being converted into paper by a process of patent machinery, at a cost of \$15,000. The annual amount of saw-dust is very large, which, instead of ruining our beautiful rivers, is to be converted into a commercial commodity. It is scarcely wise to hazard a prophecy as to the possibilities which lie in the announcement.

The condition of the Hon. Mr. Pope gives rise to the gravest apprehensions. His physician writes a public denial of the rumours that American physicians had been summoned, and, not in the sweetest of tempers, criticizes the "garbled reports" which have been allowed to creep into the press. A prominent Montreal doctor had indeed been called in to consult, but the Ottawa M.D. desires us to know his ability to attend to his own affairs and his own patients.

If one swallow, or twenty, cannot make a spring, our Parliamentary Floral Superintendent is under the impression that he can. Already he is engaged in his new designs, and in the disposal of 40,000 (!) plants. Talking of spring reminds us that the Royal Society will meet earlier than usual this year, having arranged its annual session for the beginning, instead of the end, of May.

The great debate on Reciprocity is over. It has called forth more than its share of well-aimed and aimless eloquence, the good and bad hits that are levelled in the guise of principle, and as many political heart-burns as will take the rest of the century to cool. The galleries were choked, and on to the small hours of morning Her Excellency and her ladies sat intent. When the vote was at length called for, the whips were particularly dilatory, and the House, *pro tem.*, resolved itself into a Committee of Amusements. As the empty chairs were gradually filled up, song followed chorus, and chorus, song, until the Speaker was compelled to announce that abundance of time would be given for music when the House adjourned. At half-past one, a.m., as Her Excellency rose to retire, the National Anthem was sung with almost Highland honours. Sir John looked immensely relieved. He can shut the cupboard on the ghost for at least another year. But the general impression is that Reciprocity has the wind.

Ottawa.

RAMBLER.

ATTENTION is directed to the advertisement of the Cheque Bank, of London, England, an agency of which has been opened in New York under the able management of the well-known banking firm of Messrs. E. J. Matthews & Co. We shall again refer to this subject.

"HEARTS THAT ARE BRAVE AND TRUE."

HEARTS that are brave and true,
Your country calls for you,
Come while her faith is new;
Gather, a knightly band,
Strong for our homes to stand,
Loyal to the Maple-Land,
Canada!

Shame to the bosoms cold,
Lean wolves within the fold,
Slaves to their greed of gold,
Who, for a little more
Coin in their dastard store,
Balance with alien ore
Canada!

Have we one rood to yield,
One storied stream or field
We are too weak to shield?
No! Let the nations see
One flag float fearlessly,
One country pure and free,
Canada!

J. ELIZABETH GOSTWYCKE ROBERTS.

MRS. WARD'S RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

IT is not unnatural that the writer of a book so popular as *Robert Elsmere*, and one which has excited so much controversy, should be tempted to explain her meaning more fully, and to supply something of what was felt to be lacking in her novel. This attempt has been made by Mrs. Ward in the March number of the *Nineteenth Century*; but with no very conspicuous success. Indeed it would seem that she would have done much better to leave the matter alone, and this for various reasons.

However much various classes of readers might dislike any supposed moral of *Robert Elsmere*, they could not deny that the book showed very conspicuous literary ability, nor that the characters depicted in it were possible or even probable characters, and inwardly consistent. If we have not met such men and women, we can at least easily conceive them, and our knowledge of the currents of human thought will make it quite credible to us, and even probable, that precisely such persons as Robert Elsmere, Squire Wendover, Mr. Newcome and others actually exist. It may also be admitted that it is quite possible that the author should have written her novel with a merely literary interest, without any polemical intention against Christianity; or, even that, if she wished to assail Christianity, she had a perfect right to do so, a right which could not, at least be questioned by those who assume to defend Christianity. Moreover, it can hardly be charged against Mrs. Ward that she did her best to make Christianity odious. On the contrary, her Christians are decidedly the best persons in her book, for although Mrs. Ward and Mr. Newcome, the Ritualistic clergyman, are very far from perfect, they are certainly very preferable to Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Langham, and no one can suppose that Robert Elsmere was a better man after his surrender of the Christian faith than before.

Mrs. Ward, then, might very well have left things as they were, and allowed her book to exercise its proper influence, whatever that might have been. But she has judged differently, and it is easy enough to see what has determined her judgment. Doubtless the complaint had reached her that there appeared, in her story, no sufficient reason for Robert Elsmere's fall into unbelief. Now, it could have been quite easy for Mrs. Ward to reply—or rather, to let her readers find out—that she had no call to explain all the mysteries of human actions. It was enough for her to place on her canvas portraits that were recognizable, and this she had done. But apparently she was unable to take this view of the subject; and so now she proceeds to identify herself more closely with the hero of her story, and to explain the process by which she passed from supernatural to natural religion. This, at least, is the meaning which we attach to the article in the *Nineteenth Century*.

The article itself, from a literary point of view, is in all respects inferior to the novel. As a contribution to controversy, it is no more satisfactory. In the first place, dialogue is one of the very worst and least satisfactory forms of controversial writing. You can so easily put weak arguments in the mouth of your opponent and triumphantly demolish them by those of your own representative, that the reader, unless he sees the trick, is thoroughly convinced; but when he finds out the trick, he is equally disgusted and resentful. It is in some such state of mind that we find ourselves at the end of the article, although the novel produced no such unpleasant effect. As a literary effort, too, the dialogue is unskilful and unnatural. Two men, equally well educated, do not carry on conversation or argument in this fashion. Mr. Ronalds, the clergyman, has for his share, generally, only a line or two, while Mr. Merriman, the unbeliever, has a page or a page and a-half at a time. It reminds us of Charles Lamb's reply to Coleridge when the latter asked him if he had ever heard him preach. "I never heard you do anything else," said Lamb. We get rather weary of the reproduction of the lectures of the German philosophers and theologians, and even when we give due heed to the somewhat wearisome monologues of the advocate of natural religion, we come to the conclusion that, while he may have convinced himself, he has not convinced others.

Mr. Merriman's main contention is, that the Germans have taught us to criticise and understand historical testimony in a manner so new as to produce a revolution in our historical views. By the way, Mrs. Ward shows here, as in her novels, that her converts or perverts are rather weak creatures. She represented Robert Elsmere as saying to his wife that he was not one of those who could stand alone, and thus excusing his defection from Christianity. This new Robert Elsmere, Merriman, seems to belong to the same class. "I should like to explain myself," he says to his clerical friend, who has a certain resemblance to the Newcome of the novel, "you influenced me a great deal at Oxford. I doubt if I should ever have thought of taking orders but for you. Constantly in Germany my mind turned to you with a sense of responsibility," and so forth. But Germany present was stronger than Ronalds absent.

Mrs. Ward represents Ronalds as speaking generally of the German writers, but having no real acquaintance with them. But surely the good lady does not imagine that this is the case with all who maintain the truth of supernatural religion. She speaks of the traditional views of the Old Testament having been given up; and she is very severe on those who speak of the failure of the various systems of unbelief. More especially is she hard upon those who speak of Baur and the Tübingen School as things of the past. Now, we have no objection to Mrs. Ward stating her own views, or even to her bringing the whole Tübingen school at her back; but we think she has no right to ignore facts, or to wave off those who have opposed her favourites of the destructive school as though they had no right to be heard, or even no existence. On these points a few words must here be said.

With respect to the Pentateuch, she says quite truly that most scholars have accepted a good deal of the results arrived at by the school of Wellhausen and Kuenen. But in what sense have they accepted them? Does Mrs. Ward know anything—has she ever heard—of Dr. Franz Delitzsch, of Leipzig, probably the best Hebrew scholar in the world, as well as one of the most learned men and profound theologians in Germany? If she does, why does she ignore the recent work of that eminent scholar on the Book of Genesis?

The venerable author, who has devoted to the study of the Old Testament Scriptures more years than Mrs. Ward has lived, has with singular candour admitted that many of the conclusions of the critical school with respect to the Pentateuch must be received. But how do these conclusions affect his belief in Divine revelation or in supernatural religion? Dr. Delitzsch says that they do not affect them in any way. Mrs. Ward speaks of Professor Cheyne and others as having adopted the point of view of *Essays and Reviews*. Why does Mrs. Ward conceal the fact that Professor Cheyne's later studies have brought him back to the view of the book of the Prophet Isaiah (for instance) as embodying actual revelations from God?

Mrs. Ward, or the monologist who stands for her, speaks very disdainfully of the assertion of the orthodox, that the German assaults upon the Gospel have failed, one after another. But she cannot possibly deny the fact. The Rationalistic theory of Paulus was torn to shreds by Strauss. It is one of his greatest services to biblical and religious science. But Strauss's own theory has gone the way of its predecessor; and the strangest thing is that it should have been helped off the scene by Renan who was himself a disciple of Strauss. We agree with a great deal that Mrs. Ward says of Renan. He is more of an artist than a critic. He is a flimsy kind of gentleman at his best, and is guided a great deal more by his feelings and tastes than by solid facts. But, for all this, he did actually influence Strauss, and led that great inventor of the mythical theory to modify his principles, and to subject the life of Jesus to a different treatment. Strauss destroyed the rationalistic theory and invented (perhaps, rather, applied) the mythical theory in its place; but, under the influence of the despised Frenchman, he fell back upon a treatment—we can hardly say a theory—composed of the rationalistic and the mythical. This is a simple matter of fact; and we maintain that the Christian has a perfect right to point to these "failures" as signs that unbelief has not prevailed against the faith of Christ.

With regard to the Tübingen school, Mrs. Ward must know perfectly well that the principal representatives of that school have carried back the dates of the Gospels to periods much earlier than those assigned by their Master, Baur. When she speaks of Mr. Macan's Essay, we are forced to stand in doubt as to whether she knows anything of Strauss' later *Leben Jesu*; for, if she did, she would know that there is hardly an idea in Macan's book that was not borrowed from the German writer. Indeed some of his principal passages read almost like translations from Strauss. But however little Mrs. Ward may know, at first hand, of Baur and his school, of Strauss, or of Renan, she can hardly be ignorant that all of them, with one consent, recognize four of the epistles attributed to St. Paul as genuine, namely, Romans, Galatians, and 1 and 2 Corinthians, and that some of these (Renan for example) recognize several others as certainly or probably genuine. Now, any advocate of *The New Reformation* (save the mark!) has to deal with these documents, and to show cause why we should not believe in the resurrection of Christ on the ground of their contents. We do not believe that there are any real contradictions in the Gospels. We believe that they are thoroughly historical documents. But we are not dependent upon them either for evidence of the miraculous character of the work of Christ, or for the doctrines of the Gospel. We can find all that we want in the four "uncontested and incontestable" epistles, as Renan calls them, and our opponents must not ignore

DE SENECTUTE.

NINETY years forever fled
 Seem but ninety minutes past,
 As I, waiting for the last,
 Live alone among the dead.

Musing in the gloom and glow,
 Lo! I see a ghostly train,
 Spectres conjured by the brain,
 Images of long ago.

From the soul rise strangled cries,
 Death-groans from the sins it wrought,
 From the mind spring buried thought,
 Poison'd hopes, vain sympathies.

In a weird, phantasmal band,
 Seen as though in life's eclipse,
 Perish'd women kiss my lips,
 Dead men take me by the hand.

Infant figures, glad with glee,
 Cluster in unbidden band,
 Clasp my old and palsied hand,
 Pulsing high with memory.

Pass light fingers through my hair,
 Once like their's, all tangled gold,
 Silvery now and thin and old,
 Bleached with age and blanched with care.

Softly touch my parchment skin,
 Laugh and touch again and ask
 That I throw aside time's mask,
 Dull with years and dark with sin.

Look into my dim, dead eyes,
 Dimmer now with tears that start
 From the little left of heart
 That to those dear souls outlives.

Crowds of spirit-children pass,
 Faces, lost long years ago,
 Buds, soon buried in the snow,
 Playmates—comrades in the class;

Chide me for my childish tears,
 Bid me join the childish game,
 Call me by a childish name
 None have named for scores of years.

Youths, high-souled, with aims that age
 Neither blighted nor betrayed,
 Look with truth-lit eyes that made
 Noble life's short pilgrimage.

When in scenes sublime, ideal,
 Plann'd and played by guileless youth,
 Golden shone heroic truth
 With the heroes only real.

Maidens, in whom nature gleams,
 Crystal pure and diamond bright,
 Dazzling beauty, rainbow light;
 Sweet embodiment of dreams.

Nymphs of true Athenian grace,
 Virtue lit by beauty's glow,
 Sweet as on intaglio,
 Shines fair Aphrodite's face.

Daughters of Diana, chaste,
 Wisely virtuous and fair,
 Eyes too calm for passion's flare,
 Lips too cold for sin to taste.

Look into my weary eyes,
 Touch my worn and wrinkled lips,
 Light as humming bird that sips
 Sweets from flowery Paradise.

Friends whose friendship now I crave,
 Hearts whose love I yet would feel,
 One by one before me steal,
 In and out my living grave.

All things I have seen and known,
 Read in book and dreamed in dream,
 Stand as true as they did seem
 When I claim'd them for my own.

History, clad with golden deeds,
 In the ebon-chair of crime,
 Science and her teacher, Time,
 Scattering their wisdom-seeds.

Art, creating life from death,
 Robbing nature of her smile,
 Urged by greed, betrayed by guile,
 Singing through a perfum'd breath.

I have tried the truth of life,
 Kiss'd love's lips till they grew cold,
 Drained the cup and clutch'd the gold,
 Mingled in the human strife.

Seen men come and go like leaves
 Through the falls of many years,
 Join'd their laughter, shared their tears,
 In the plot the great God weaves.

Ninety years forever fled
 Seem but ninety minutes past,
 And I, waiting for the last,
 Live alone among the dead.

SAREPTA.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION—IV.

IF we are not to have Imperial Federation, what then? We can either remain as we are, become independent, or be annexed to the United States. Let us consider these three conditions.

To remain as we are, perpetually colonial and subordinate to England, may, I think, be put out of court at once. Such a permanent condition would be impossible, except for a very different race of men from modern Canadians. It is plainly to be seen by the signs of the times that Canada is fast approaching the period of her national birth, that time when she will take her position among the nations of the world, and will assume national duties and responsibilities. That she could for ever be content to remain colonial is to my mind quite as impossible as that a young man of pluck, energy and proper pride would be content always with a mere clerkship in his father's mercantile house. It is only a question of a short time—not many years—when Canada must either be admitted to a partnership in the Empire, set up business for herself, or go into partnership with another firm. The subordinate position cannot be always tolerable.

Canadian Independence has an attractive sound to many ears. But would it give us a strong and permanent form of national existence? If our great neighbour to the south of us were to cast covetous eyes over our rich and expansive territory, could we, single handed and alone, resist her aggression? When we have among our people, even at the present time, many who favour annexation to the United States, would there not grow up in our midst, if we were independent, a much stronger party advocating and desiring such a union? Whatever arguments may be advanced in favour of annexation at present, with tenfold force could they be advanced for Canada when an independent nation, when we had to bear all the expense of an army and navy, and the cost of national political machinery. Apart from the fact that independent Canada would be only a fifth-rate nation in the world, there would be the fact that Canadian independence would be a very costly affair. Ours would be an independence on sufferance only, for just so long as the United States should choose that it might last. If we put aside Imperial Federation as out of the question or not worth striving for, I think we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that ultimately the position to which we would come would be annexation to the United States. Now is this a desirable position? Are the political forms and institutions of the United States so little inferior, or so markedly superior, to those of Britain, that we may, on the one hand, let the case go by default, or on the other, try to effect the union? Is the changing of our nationality, and all that that change involves, of so little consequence that we need not struggle either for or against it?

And first a word in regard to the trade aspects of the case. Those who have followed the commercial arguments of the preceding articles will easily understand that in my opinion neither Annexation nor Commercial Union, nor even Unrestricted Reciprocity, to give it its latest name—would be of any special benefit to us commercially, or in any comparable degree such a benefit as would be unrestricted trade with England. The United States raises a surplus of, and desires to export, just the same sort of produce that we have in surplus and desire to export. How then could we develop any great trade with them? They could not take our grain, because they already have more than they need. With Unrestricted Reciprocity in full swing, the price of grain in this country would remain just as it was before, and the market to which we would still have to look, to sell our agricultural produce would be—as before—England. The trade argument in favour of Annexation or Reciprocity is based on the assumption that there would arise a great demand and market for our agricultural produce in the States; and this, to my mind, is a pure fallacy. When the States have already a surplus of the very articles that we desire to sell, how could they consume our surplus? Annexation or Reciprocity would only plunge us deeper in the mire than we already are, by subjecting the farmer to a heavier load of taxes than he now bears, while he received no different prices for his produce. The best position for Canada is free trade with England, and the more we can approximate to that position the more she will develop and grow in wealth and population.

But apart from the trade argument, is Annexation desirable for Canada? Under Annexation we would of course have to adopt the political forms and institutions of the United States. It is very much the fashion both in this country and in England—but more especially in England, among a certain class of the community—to speak of these forms and institutions as though they were superior to those of the British Empire. We hear constantly of the "freedom" and "equality" of the States, as though by contrast there were greater freedom and more equality (if one may use such an expression) there than with us. Demagogues of the ultra radical stripe delight to preach of the government by the people in the United States, as though the people had more direct control of affairs than they have under British institutions. As a matter of fact the reverse is the case. Under the British system the Government and control of affairs could not remain with the Ministry one day unless they were supported by a majority of the people's representatives. In the States the election of the President, by whatever party, secures the government of the country to that party for four years. No matter how great may be the majority of Democratic representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives if only the Republicans can, by whatever

means, secure the election of their party man for the Presidency, the control of the affairs of the nation is secured to them during his term of office. Such an arrangement as this inevitably centres upon the Presidential election all the virulence, corruption, and poisonous rancour of party warfare; and the President and his Cabinet, during his term of office, are not answerable to the people, or in touch with the people, as are a Premier and his Cabinet. I merely allude to this because if people constantly drink in the platitudes of after-dinner speeches, or the rant of political agitation without hearing the other side of the case, they are in danger of believing both that the political system of the United States is pure and desirable and that their own condition is one of great hardship and oppression. The constant belauding of the United States, begun in the first instance, it may be, from a mere neighbourly feeling, carries with it the risk of teaching the people to believe that the political system of the States is better than that of this country.

That it is not capable of abundant proof, but without going into a comparison of the whole political machinery of the two countries—which would be long, and might be tedious—I would simply direct attention to one function of government common to both, and ask which the better performs its duty. The prime duties of any Government—the execution of which are more than any other the reason of its existence—are the administration of justice, the punishment of crime and the repression of violence and disorder among its citizens. That political system that has evolved an administration of justice under which the rights of citizens are impartially maintained, and their maintenance quick and cheap, under which the detection and punishment of crime follow quickly and certainly upon its commission, is the best, and the more nearly a system approaches to the perfect ideal, the more it is to be praised and imitated. Judged by such a test as this, the political system of the United States is far from being the best at present in the world, and is much inferior to many of those Old World systems it is the fashion to despise. There are few civilized countries—and no part of Her Majesty's Empire—where crime is so rampant and criminals so safe from punishment as in the United States. Day after day the record of the daily press swells the tale of revolting crimes with sickening regularity. The account usually ends with the laconic comment, "No arrests," and little more is heard of the matter. Or if the "defendant" is brought to trial, the whole machinery of law and justice—and much that is neither law nor justice—is strained to the utmost in order to secure his acquittal. The trial is spun out to ridiculous lengths by hair-splitting arguments on verbal quibbles. "Exceptions" are taken at every step, in order to form the groundwork of future proceedings, and "motions for a new trial" are made, and the new trial granted on frivolous pretexts such as should not for a moment command attention. If the "defendant" has money he enjoys his liberty on bail while the proceedings drag on and are "continued" until by some quirk of the law, or complacency of judge and jury, the doer of a foul wrong finds himself a free man, turned loose on society without punishment or blame.

It is perhaps impossible to give statistics showing all this, for records are not kept of prisoners that are not arrested, or of trials that are burked by sinister methods, and from the universal habit of Americans of praising everything American, it is difficult to produce speeches or writings denouncing a condition of things that should be intolerable among civilized men. But I can at least offer two or three quotations in support of what is asserted.

Mr. Philip Becker, Mayor of Buffalo, in his inaugural address, delivered 4th January, 1886, said: "There can be little doubt that gambling and prostitution prevail in different parts of the city to an unwarrantable extent, while the most outrageous murders are committed with impunity in our very midst."

The Rev. Abbott Kittridge, of the Third Presbyterian Church, Chicago, in a sermon delivered on the 31st Jan., 1886, said: "Our lives are not safe from the hands of the thief on the principal streets in broad daylight; garrotting is an event of every night; our police courts are, with a few exceptions, a burning disgrace to any civilized community. Many of our justices are in open league with the criminals; their decisions are bought and sold, and men who have been entrusted with the high duty of enforcing the law are hand in hand with the criminal classes, their ermine robes are covered with the filth of corruption, and it is well nigh an impossibility for one to gain an honest judgment."

One other extract I shall give, taken from the *Chicago Canadian-American*, as repeated in the *Toronto Empire* of March 13th of the present year: "An official report says there were fifty deliberate murders in Chicago in 1888. Only one of the murderers was hanged! Thirty-six escaped punishment, and thirteen are in prison, though the law, as it stands, says the murderer shall go to the scaffold. There is something rotten in the State of Denmark. The perpetrators of the gravest crimes against God and man are granted immunity here. By whom? That is the question. Our laws, on the face of things, are all right. They appear to be good instruments for the punishment of criminals. Yet note how the murderers escape justice!"

Truly this shows a bad state of affairs. But if further proof were needed of the bad and weak administration of justice in the States it is to be found in the fact that the people themselves distrust their own courts, and frequently take the administration of justice into their own hands.

* From *Toronto Mail* 2nd February, 1886.

There is no civilized country in the world where "lynching" is of as frequent occurrence and attracts so little attention as in the United States. And be it remembered these lynchings are not carried out on the spur of the moment, the criminal having been caught redhanded by a violent and hot blooded crowd. Nor are they done by the rowdy and disreputable elements of society. In very many instances the criminal has been arrested and securely lodged in jail, there to await his trial, when a body of respectable citizens, frequently members of the local "Law and Order Society," takes the matter in hand and marches to the jail: the doors are broken open, if need be, and the wretch dragged forth, soon to swing at a rope's end from the branch of a convenient tree. The work is done quietly and deliberately, the doers of it knowing that the criminal if left to the ordinary course of justice would in all probability get off scot free. Such scenes are of frequent occurrence throughout the States. They excite no outcry, raise no indignation, lead to no inquiry. They are tacitly accepted as the necessary corollary to a weak and corrupt judiciary. Nothing can be more disgraceful to the United States than the recurrence of such events as these. It attests both the badness of the system and the incapacity of the people to make it better. Throughout the vast extent of the British Empire I doubt if it would be possible in modern times to parallel with one instance such events as month after month occur throughout the States: and the most painful view of the matter is that there seems to be no progress towards improvement.

To what can we attribute such a condition of affairs? There is no such national difference between us and the people of the United States as will account for such markedly different results in the administration of justice. I believe it is to be traced entirely to the evil political system, that drags judicial appointments into the foul arena of political and party strife. It has been truly said, that "When men are sufficiently honest to be entrusted with the election of sheriffs and judges, they will cease to require sheriffs and judges." That such a condition of honesty has been attained in the States, none who have any acquaintance with the people will assert. Judges, sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys, those who have directly to administer the criminal justice of the land, all have to pass through the political machine. Their election takes place annually, or it may be once in every two or three years. They are essentially party men, who have so far been sufficiently zealous and active in the service of party as to deserve the reward that election to office—and emolument—implies. Like every other politician in the States, these men must march under the orders of "the caucus," that horrible excrescence on party politics that has reached full growth in that country. The man who will not help his party is not the man that the caucus delights to honour. The man who will not help his friends when he has it in his power to do so is not the man to stand high in the favour of "the party" when election day comes round again. These judicial positions are all so many rungs in the political ladder, and he who is minded to climb higher must see to it that he makes himself "solid" at every step. Liberal subscriptions to campaign funds are expected and exacted; due regard must be paid to the behests of "the caucus" and to the interests of party. It is impossible to believe that men, looking for and desiring re-election, can be blind to such considerations when in the execution of their work. Election day is always before them, and the effect of their various public acts upon the votes of the electors can never be lost sight of. A little judicial leniency, a slight straining of a technical plea, a small dereliction of duty, may result in the escape of a felon from justice, but, on the other hand, it may retain some valuable votes that would otherwise be lost. For it must be remembered that all are party men, and that the other side will go against them whatever they may do. Nor must the money view of the case be lost sight of. They have probably had to pay pretty heavily to "the caucus" for having been taken in hand and "run" for the position, and must therefore have an opportunity to recoup themselves. Not long ago there was published a table showing the amounts assessed by the Democratic "caucus" of New York City on the candidates for judicial positions before that irresponsible body would undertake to run them for office. The following are the prices at that time charged:—

Supreme Court Judge.....	\$20,000
City Court Judge.....	one at 10,000
City Court Judges.....	two at, each 5,000
District Court Judges.....	seven at, " 3,000
Surrogate.....	10,000
District Attorney.....	10,000

When we reflect that the salaries paid to those men are not large we may well enquire: How can they afford to pay such sums to secure their election? And the full and complete answer to this question would probably throw light upon fouler spots of the judicial system than have yet been seen.

When Canada is slowly drifting towards a political, and it may be a national, change it behooves us all to look at the question in its various lights. Annexation to the United States is not to be considered merely in its trade aspect. Those who talk so lightly of it seem to forget what a grand and noble heritage we are asked to part with. Annexation means adopting the forms and institutions of that country with all that these imply, and all that these bring in their train. We now enjoy a pure and noble judicial system, probably the best the world has ever seen, and it would be the supremest folly on the part of Canadians thoughtlessly to change this because we think

* From the Toronto Mail, 27th October, 1887.

it may enhance the price of town lots or give us our coal at a lower rate. Canada's best and noblest future lies before her as part of the great British Empire, and her energy and endeavour in coming years could not be better spent than in achieving the Federation of the Empire.

Toronto, March, 1889. GRANVILLE C. CUNNINGHAM

HERO-WORSHIP.

DEAR friend of mine—although it be unknown
To thee that thou dost reign supreme, the king
Of my unsighted life—from monarch's throne
No kingly voice did e'er commanding ring
Whose dictates were more willingly obeyed,
Than thy unconscious words; nor e'er essayed
A subject's zeal more fervently to glean
His master's wish from gesture, look and mien,
Than mine; in knowing thus a hero's face
We lesser men receive some little part
Of that almighty strength, that God-like grace
Which makes eternity, and Heaven and space,
When emptied of the hero's mighty heart,
Seem but the sepulchre of love and art.

E. A. D.

THE FENCE-CORNER.

AT a field corner near the highway two lines of snake-rail fencing meet in an ugly angle. The rails have weathered grayish black, and their abrupt zig-zags are somewhat bizarre, though they could not well be rougher or plainer. Even such deformity can be redeemed by surrounding and reflected beauty, such as winsome children lend to the bent and gray-haired grandparents when playing around their knees. First, there was the elderberry bush that grew in the triangle of grass left by the plough. In the winter it was a loose fagot of stems and broken branches, as bare and dead-looking as the fence-rails themselves. But all through May it was changing daily; the buds sprouted, and then the pale green leaves came and dressed the naked branches in shimmering silk tissue. The leaves grew thicker and darker, and then appeared the broad nosegays of white, pungent-scented flowers; then the hard green fruit, and, last, the rich berries that crush so easily and whose purple juice stains so deeply. The sere, withered grass of last year around the elderflowers' feet was covered out of sight by the new growth of fresh haulms. And now the ugly fencing showed few of its hard lines and little of its wintry colours through and above the elder-flowers' robe. And it deserved a share in the glory and beauty of the living thing. Except for the ugly fence-corner, the whole field must have been given over to the plough and harrow. And then there was the wheat. As soon as the snow went, it came up evenly over the rich brown earth till it looked like the green-velvet cover of my mother's Bible, the one she kept in church. It grew higher and higher, till it had veiled away the dark earth altogether. Very soon it would hide a rabbit; and one day it had grown so tall that the wind caught it and swayed it. After that the shadows chased one another over the field through many sunny days. All the time the grain was rising like an inundation, till only the two topmost rails of the fence showed above the level, green flood. The elder bush could still look over the heads of the wheat, but the grass could not. Then the soft wheat kernels formed at the blade heads, and grew fuller and harder from the dews and rains, and the fat land. The straw-stems grew stiffer, and a clashing murmur went softly through the field when the wind bent the grain. The wheat-ears swayed heavily now, and when they swung forward, thousands together, they recovered themselves with difficulty. They were never long at peace. The rich green of the wheat field in the spring grew paler and paler as the summer advanced, faded into a neutral tint and then deepened into a wonderful gold colour. The grain was ripe. At a distance the field looked white, close at hand it was yellow; and the tide had risen almost to the lowest branches of the island apple-tree. And the centre of it all, the living, young beauty, the grass, the elder-tree with its blossoms and berries, and the gracious man-sustaining wheat was still the ugly, despised fence-corner of rough, gray rails.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

PORTRAIT PAINTING.*

THE legend of the Thracian maiden and her lover's Silhouette, the growth of the art in Greece, its practice in Rome, and the universal recognition of its place and value in the halls and homes of the civilized world, are matters too well known to be repeated. To claim for it a place amongst the highest arts seems, on first view, a bold venture; but, on review, the names Velasquez, Vandyck, Rembrandt, Reynolds, Hals and Titian himself—men who made portrait painting quite a specialty—meet our enquiry, and compel our respect. The regard great painters have had for portrait subjects is shown not alone by their consenting to paint them, but by their respectful and reverent treatment of them.

With few misgivings for having claimed so much, and with kindest courtesy to those who differ from us, we will at least ask from you the consideration that lovers claim who woo the fairest, cleverest daughters of the town. As

* A paper read before the Ontario Society of Artists.

breezes which dally with the flowers are sweetened as they pass on, so we shall not lose, but gain by a moment's lingering with a subject common as the flowers but more rare than the secrets of their life or the matchless perfumes they exhale. We glean our subjects from humanity.

Man's place in the universe has but to be mentioned, and his self-respect presents at once his reasonable claim to first notice among all the creatures that people earth. Man is first in genius, in power, in responsibility. If we, as fellow-men, regard him in this light, as artists we will so paint him.

Humanity presents for the artist's pencil the highest intelligence, a form the most subtle, and a face that is a never-ending study. But a capable critic has called attention to so many portraits that people the walls of Hampton Court and other mansions as being "insipid, vapid and meaningless." He might also have spoken of the dry, hard and soulless works in various mediums, mounted in huge brass frames, that so largely do duty as portraits in our own midst, and have drawn the inference from these that portrait-painting as an art is not great. But the very mention of such convinces us that there exists, for the purpose of rendering a sublimer transcript of the human face, "an art that nature makes." This art is a quality as special and pronounced in the successful portrait painter as Pascal's penchant for mathematics, or Keppler's for astronomy. As Pascal read divine truth and perfection in numbers, and as Keppler beheld eternal wisdom and power in the mechanics of the stellar universe, so may the artist student find marvels of divine intelligence and some of the beauties of His character in the adaptation of the graceful mechanism of the human form and face to the all-varying play of the human mind upon it. The more earnest and searching the student becomes, the more will he perceive of consistency or harmony between life, character and expression; and the more skilfully will he be able to reproduce it. This study was a master passion with the men whose names we mentioned at the beginning.

Filial thoughtfulness brings the aged for a portrait, and wants it in the truest lines and most faithful colour. While women are fair and men are honourable the highest skill in art will be laid under tribute to do them honour while they live, and to preserve their memory when they have passed away. Mothers, your eyes are not closed to pictures that play in your garden and hall; pictures whose lines are grace itself, and the colours are such as palette or pencil cannot hold—the full flush of health which only the eye of your hope can colour; and lit with sunshine that is made more splendid in your maternal love. Look, fathers, at the ten thousand presentings in the lives of your children of a wonderful developing process through boyhood, youthhood, manhood; girlhood, maidenhood, womanhood; what pictures! pictures! pictures! Is there anything in the portrait painter's art that can successfully treat living pictures like these? There might, there may, there should be.

This all but universal demand for portraiture is (1) in the very constitution of our race; and (2) it is especially characteristic of the great English-speaking family of nations.

1. Historians entablate the deeds of men. Poets spin threads of rhythm and weave them into verse. Volumes are written; yet it is not the privilege of all to read books, for knowledge is not universal; but all men who can see share in what can be displayed in pictures. And when we regard pictures, the character or subject of them having by common consent the greater preference have also the higher value. By this reasoning the representations of men, women and children command, with universal approval, the foremost place. The space given them in the family album will indicate their place in art. The first dawn of artistic effort reveals, in rude carvings, man's natural wish to limn and shape the forms he held in highest respect. Succeeding ages have only improved his skill and whetted a more keen ambition in the same direction.

So has it ever been in art, as in philosophy, "The favourite study of mankind is man."

2. In the commonwealth of peoples speaking the English tongue home life is being elevated to a plane above that of peoples less progressive. Wealth is not being gathered into castles and cathedrals that stand in lonely magnificence while industry and meanness hunt and herd together in discontent or indifference along narrow and unwholesome alleys. It is seen everywhere, in broader streets, pleasanter dwellings, homes into which comes not only heaven's sunlight, but that of prosperity and content. Wealth, for a more convenient application, is two-fold: that of the pocket and that of the mind. Pocket wealth confines itself very largely in our homes to what we eat upon, sit upon and tread upon—furniture; while its more intellectual partner, mind wealth, with well instructed taste, thinks also of an author or two, and a good picture, if it cannot provide a library or art gallery. In choosing pictures we begin where charity begins—at home. Its denizens receive the first thought. For them is chosen the best artist, the highest quality of picture, whether the style be major or miniature, and for medium the most reliable in which the work can be done. We venture to think this is as it should be, for these are the subjects in every way most worthy of our first thought. The conscious greatness of the human being, his myriad-sided nature, his self-respect and self-interest, the testimony of the centuries past, all sustain the demand of the most civilized peoples of to-day that portraiture shall leave the low plane to which it has been dragged by mere likeness taking, and "Come up higher," even to the honoured place prepared for it by men whose names personify a matured art. It is human-

ity's creed that beside the altar of our highest worship, and at the shrine of our truest devotion we place the bone of our bone and blood of our blood; and their images guard the hearth sanctuaries made sacred by their presence or their memory.

JOHN W. L. FORSTER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRADE COMBINES.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—Not being affected in any way, except as an ordinary consumer, by the different Trade Combines at present in existence in Canada, my arguments, if not considered conclusive in themselves, may at least be regarded as disinterested.

It is now very generally conceded, for reasons which it is hardly necessary to enumerate here, that the act of selling staple goods under cost, the demand for which is constant, except under extreme circumstances, is immoral. Not only are the results injurious both to the seller and his competitors, as well as to those giving credit to them, but they frequently lead to the dishonest palming off on the public of spurious imitations, adulterations, short weights, etc.

Starting, then, with this principle as one premise, and coupling with it the unquestioned axiom that it is the duty of all Governments to prevent immoral trading just as they would interfere with immoral social practices, it will be evident that instead of trying to annul the arrangements entered into between the manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to sell staple goods at a small margin of profit, they should turn their attention rather to the regulating of these combinations so as to prevent their being abused for the purposes of undue private aggrandizement.

In order to secure a permanent standard of excellence in the publication of the Ontario school books the Minister of Education found it necessary to give a limited number of publishers the control of the work, and the late investigation into the cost of this work proves conclusively that it is not beyond the power of the Government to regulate the profits.

In a like manner all combinations entered into by individuals or firms as to the selling prices of staple goods could be controlled. In the criticism in THE WEEK of last Friday on the address delivered by Mr. Blain at the Toronto Board of Trade it was urged that the Government should not allow combinations to exist in Canada, because they are already preventing outside competition by means of our Protective Tariff. This argument might hold good in certain instances, but not as a general principle; for how then could they deal with the Canadian Watch Jobbers' Association, for instance, who have a standing agreement with the manufacturers of American watch cases and movements by which all the members are liable to have their supplies cut off if they sell under list prices or to any one except a legitimate dealer? And while here, let me state that this Association is, without doubt, working to the advantage of every one concerned, not excepting the consumer.

The only practical reason I have ever heard put forth for the selling of staple goods at a loss is that the sacrifice generally "secures orders for other goods." In other words, it is done for the sake of advertising. Now, in these days of trade journals, circulars, calendars, and a thousand and one other advertising media, there can surely be no necessity for resorting to a means which, besides being very costly, is injurious to others, and at the same time compels them to follow suit in exactly the same degree, thus lowering the value of the advertisement to a fraction.

But the only reason publicly assigned by those championing their unworthy cause is that combinations are not in harmony with British liberty, forgetting in their greedy pursuit of popularity that no nation so quickly discriminates between Liberty and License as does Britain. The wholesalers of Canada are not wishing to deprive any one of their liberty, but claim that when the rights of the many are being abused by the unprincipled conduct of the few, it is their right and the duty of the Government to interfere.

Let us advocate, therefore, a regulation and supervision rather than the abolition of just trade combinations, and let us hear less of a so called British liberty, which no honest Britisher should want.

Toronto, March 25, 1889.

H. K. S. HEMMING.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—In your issue of March 22nd, 1889, I find the following: "M. Coquelin plays *Jean Dacier* for the first time in America on Monday evening at the Star Theatre in New York." Permit me to say that during his recent appearance at Montreal, two or three weeks ago, M. Coquelin played *Jean Dacier* for his benefit performance. Perhaps, however, in this case "America" was used to designate "the United States of America," which, from a territorial point of view, is about as inaccurate as it would be to designate Russia by the name, "Europe." What a pity it is that the "Great Republic" has no national name, but only a legal or constitutional designation. Yours truly,

A. C. LYMAN.

Montreal, March 25, 1889.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

MIMICRY IN NATURE.

Go to the seashore and observe grasshoppers among the beach grass. They fly up at your approach, whiz off a rod or so, and alight. Can you see them? They are coloured so nearly like the sands they live upon that detection of one at rest is almost impossible. On yonder grassy bluff, a stone's throw away, you will find none of them, but other kinds equally, or almost equally, lost to sight by their harmony with their surroundings. What chance of life for either if they suddenly changed places? They would be so conspicuous that every passing bird or other insectivorous creature would sight them. Of course, these protective colours have been gained by slow steps. Every grasshopper that found its preferred food among the sands was liable to be eaten. In the long run just those would be eaten which were most easily seen. One which varied in colouring in ever so small a degree, so as to be less easily seen than his brother, would live to perpetuate his kind, and his brother come to an untimely end; the progeny would show the fortunate variation, and be more likely to be spared to transmit in increased volume the probability of the happy colouring. Given, then, a brood of grasshoppers that find their preferred food in sandy spots, and, unless other and more powerful forces act upon them, it must result from their liability to be eaten by creatures fond of grasshoppers, that in time they will resemble in colouring the sand on which they live; it is impossible that they should not. Any creature not especially protected by nauseousness or habit or special device of some sort must, in the very nature of things, if it is to live at all, have some other protection, and that afforded by colour and pattern is by far the most common. The world is made up of eaters and eaten, of devices to catch and devices to avoid being caught.—*Atlantic Monthly*.

GLADSTONE ON NOVELISTS.

PUBLICITY is given to some remarks which Mr. Gladstone "once" made in private—the time is indefinite—on the British novelists of the present century. He gave the palm, it appears, to Scott—a predilection which might be explained on the basis of Mr. Gladstone's Scottish blood and leanings, but which as it happens, he shares with a very large number of unquestionable southrons. One may not agree with the ex-premier in fixing upon *Kenilworth* and *The Bride of Lammermoor* as the best of Scott's work: but it is at least interesting to know that the latter is Mr. Gladstone's favourite; and, as regards Scott's romances generally, few will be disposed to question the pre-eminence of the Wizard of the North, whose great merit it is that he was always the story-teller and never the would-be philosopher. "Next to Scott," Mr. Gladstone supposed, "would come George Eliot." But why? Surely—if we must construct an order of precedence—Thackeray would have the better claim. A true instinct induced the ex-premier to put *Silas Marner* in the forefront of George Eliot's novels; and *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, and *the Scenes of Clerical Life* have, of course, very much to say for themselves. But Thackeray's flower show is surely at once more brilliant and more satisfying than that of his feminine rival. Dickens, too, might have a claim to rank before George Eliot, even though to be primarily a humourist and as a tale-teller too much of a melodramatist. Mr. Gladstone characterized *Jane Eyre* as a great and powerful work, but "was unable to appreciate the genius of Emily Brontë." *Wuthering Heights* he thought a mere succession of horrors. It is certainly rather a creepy book, but, as regards sheer power, there are those who consider it finer than anything that Charlotte Brontë ever wrote—which, of course, is saying a good deal.—*London Globe*.

DREAMS AS RELATED TO LITERATURE.

To the ordinary practical man the poet is apt to appear a sort of dreamer. And this view is in a measure correct, for the realm of fiction into which the imaginative writer seeks to bear us has at least this in common with dream-land—that it greatly transcends our every day humdrum world in romantic tint and thrilling effect. Nor is this all. We know from the confession of poets that at the moment of imaginative invention the procession of images takes on the semblance of a real external pageant. Like the dreamer, the poet seems to be looking on a scene detached from himself and of which he is not the creator, but merely the spectator. This dream-like attitude of the poet's mind would be specially striking in the first crude stages of the poetic art. The primitive poet seems, so far as we are able to reconstruct him, to have possessed a much more child-like imagination than the modern one—an imagination more spontaneous and daring in its movements, less fettered by a strict standard of verisimilitude. Quite naturally, therefore, he gave himself out to be, and was regarded by his audience as being, a naive seer of visions. With the progress of culture this naive view of imaginative creation would no doubt be modified. The clearer consciousness of artistic creation as an orderly process of construction after nature's own model would tend to separate literary production from dreaming, both as a process and as a result. Yet with all this growth of clearer ideas both as to dreaming and poetic invention, the bond that first joined them has never been wholly sundered; for, notwithstanding the wide empire acquired by nature and truth in the region of imaginative production, there has always remained a good residual territory where other poetic impulses have kept sway. The primitive, child-like longing for pure marvel has never been

expelled from literature. Hence we find that throughout its history it has ever and again been harking back to its first freer and more dream-like form. In the drama, in poetry, and in prose fiction we detect an impulse to throw aside for the nonce the trammels of reality and to indulge in those ampler and more sportive movements which are natural alike to the pristine and to the dreaming fancy. Even Shakespeare, that most diligent student of life and most skilful of its delineators, was able, when he chose, to give a true dream-touch to his compositions. *The Tempest*, and, better still, the *Midsummer Night's Dream* may be taken as a specimen of the more prankish and dream-like movements of the poet's fancy. The confusion and topsy-turvy of this elf-rule, the delightful absurdities into which the sleep-bound personages are drawn—all this affects us like a dream. Even in our own day, when fiction is on the whole photographic in its realism, we see the storyteller now and again rushing wildly off into the lawless realm of wonderland. The adoption of the dream-form may spring from a variety of motives. Thus, for example, the religious teacher has often thrown his ideas into the semblance of a dream. Bunyan would have us believe that he dreamt his strangely fascinating allegory, and on the whole it may be said that the long, laborious pilgrimage, with its preternatural sufferings and no less preternatural refreshments, very well answers to the idea of a dream. Mysticism, as might be expected, lends itself particularly well to a dream-like expression. In the famous dreams and visions of Swedenborg we see the spiritual apprehension of the unseen taking on the form of a dream sublimely impressive in the vast range of its flight and the solemn mystery of its spectacle. Although the supernatural significance of dreams is still recognised by literature in a shy sort of way, this does not constitute their sole source of value to the imaginative writer. The modern world attaches its own special meaning to the realm of dreams. Our habits of scientific scrutiny and analysis have led us to see in the wondrous visions of the night phenomena which are perfectly natural and explicable by the circumstances of the case. We know something about the bodily and mental causes that produce dreams, and even the influences that serve to impress a particular shape on our dreams. And while we thus know something about the general conditions of dreaming, we can see how each individual's dreams are connected with him in particular and individual experiences. As Mercutio so graphically tells us, our dreams bear the stamp of our special occupations, predominant tastes, and acquired habits of thought. Moreover, they commonly echo the mood of the hour, transposing into a foreign key the hopeful or dejected feeling induced by yesterday's experience, or by some occult change in the condition of the vital organs. Literature has been powerfully influenced by this new view of dreams, as indeed by scientific conceptions generally. This is illustrated in the fact that a comic poet like Hood is able to amuse us to-day by spinning some gruesome nightmare, at the same time robbing it of its horror by playfully pointing to the over indulgence at the supper-table which is responsible for the apparition. To the Greek or Roman this frivolous treatment of the dream would have been repulsive, or perhaps unintelligible.—*Prof. James Sully, in the Forum*.

POETICAL JUSTICE.

OUR busiest thinkers are idle drones
In the eyes of the workaday world,
And the songs that echo the angels tones
Are but leaves of the autumn, whirled
By the breath of the frost from up in the sky
To the dullard who dwells in the vale,
And spurns them as over his path they lie
In the lull between gale and gale.

Douglas Sladen in *Australian Poets*.

WITTY WORDS.

A SLOW-GOING husband once remarked of a lady half-forgotten by him: "Let me see: she had a very long nose, didn't she?" "Yes and she has it still," retorted his quick-witted wife. A wit says the times are so dull that it is difficult for him even to collect his ideas. Perhaps this is the man said to be so lazy that he has worked but once, and that was when he was labouring under a mistake. Another wag says: "To forget a wrong is the best revenge, particularly if the other fellow is bigger than you." "I do not say that that man will steal," said a witness on a trial; "but if I was a chicken, I'd roost high when he was around." A humourist says: "If you think no one cares for you in this cold world, just tell your neighbours that you propose to keep hens. You will be surprised to see what an immediate interest they will manifest in you." A hearing that a lawyer had composed a poem on "My Conscience." "It ought to sell well," said he, "the public are fond of novelties." Speaking of dancing, a clergyman hit the right nail on the head when he remarked that "People usually did more harm with their tongues than with their toes." "What is the usual definition of conscience?" asked a man of his pastor. "A man's rule for his neighbour's conduct is about the way it comes out, practically," was the apt reply. "You say your brother is younger than you, yet he looks much older." "Yes, he has seen a great deal of trouble, but I never married," was the ready reply. More sarcastic is the next, "Are you fond of tongue, sir?" "I was always fond of tongue, madam, and like it still." "John, what is the best thing to feed a parrot on?" asked an elderly lady of her bachelor brother, who hated parrots. "Arsenic!" gruffly answered John. Rather severe are the

three following comments. "I've turned many a woman's head," boasted a French dandy. "Yes," replied his hearer, "away from you." "That's the sort of an umbrella that people appropriate," said a gentleman to a companion, one morning, showing him a very handsome one. "Yes," rejoined his companion, quickly; "I thought so when I saw you holding it." The guests having dined, the host hands round a box of cigars. "I don't smoke myself," he says, "but you will find them good—my man steals more of them than any other brand I ever had."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

E. A. SOTHERN.

IN a city like Toronto, where the elder Sothern was an immense favourite, his son would be likely to meet with a most exacting audience, especially when the younger man essays a part somewhat similar to that in which the great "Dundreary" made his reputation. That the son immediately scored a success as "Lord Chumley," and that crowded houses nightly witnessed his efforts and came away delighted with them, is a tribute to his excellence and capability as an actor, no less than to the strength of the play he appears in. *Lord Chumley* is by De Mille and Belasco, and abounds with thrilling situations and sparkling dialogues, as well as with the strong individuality of the modern English club-man, if an individuality can be called strong which shows itself in such negative attributes as those discovered by "Lord George Cholmondeley."

The play is something more than a mere setting for the freaks of a character actor, for there is a plot which would be almost tragic were it not lightened by the stolid stupidity of "Lord Chumley," the armour-clad vanity of "Lady Adeline," and the boisterous energy of "Meg." In its details the play has weaknesses such as, for instance, the strong friendship between the scion of nobility and the son of the retired city merchant, whose accent proclaims him to have been in the retail line. This combination is not new, moreover, having been used in *Our Boys* with similar effect. The grotesque mixture of the classes and the masses is brought into further relief by the parenthetical connection by marriage between old "Butterworth," and the sister of "Lady Adeline Barker," who must accordingly have been at least an earl's daughter to have carried this title. Of the Quixotic loyalty to his absent friend shown by "Chumley," one can say no more than to hope that it is only what every English gentleman would be led to do under all circumstances. The prevailing fashion of the day in play-writing has been followed by making the villain of the piece a Frenchman, with a sufficiently pronounced accent to make him all the more detestable. This latter character, by the way, was well portrayed by Mr. Herbert Archer, who had the advantage of a handsome presence.

Sothern himself has individualized his part by a fine languid and aristocratic drawl, a peculiar hitch of his upper body and head, and by a stolid and peculiarly vacant and inane expression, or rather want of expression. The only fault I could find with him was in the pronunciation of the word "door," which in his lips savoured rather of the Virginia "do," than of the ultra-English "daw." For the rest he has abundance of concentrative power and an earnestness and apparent sinking of himself into his part that is rare on the stage now-a-days. Old "Butterworth," the hearty, irascible, yet dignified old Londoner, was well represented by Mr. C. B. Bishop; the pretty "Eleanor Butterworth" found a charming exponent in Miss Belle Archer, and the elderly, though still handsome and occasionally wayward "Lady Adeline Barker" received full justice at the hands of Miss Kate Pattison. "Meg," a strong soubrette part, was excellently played by Miss Kittie Wilson.

A MISTAKEN impression was shared by me with many others in Toronto concerning Miss Julia Marlowe, whose charming impersonation delighted so many last week. The lady is not a member of the Nickinson family, as I supposed, though her gifts might well lead one to suppose that she came of such good stock.

ON Thursday next the Choral Society will present Haydn's *Creation* in a style of musical excellence. The chorus has been "weeded" down, and now numbers 150 selected voices, whose election has been based on the principle of securing as far as possible an exact balance of tone quality and power between the four parts. A season of patient, yet enthusiastic rehearsal, has perfected the chorus to such an extent, that the friends of the society feel that the forthcoming performance will be the best yet offered by this popular organization. The soloists will be entirely local with one exception, that of Mr. Slocombe of Buffalo; the others being Mrs. Shilton, Mrs. Marion Bunton, Mr. H. M. Blight and Mr. E. W. Schuch.

THE lull of Lent in musical matters bids fair to be followed by a season of unusual activity, some of the dates being even ante-Paschal. The Choral Society's concert on the 4th being closely followed by the Juch-Perotti concert on the 9th, and that of Mr. Torrington's orchestra on the 11th. Easter week, so far, has no published claimants, but the Conservatory String Quartette will play in public on the 29th, followed by the United Oddfellows' Lodges, who will give a grand concert on May 2nd; the Queen's Own Minstrels will shine on the 6th, and the Vocal Society will put its best foot forward on the 7th, to be followed in the next week by

the Philharmonic Society and a concert in aid of the funds of the Cristoforo Colombo Society under Signor D'Auria, so that we shall have plenty of musical entertainment before the warm weather sets in.

LOVERS of the melodramatic will find a hearty abundance at the Grand Opera House next week, when the *Lights of London* will be presented.

THIS evening Mr. J. W. F. Harrison will deliver a lecture at Association Hall, under the auspices of the Conservatory, with instrumental illustrations on the Evolution of Instrumental Music. The syllabus of the lecture is as follows: Ancient forms of instrumental music; Contrast between their formal beauty and more poetic characteristics of the modern school; Pianoforte music evolved from dance forms of the 16th century; Pavan and Galliard; Allemande and Courante; Sarabande; Gigue; Minuet; Development of Scherzo from Minuet; Influence of Beethoven; Suite and Partita; Sonata evolved from the Suite; Progress of poetic element in instrumental music; Modern contrasted with ancient dance forms. To be illustrated by performance of works of Frescobaldi, Corelli (violin); J. S. Bach, C. P. E. Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin.

THE organ of St. Luke's Church is now vacant, Mr. Arthur Dorey, the organist and choirmaster, having decided to resign.

ST. PETER'S Church Choir is prospering under the direction, at rehearsals, of Mr. W. Elliott Haslam, with Miss Le Tonche as organist.

LAST week's *American Musician* contains a letter from Mr. Edward Fisher, calling in question certain statements of that journal embraced in its notice of Mr. Torrington.

MR. J. E. THOMPSON'S Music Hall is evidently no mere paper scheme; the ground is broken and the bricks are being placed in readiness for the artizans. It will hold about 2,700 people and the energetic proprietor hopes to open it about the beginning of October next. It will fill a need long felt, and loudly expressed by many lips and for many years.

IN the meantime it will surprise many of our readers to be told that there is not to-day in New York City a Music Hall, distinctive as such. There will soon be one, however, as Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Iron King, has guaranteed the construction of one, to seat about 3,000 people, and to cost about \$600,000.

SALARIES are comfortable things as to their amount to some of the popular favourites on the stage. Kyrle Bellew receives \$350 a week for forty weeks; Charles Coghlan the same; Mary Anderson's profits this season will be unusually large, about \$4,800 a week for forty weeks, or \$192,000; Francis Wilson is paid \$600 a week; De Wolf Hopper and Digby Bell each about \$250; Fred Leslie receives \$500 a week from the Gaiety Company, and was offered \$800 a week by Rudolph Aronson, and Ellen Terry is paid \$600.

IT is said that Mr. Ernest Gye, the husband of Mme. Albani, will revive Italian opera next season in America, on a very grand scale, selecting his chorus in Boston, Chicago and Cincinnati, from the conservatories. He will have a repertoire, he says, of six operas, which he hopes to increase to ten before the close of the season.

PHEW! now another seeks advertisement through diamonds, but it is only a manager, not an actress. The story goes that Mr. H. R. Jacobs presented little Corinne with a diamond, to which presentation is attached the following tale:—"The little testimonial represents a fortune. For two years Mr. Jacobs has been negotiating for it. The centre stone is believed to be the largest canary diamond ever imported to this country. It weighs 42½ carats and is of wonderful brilliancy. It has glistened in the crown jewels of reigning French circles, and has been handed down through more royal families than any jewel ever found. It was purchased from a royal family of Paris, at a cost of \$15,000. The duty on the souvenir was \$480. It is beautifully mounted, being encircled by a glittering ring of twenty-four small diamonds, relieved by the gleaming surface of eight sapphires. The pendant is now known as the 'Jacobs' diamond.'" Well! well!

THE latest thing in the way of conventions is the convention of young lady whistlers at Doris's Museum, on Eighth avenue, New York. There are twelve whistling girls, and all of them more or less pretty. What a pity one could not do with them as some one proposed to do with all the bag-pipers—gather them together and blow 'em up!

AND now Mary Anderson has succumbed to hard work, and a too vigorous observance of Lent as to fasting, etc., and has been compelled to take a needed repose.

MUSIC is quite lively in Halifax, N. S., where a company of amateurs has been performing the *Bohemian Girl* very successfully. The Halifax Philharmonic Society will sing the *Hymn of Praise* and Rossini's *Sabat Mater* at an early date.

THE Ottawa Philharmonic Society is actively rehearsing Smart's *Bride of Dunkerron*. B NATURAL.

NOTES.

MR. WILSON BARRETT will sail on the *Celtic* on Sept. 25th and Terriss and Miss Milward sail on the *Ems* on Sept. 3rd.

VERY appreciative criticism of Miss Nora Clench, our Canadian violinist, is current among musical circles in Leipzig.

D'OYLY CARTE is going to close the Savoy Theatre in June and take his company to Paris and Berlin for two months till his new theatre is ready.

SALVINI writes from Florence that during his American tour next season with Mr. Abbey he will produce as a novelty *Samson*, by Ferrari, a piece which has never been seen in America.

MISS EMMA EAMES, a young American, has made such a hit at the Grand Opera in Paris that the managers have been guilty of an astounding act of generosity in doubling her salary though she was bound to them for one year at a contract price.

J. W. PIGOTT'S new play, *The Bookmaker*, has made such a hit that Edward Terry proposes to take it to Paris. Edward Michael has received two cables about it from New York—one from Daly, the other from Nat Goodwin. Edwin Low, who sailed on the *Trave*, has the refusal of it for Nat Goodwin.

MISS GRACE HAWTHORNE who has never been on the stage in New York, has decided to try her luck there next November, opening in a new play by Mr. W. G. Wills called *Josephine*. Her manager, Mr. W. W. Kelly, sailed a few days since on the Alaska to secure a theatre and to arrange for a tour.

THE most realistic performance lately given was at Chicago. The play was *As You Like It* and a local slugger was hired for the wrestling match. He forgot his business, however, picked up "Orlando" and fired him into the orchestra, where he fortunately fell into the bass drum. "The audience was delighted."

ALL things considered, Mansfield's *Richard III.* has come off fairly well in the contest with the London critics. Though so far the public is not giving it the support it deserves, still manager Price feels sufficiently encouraged to book seats for the middle of May. To-night Mansfield got more applause and recalls than he did on the first night.

THE famous Covent Garden Opera Company will appear in this country next season. Mr. James C. Duff of the Standard Theatre in New York has made arrangements with Manager Harris to bring that organization here next November. Mr. Duff has also arranged to produce a new opera by Mr. B. C. Stephenson which is now nearly finished. The Covent Garden Company is a famous one.

THE famous violinist, Joachim, celebrated March 1 the fiftieth anniversary of his *début* in the musical career; he received on the occasion the gold medal *für die Kunst* which the German minister of fine arts presented to him in person in the name of the Emperor. Many of his admirers of all countries united in forming a fund of 100,000 marks, the interest of which is destined to the creation of free scholarships in the Conservatory, the pupils of which presented him with a marble bust of himself.

MANCINELLI'S oratorio *Isaias* was performed in London for the first time by the Royal Choral Society on the 20th ult. The London *Musical Standard* criticises the work as follows:—"The composer has adopted the operatic style and his music is compared with Verdi's, while certain Wagnerian tendencies are recognized by the discerning. A professional musician and composer who heard *Isaias* at this concert, calls it 'an expressive, clever work, with some lovely effects.' The orchestration is rather weak, and the recitatives tedious; on the other hand, the opening chorus of maidens and their final hymns are truly beautiful inspirations. The story of *Isaias* is utterly uninteresting."

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

John Ward, Preacher, has been pirated in London.

REV. DR. McCOSH'S latest work, *First and Fundamental Truths*, will be published in London in an English edition.

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS, in *Harper's Magazine* for April, demands recognition for a new Canadian poet, Mr. Archibald Lampman.

THE *April Atlantic* contains the "Personal Reminiscences of William H. Seward," an article that is sure of a wide and careful reading.

THE novel on the Irish question, which James Anthony Froude is writing, will be published in this country by Charles Scribner's Sons.

HENRIK IBSEN, the Norwegian dramatist—a great literary genius little known in this country—is the subject of an interesting paper in the *April Scribner's*.

LONGMANS, GREEN & Co. are about to publish, under the title of *Colloquies on Preaching*, a little book, by the Rev. H. Twells, on the deficiencies of the modern pulpit.

PICTURES showing stages in the building of the great ocean steamers, the *City of New York*, and others, will illustrate Mr. Rideing's article on "Ocean Greyhounds" in the *April Scribner's*.

THE *April Century* will contain "The Russian Police," by George Kennan—a paper which, while it has much in it of a serious nature, is yet written somewhat in the humorous vein of the article on "The Grand Lama," which appeared in March.

B. P. SHILLABER, better known as "Mrs. Partington," lives at Chelsea, a suburb of Boston. He is 74 years of age, and crippled with rheumatism. He has not been in Boston for seven years. He says he is "as patient as may be, but waiting for the better life."

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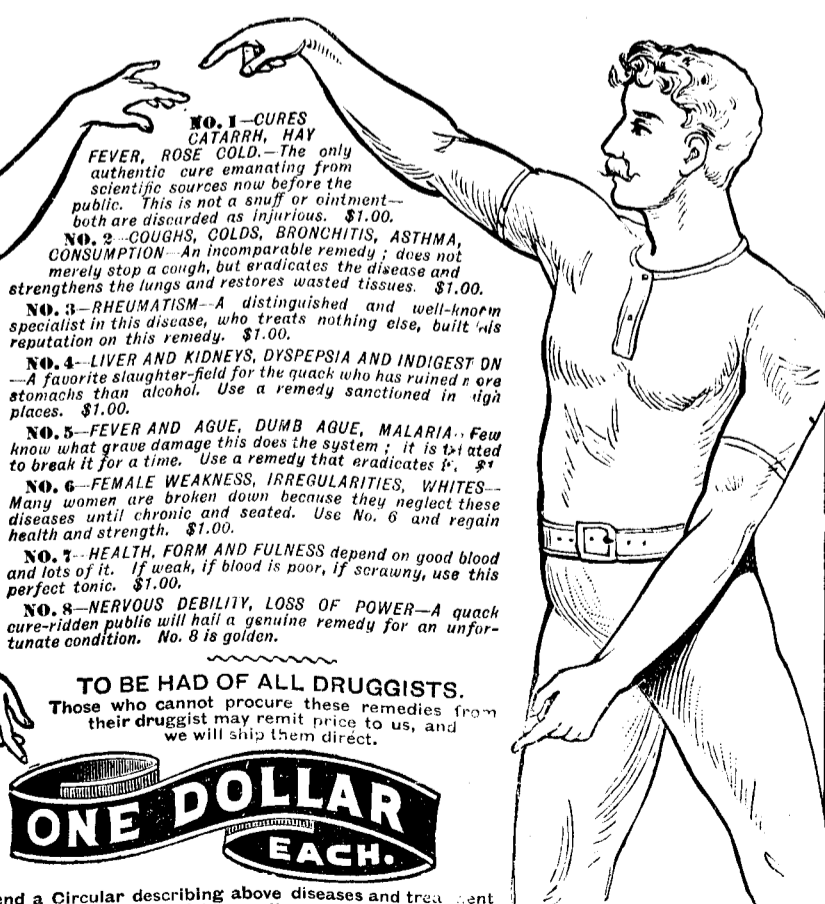
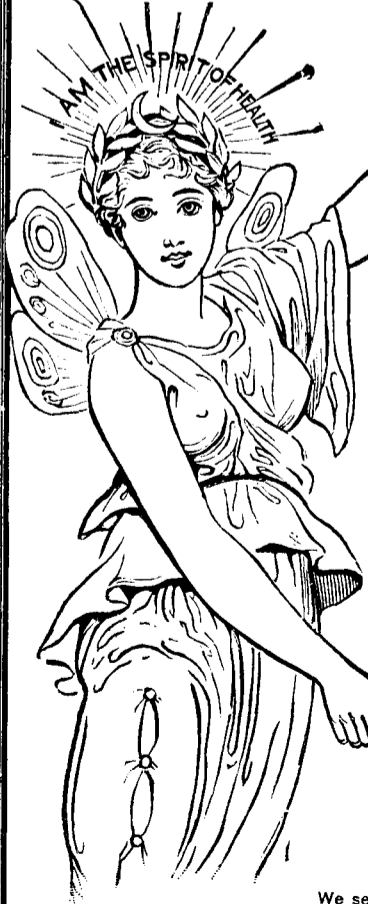
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