

THE WEEK:

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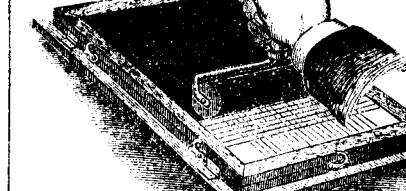
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Vol. V., No. 3.

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THE POLITICS OF LABOUR.*

THE problems connected with what is generally known as Socialism are, at the present time, pressing with unusual urgency for consideration, if not for solution. Questions are arising, more and more, as to how far liberty of contract may be interfered with by law, and indeed these questions are concerned with the whole relations of what is called Socialism to our present system.

One or two things are becoming quite clear, and should be made clear to the minds of all who give attention to these subjects. In the first place, Socialism and Nihilism, although they may often seem to be associated, have in reality no necessary connection with each other. In some respects, indeed, they may be regarded as opposites, and this in two respects; for in the first place, with the Nihilist or Anarchist the individual is everything; whilst, with the Socialist, the community is everything and the individual almost nothing; and again, the Nihilist would have every one to be his own master, abolishing the policeman and the soldier, together with every form of government, whilst the Socialist would have a very strict government, protecting the community and compelling the individual to be subject to the same. This is a most important distinction, and the forgetfulness of it has often confused the minds of persons who have attempted to understand these subjects. The writer of the volume before us is no Anarchist, although in one part of his book he exhibits a little ill-natured sympathy with the condemned (and now executed) Anarchists of Chicago; but this sympathy evidently proceeds from dislike of the present state of society rather than from positive agreement with the principles of the condemned men.

Another thing should be noted. When we speak of Communism or Socialism, we may mean one of a great many different kinds of things. Without referring to Fourierism, St. Simonism, and other forms of the theory, it may be proper to remark that Mr. Thompson does not, for the present at least, advocate the confiscation of all private property and the making of it over to the State, although he does want a great deal more of legislative interference with the relations between the employers and the employed. It is obvious, therefore, that there is no impassable gulf between Mr. Thompson's general views as here announced and those of the ordinary anti-Socialist of the present time. No one now will plead that all contracts between employers and employed should in all respects be left to be controlled by the mere incidence of supply and demand. The limitation of the hours of work and of the ages of the workers and various other similar restrictions are now held to be subject to the lawful exercise of the powers of the government. On the other hand, moderate Socialists, like Mr. Thompson, do not at present argue that property is theft, although they would curtail its privileges to the utmost.

No one has the right to deny that those who are clamouring for increased privileges to the labouring classes have at least an apparent case. The growth of enormous fortunes in one class of the people and the abject poverty of vast numbers of the opposite class are facts which are too evident; and it is quite proper and necessary that their causes should be investigated. Further, it is quite obvious that the evils connected with this state of things are not prevented, that they are probably not ameliorated, by democratic institutions. There are certainly more millionaires created in America than in England; and there would probably be a much greater amount of destitution if the area of territory occupied by the people were relatively as small. It is clear, therefore, that democracy by itself, as it has hitherto been understood, is no remedy for this state of things.

We go then entirely with the representatives of the working classes

when they say that every effort should be made to devise some means by which the profits, which are the product of labour, should be more equally divided between the employer and the employed. It is very desirable that some means should be discovered of preventing the "tyranny of Capitalism." But we hesitate and doubt when the friends of labour seem bent upon substituting the tyranny of labour for the tyranny of capital; and this not merely in the interests of the capitalist, but in the interests of the labourer as well. Most certainly, if the labourer can be really and permanently benefited, the employer will not ultimately suffer. Our confidence on this point is based upon considerations not merely politico-economical, but also upon moral and religious grounds. What, however, we are afraid of is that the tyranny of labour may destroy the capitalist, and then discover that its own existence is undermined.

Mr. Phillips Thompson has unconsciously uttered a prophecy on this subject, which reminds us of other unconscious prophecies recorded in history. He remarks: "Labour is just awakening to a dim consciousness of its political strength. Hitherto like a shorn and blinded Samson, it has ground in the prison house of partyism, the mock and sport of its despoilers. The time approaches when the aroused giant will put forth his long wasted energies, and level to the dust the strongholds of oppression."

These words really deserve very serious consideration. It is indeed quite possible that some such uprising of the masses may take place. It is quite as likely to take place when they are freed from the disadvantages to which they are now exposed. It is not generally when oppression is strong that the oppressed rise. It is more often after attempts have been made to improve their condition. But, in whatever circumstances, we are not prepared to deny that the working classes may some day rise against the moneyed classes, and overwhelm society under the ruins of the fabric which they have destroyed. But the prophecy involved in Mr. Thompson's illustration will then most certainly be fulfilled. The blind Samson slew more in his death than all those whom he had slain in his life; but he also slew himself. He slew them in his death. And so, when the classes—downtrodden and otherwise—whom we now speak of as the masses, rise against the organized society to which they belong, they may indeed bring back chaos but they will themselves be a part of it. It is very easy to rail at "the classes" and at capitalists, and it is quite certain that the wealthy have in many ways failed in their duty. But are they the only ones who have failed? It is quite true that their responsibilities were great in proportion to their privileges and abilities. But it is less easy to show how matters can be improved by any species of legislation. When we come to the part of Mr. Thompson's book which contains his proposed remedies, we feel very doubtful of their efficacy, in some cases of the possibility of applying them.

Something may be done by co-operation between employers and employed, by giving the workmen an interest in the profits—and also in the losses—of the business in which they are employed. But how this can be affected by legislation it is not quite easy to understand; nor does it seem quite certain that workmen will in general prefer a plan offering the prospect of uncertain profits and also of probable losses to the present method by which they obtain a definite amount for their labour with scarcely any risk of losing the amount which was to be paid.

One thing which Mr. Thompson proposes we may confidently declare to be unworkable, namely the refusal to recognise the claims of capital, as such, to obtain any return. Let us note how he puts the proposition. "Fixing the share of labour," he says, "by whatever means of legislative authority or of industrial combination it is accomplished, is virtually fixing the share of the capitalist-employer. That accomplished, the next step will be to eliminate the factor of usury from the calculation, and by successive rearrangements to bring matters to the point where 'the share of capitalism' is reduced to a reasonable remuneration for the actual labour of superintendence and direction"—that is to say, the share of capitalism is reduced to nothing. Of course it would be argued that the capitalist had the privilege of choosing the kind of work which he had to do, that he could become overseer, superintendent and the like. But even so he would be paid only for his work and nothing for the capital which he had embarked; and this is sheer and simple confiscation, however we may disguise it.

It is not easy to say of any scheme, however visionary, irrational, insane, that men will never attempt to work it. But there is no great difficulty in predicting the consequences of the attempt. Such measures have always resulted in the same way in human history. They have led to the destruction of liberty, to the establishment of some form of despotic rule. There are many thoughtful persons in these times who believe that representative institutions have seen their best days. Whether this be so or not, few who remember the benefits which they have conferred upon mankind will contemplate their disappearance without a feeling of deep regret; and it is at least difficult for us to believe that a despotic government can ever be really beneficial to a country.

As far as we can forecast the future, we can see nothing better for us than to obey the laws of political economy, to temper the rigour of supply and demand by careful and beneficent legislation, and above all for employers and employed to learn and practise the golden rule which bids us do to others as we would that they should do unto us.

* *The Politics of Labour.* By Phillips Thompson. Belford, Clarke & Co. 1887.

OUR CANADIAN FATHERLAND.

TO THE AIR OF "WAS IST DES DEUTSCHEN VATERLAND."

Canadensis sum et nihil Canadense a me alienum puto.

I.

WHAT is our young Canadian land?
Is it far Norembega's strand?
Or wild Cape Breton by the sea?
Quebec? Ontario? Acadie?
Or Manitoba's flower-decked plain,
Or fair Columbia's mountain chain?
Can any *part*—from strand to strand—
Be a Canadian's fatherland?

Nay! for our young Canadian land
Is greater, grander far, than these;
It stretches wide on either hand
Between the world's two mighty seas!
So, let no hostile lines divide
The fields our feet should freely roam;
Gael, Norman, Saxon,—side by side,
And *Canada* our nation's *Home*;
From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

II.

Where'er our country's banner spreads
Above Canadians' free-born heads,
Where'er the story of our land
Enshrines the memory of the band
Of heroes, who, with blood and toil,
Laid, deep in our Canadian soil,
Foundations for the future age,
And wrote their names on history's page,
—Our history:—From strand to strand
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!
So each to each is firmly bound
By ties each generous heart should own,
We cannot spare a foot of ground
No *part* can, selfish, stand alone!
So Nova Scotia and Quebec
Shall meet in kinship leal and true,—
New Brunswick's hills be mirrored back
In fair Ontario's waters blue!
From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

III.

Where'er Canadian thought breathes free,
Or wakes the lyre of poesy,—
Where'er Canadian hearts awake
To sing a song for her dear sake,
Or catch the echoes, spreading far,
That wake us to the noblest war
Against each lurking ill and strife
That weakens, now, our growing life,
No line keeps hand from clasping hand,
—*One* is our young Canadian land!
McGee and Howe she claims her own
Hers all her eastern singers' bays,
Fr chette is *hers*, and in *her* crown,
Ontario every laurel lays;—
Let *Canada* our watchword be,
While lesser names we know no more,
One nation, spread from sea to sea,
And fused by love, from shore to shore;
—From sea to sea, from strand to strand,
Spreads our Canadian fatherland!

FIDELIS.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S MESSAGE.

THE importance or value of President Cleveland's message to the newly-assembled Congress is not to be measured by any direct or immediate results, but rather from its moral influence and continuing consequences. From a strictly practical standpoint, the paper is but an official confirmation to the legislative body of the estimate whereof its members have heard unofficially that the surplus money in the Treasury will amount to so much as \$140,000,000 by the 30th of June next, the end of the present fiscal year, and an official assurance that the Executive has reached the limit of its powers for preventing an accumulation of such surplus tax-money by redemption or purchase of Government securities. Upon the question of the effect of exacting from the public a revenue larger than is required by the necessities of Government, or the question of the best mode of terminating such an exaction, nobody would pretend that Mr. Cleveland has any original information or ideas of value. He is evidently a man who has

given but little attention or study to matters of high politics, and there is no reason to suspect that he has any natural or acquired faculties superior to those of the late General Grant, unless it be the faculty of plodding industry of research, a quality that points him out as a less original man than his military predecessor.

The President so far conforms to the habit of the professional politician as to juggle more or less with the words he uses, as where he suggests that the policy advised by him has nothing to do with Free Trade or Protection, but is a simple question of reducing a revenue that is not wanted, and the exaction of which is a grievous wrong to the people and a serious menace to their material interests. Congress and the country have not for a moment taken him at his word, but have gone straight to the heart of the subject by accepting and treating the message as a Free Trade pronouncement. True, it is not a radical kind of Free Trade that the President advocates, and his proposals are abundantly fenced with verbal safeguards to vested Protectionist interests; but the message is a Free Trade one in spirit and in influence, and all the more, because of it, is the President to be commended for his courage in speaking his mind, however guardedly, and congratulated upon having bestowed upon the country a healthy sensation, in compelling publicists and the press to lay their stock controversies aside and take up an issue that is vital and momentous. Here is where the value and importance of the message come in; for although it may contain nothing new, and may state what is old in an amateurish way, the source from which it comes ensures for it a degree of attention, discussion, and influence, such as might be expected for some new *Wealth of Nations* or *Descent of Man*.

It is not probable that the recommendations of the message will be closely reproduced in legislation. Some reduction and readjustment of duties there are almost sure to be, and would have been had the President kept silent or neutral on tariff questions, and his forcible presentation of the dangers of the surplus revenue may carry these minor reformations somewhat beyond the original intention, but they will not be carried to the extent that Protectionists shall become alarmed for the immediate future, or any rearrangement of industrial systems be necessitated. Despite the President's adverse view, the tobacco excises will almost certainly be remitted, leaving no internal duties but those on spirits and malt liquors, and were it not for the strength of prohibitory sentiment the spirit and beer tax would go likewise, the inland revenue being far from popular. On the whole it cannot be said that anything of high importance in legislation is likely to flow from the message.

In the field of politics the influence of the message is destined to be great. It forces tariff reform to the front as a present leading question, conformably to which men must choose their sides. It lends the name of the Democratic Party to the reforming movement. The party may suffer temporary reverses by reason of it, and Mr. Cleveland himself may be defeated for reelection next autumn in the only way that renders his defeat possible. A contest over the tariff cannot be sectional, but purely local, where not strictly personal, and that will be a great gain all around. There can be no doubt that it was with a view to its service, as a popular tract or broadside, that the President took the novel course of restricting his annual message to a single topic. From every point of view it is well that the message was written and delivered, and this compliment can be made equally well by those who oppose its arguments and conclusions as by those who accept both.

B.

NATION BUILDING.—V.

THERE has just been published at Richmond, Virginia, a little work on Pocahontas, and her descendants through her marriage with John Rolfe, gentleman, in April, 1614. The bearers of some thirty or forty family names—some of them the most distinguished on this continent—are proud to trace their lineage back to that dusky progenitress. With far other sentiments Senator Poirier contemplates the admixture of Indian with European blood. "There may," he writes, "be people who are indifferent whether their ancestors were savage or civilised. But the Acadians, who, of the grand heritage once allotted to them, have nothing left but their unalterable faith, the gift of God, and the integrity of their French blood, the gift of their fathers, religiously guard that precious patrimony, which on the one hand recalls France, and on the other reminds them of heaven. France! Religion! Those two words are as necessary to them as the air they breathe. Take away that worship, rob them of that heirloom, and the Acadian race will be no more. It was therefore with profound sensation that a voice from Ottawa was heard saying, 'That heritage is not what you fancy it to be; you have all Indian blood in your veins.' But in making that assertion M. Sulte was only echoing the words of historians who had made the statement before him. Protests arose from all sides; the archives were ransacked, tradition was questioned, and the ancients of our people gave back the answer, 'The blood that flows in our veins is French blood.'"

Senator Poirier acknowledges that at first sight appearances and analogy were on the side of the historians. Obscurity enveloped the early years of the colony. The first settlers lived in undoubted intimacy with the Abenakis. It was only reasonable to conclude that they had followed the usage of the Spaniards in South America and Mexico, of the French in Louisiana, of the Dutch founders of New York. "The origin of the M tis in Manitoba, the frequent alliances of the *coureurs des bois* with the squaws in the West, made it credible that a like intercourse had existed between the first French colonists of Acadia and the Souriquois; while the ties of blood which unite a large number of Canadian families of all classes

and grades of society with the Hurons, the Montagnais, the Pawnis, the Iroquis, and even the Abenakis, seemed to leave no room for doubt that the families of Acadia had also at least some proportion of Indian blood."

But, in spite of appearances, in spite of analogy, in spite of the silence of the early historians, M. Poirier declines to admit for the Acadians what he so gladly concedes for their kinsmen in Canada. To ask an Acadian, he says, whether he had Indian blood in his veins, would be to insult him. In Canada, on the contrary, the question might be put without offence, and in fact Canadians still occasionally lead aboriginal maidens to the altar—a thing absolutely unheard of in Acadia in recent generations.

As already mentioned, M. Poirier's long and careful study, entitled *Origine des Acadiens*, appeared in the *Revue Canadienne* for 1874 and 1875. He set the example of going to original sources of information, instead of taking for granted what he found already in print, and he succeeded in collecting and arranging a mass of statistics concerning the families by which Acadia was peopled, for which every inquirer is indebted to him. That his names, dates and figures have not been without effect on the minds of those writers whose conclusions he disputed is shown by the altered tone of their later works on the points at issue. In *Une Colonie Feodale*, M. Rameau indeed did not expressly withdraw the statement which he made in *La France aux Colonies* as to the presence of an Indian element in the population of Acadia. But he writes with less confidence of the large proportion of that element, and in one place concedes that it was very restricted, and confined mainly to the eastern coast from La Heve to Campseau. It must be borne in mind however that he is not a special pleader, and that, except where they lived in open disregard of morality and decency, he sees nothing of the reproach which M. Poirier ascribes to such a connection in the union of Europeans and Indians. He also admits that even the European element in Acadia before the close of the seventeenth century was not altogether French. Reference has already been made to the remnant of the little Scotch settlement which intermarried with the new comers. In mentioning, at a later date, the arrival at Beaubassin of a young Irishman named Roger Quessy, who married a lady of the Poirier family, M. Rameau remarks that many Canadian families had a like mixed origin, and, as we shall see by and by, Abbé Tanquay gives several instances of them.

Let us now see how far his subsequent investigations induced M. Sulte to modify the views which so shocked M. Poirier in 1875. Like M. Poirier, M. Sulte has taken nothing on trust. When he undertook to write the history of the French-Canadians he found that many misconceptions which had long passed current as facts had to be corrected, and though some of them had been accepted by men of high reputation in both hemispheres, he did not the less ruthlessly reject and condemn them. He is especially severe on writers like the versatile Abbé Bresseur de Bourbourg and M. Pavie, who maintain that the Canadians have been so transformed by climate and other influences that they are virtually no longer French, but a new race. As to the effects of miscegenation, he holds that they do no more exist than the cause alleged to have produced them existed. He agrees with M. Poirier that the colonists brought out by Razilly and D'Aulnay were the true primal stock from which the Acadians are descended, and that neither the Métis said to have sprung from the union of Latour and his companions with the Indians nor their posterity intermarried with the later comers. All that he admits both in Canada and in Acadia is the existence of a few isolated cases of such racial intermingling. Adventurers and refugees may from time to time have sought shelter among the tribes, but such outcasts were adopted and absorbed by the Indians, and did not become the founders of families. The earliest recorded instance of a mixed marriage or union carried us back to 1625 in Acadia and to 1644 in Canada. M. Sulte mentions ten such marriages, of which six proved fruitful. Martin Prevost had nine children by his wife, Manitonabewich, an Algonquin, of whom six married and left progeny. Four years later (1648) Pierre Bouchet married an educated Huron girl as his first wife, but had no children by her. In 1654, or earlier, François Blondeau married the daughter of the Algonquin chief, Pigarouich, by whom he had several children. Laurent du Bocq and Jean Durand both married Huron wives, and had large families. The descendants of Louis Conc dit Montaur are still to be found at Three Rivers, and the Half-breed posterity of J. B. Darpentigny and his Indian wife may be recognized in some of the bearers of his name. When it is remembered that the Americans who are proud to trace their pedigree back to Pocahontas are represented by upwards of thirty family names, in how many veins may the blood of those Huron and Algonquin mothers be flowing to-day?

Let us now hear the Rev. Abbé Tanquay, author of the *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes*. This great work—a work unequalled in its scope and accuracy—was begun by its author in early manhood and, though he is now a sexagenarian, he is still engaged on it. The first volume, published in 1870 by Mr. Eusébe Sénécal, of Montreal, brought the record down to the close of the seventeenth century. Then followed a long interval—fifteen years—during which the public only heard now and then that the learned Abbé was continuing his researches. Certainly in those years he was not idle. Having visited every parish in the Province of Quebec, and thoroughly examined and transcribed the registers which they contained, M. Tanquay betook himself to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where a like task awaited him. He then traversed Prince Edward and the other islands of the Gulf, journeyed throughout Ontario, gathering information on the way, stayed for some time at Detroit, and from that city, as a fresh starting-point, he passed through all the old French settlements of the Mississippi till he reached the Acadia of the South. But it was not on this continent alone that he conducted his enquiries. He had to consult the mass of multifarious knowledge relating to the persons and affairs of the old régime in the Archives of the Marine at Paris,

and to compare the result of his discoveries with the works of Champlain, Lescarbot, Charlevoix, and others of the early and late historians. If one volume sufficed for the first century of Canadian colonization, the constant increase of population from 1700 to the present multiplied the labours as he advanced, and the bulk of manuscript grew so rapidly on his hands, that three, four, and finally five additional volumes were deemed necessary to complete the genealogy. Four volumes have already appeared, the second coming out in the spring of 1886, and the others since that date. In addition to his great work Abbé Tanquay has written a valuable compilation, entitled *A Travers les Régistres*, in which he embodies some of the most striking facts and incidents revealed in the course of his laborious investigations. He has also published several papers on the same class of subjects. In one of these, contributed to the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada for the years 1882 and 1883, he gives a general survey of the origin and character of the *familles souches* of the Canadian people. In the course of it he thus refers to the question of intermarriage between the early colonists and the Indians. "For many years the number of women arriving in Canada was but a small fraction of the entire immigration. The regiment of Carignan alone added some 1,500 men to the population of the country. Did those young soldiers, on betaking themselves to agriculture, form unions with the native women, and must we count these latter among our ancestry? Some of the colonists did indeed marry the daughters of the aborigines. Most of those who thus entered European households had been prepared for their duties by education at the Ursuline convent and other institutions. We can cite several highly respectable families in Canada who number among their ancestors the sons of the forest, and who ought to be happy to do so. Among these is the family of the late Commander Jacques Viger, who had for his ancestress a daughter of the brave Arontio, one of the early Huron neophytes of the village of the Immaculate Conception, a disciple of Father Brébœuf, and like him, a martyr of the Faith. Nevertheless such alliances must be regarded as exceptional and of rare occurrence." The sketch just given of the remarkable labours of Abbé Tanquay as a genealogist suffices to indicate his claim to be accepted as an authority on a question of this kind, and with his verdict the discussion may be considered terminated. There are still of course, the Half-breeds of the Northwest, who form a community apart from the rest of our population.

The rise of such a community is indeed not the least interesting feature in our ethnology. The rivalry between the French and English in the Hudson's Bay began about the middle of the seventeenth century. It was claimed that Jean Bourdon, a French navigator, had entered the Bay in 1656. Similar opposing pretensions were afterwards urged by the fur traders as to the opening up of the interior. The explorations of the Verandrye family lasted from 1731 to 1752. After the Conquest the fur trade ceased for a time, but before very long the English began to push northwestward. Their agents, mostly French-Canadians, mingled freely with the Indians, and by the time that the Earl of Selkirk began his colonization there was a considerable body of Métis, known by their own chosen name of *Bois-Brûlés*. That those Half-breeds were not entirely French was shown by some of their surnames, which were Scotch or English. The English-speaking Half-breeds generally however date their first appearance from the years immediately following the establishment of Lord Selkirk's colony. In 1885 the number of Half-breeds in the Northwest was returned as 4,848, but many of the so-called Indians, as well on the new as on the old reservations, are in reality half-castes.

What the number of such half-castes throughout the Dominion may be it is impossible to ascertain with the sources of information at our disposal. But that in Canada, as in the United States, the aborigines are slowly but surely disappearing, in part by absorption into the mass of the population, is a conclusion reached by all who have devoted careful attention to the problem. Wherever the barrier (in many cases necessary but sometimes uncalled-for) of forced seclusion has been removed, that process of amalgamation has gone on (especially among our neighbours) with a rapidity that would startle some of the sticklers for pure blood. The civilized tribes of the Indian Territory have intermarried with some of the best white families in the country, and are represented by able kinsmen in the Senate, the universities, the army, and the navy. "This harmonious blending of the two races, it seems to me," writes a contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly*, "is the great solution of the Indian question as regards the five civilized tribes, which with the rising generation will do away with prejudice, and establish peace and good will between the Whites and Indians." Let us hope so. So far unhappily it has not had that result either in the United States or Canada. But then look at the Celt and Saxon in Ireland after seven centuries of intercourse!

JOHN READE.

THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN EUROPE, GERMANY, FRANCE, AND BELGIUM.—II.

WE propose in this abridgment to discuss the relative strength of the present French and German military frontiers, the probable violation of Belgian territory by Germany, the abandonment of Belgium by England, and the French and German armies of to-day. All these subjects having been either falsely or improperly represented, according to *Blackwood's* authority, by Sir Charles Dilke in his *Present Position of European Politics*.

To avoid confusion of details we will place each subject under a head, beginning first with

The New Military Frontier of Germany and France.

In respect to this we desire to explain the broad principles on which the two most opposite systems of defence carried out by both nations have been

designed, and to give our reasons for preferring to believe in the German. After the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 the French engineers found that with the exception of a very small strip of the frontier, the Germans had possessed themselves of the old natural mountain barriers on which France had for generations relied for her defence. They had to deal with a country not in itself strongly defensible, and have worked with the greatest ability, backed by an un stinted supply of money. Incredible as the sum appears, France is reported to have expended since 1870 on her re-armament and fortifications one hundred and thirty-five million pounds sterling. Such an amount skilfully expended could not fail to produce a formidable result; she has piled fortification upon fortification all along the frontier, and certainly he would be a very rash man who would venture to speak confidently of the result should the German armies have to attack this continuous belt of defences adequately garrisoned by formidable troops. So much for France. Now let us see what Germany has done on the other side. She has demolished nearly all the smaller forts and fortresses in Elsass-Lorraine, everywhere elaborated her facilities for detrainning and entraining troops, perfected her railway communication between all parts of Germany where corps assemble and Strasbourg and Metz, developed it north and south, as well as east and west, within the newly conquered territory, and she has made of Strasbourg with Kehl an entrenched camp so vast that it could cover and supply an army of 280,000 men.

By the treaty after the war she obtained possession of New Breisach, which has been retained in its old form, as it covers an important bridge over the Rhine. Here, as elsewhere, she has greatly improved the facilities for conveying troops, for it will serve to bring into the Southern Vosges the Bavarian corps. With the exception we have named, however, no other fortresses have been left standing on the French side. Beyond the Rhine Germany has still her old line of great entrenched camps, giving her command of the river, Ulm, Rastadt, Mayence, Coblenz, Cologne, and Wesel. She has over the Rhine itself no fewer than sixteen railway bridges, besides four steam ferries, capable of carrying entire trains, also twenty bridges of boats for wheeled carriages. Most of these passages are fortified. All can be rapidly destroyed. Double lines of railway run along either bank of the Rhine throughout its entire length. Now what does this mean? It means that Germany relies for the defence of her territory against France upon facilitating in every way the gathering of her force upon the French frontier, and upon striking in the field rapid blows against any French force that shall attempt to cross the Rhine to invade her. It means that for France in the next war with Germany everything will depend at first on the question whether her soldiers have or have not practically mastered the difficulty which the methodic movement to the frontier of both her active and territorial army will entail upon her, the defect of that vast agglomeration of works which she has piled together upon her frontier, being that it will take an army to defend it. For this purpose the territorial force is to be employed to garrison the fortresses, while the active army takes the field. Therein seems to us to lie the weakness of the whole scheme. It appears to have escaped notice abroad that France has never ventured to adopt the system of localization and territorial mobilization of the Germans. When the word "mobilize" goes forth from French headquarters it will be necessary for the reserves who are to fill up the places in the ranks of the active army to rush in by trains from all parts of France to join their depots. Practice makes perfect, in these matters as in others, and it was no bellicose intention that induced General Boulanger to desire the experimental mobilization of two corps, he having specifically ascertained that all arrangements for the movement by railway of the French army on a large scale were in a condition as chaotic as they had been prior to the War of 1870. If this is true we would give very little for the value to France of the one hundred and thirty-five millions spent on her fortifications.

II. Will the Germans violate Belgian Territory?

It seems to us the balance of advantage to Germany in moving by that line is so nice a one that a conviction that Belgium and England would act together to resist any such attempt would be amply sufficient to turn the scale, though if Belgium refuses to play her part in maintaining her neutrality the case falls of course. England is under no obligation to assist her if she will spend nothing on the armament and the men that are needed to fill her international contract. If we are right as to the weak point of French defence at which it is the policy of Germany to strike, it is obvious that the blow must fall rapidly and in an unknown direction. Time is the essence of the question. Now for Germany to choose the road by Belgium is to abandon all the advantages of time, for the nearest point to the Belgian frontier at which concentration can take place is at Aix-la-Chapelle. From Aix only a single railway runs across the frontier of Belgium. Obviously if force were attempted on this side it would be the duty of the German Government to destroy the railway. At best the army must march by road through Belgium so that at last six or seven days must elapse between its departure from Aix and arrival within striking distance of the French frontier, whose defences on the north-west nearly approach those of Germany. The railways would facilitate the rapid gathering of armies from all parts of France to meet this invasion, and it is inconceivable that if this Belgian line alone were taken the French forces should not be able to meet the German in superior numbers in more perfect concentration and with every advantage of position in their favour. Therefore we say boldly that if the question remains doubtful whether Belgium, doing her duty to Europe, shall be abandoned to the strong arm of violence, it is within the power of England if she possesses the strength, without which she cannot guard her own empire, to decide the issue. If Belgium arms and England forbids violation of her territory, the territory of Belgium will not be violated.

III. Has England abandoned Belgium?

For this reason it is important to consider Sir Charles Dilke's statement that all England has changed her mind since 1870. We cannot believe, that the influence of a man, no matter how able he may be, writing anonymously as Sir Charles Dilke did, in a magazine, is so great that he has power to evoke immediately an informed and final expression of the purpose and will of England. England is a great country, and before her mind is definitely declared some previous threshing-out of the question is needed. The materials for forming her judgment must be laid before her. We feel very little doubt that Sir Charles Dilke did good service in raising the question. We disbelieve that he has received the final answer, which will be given when all the data have been laid before those from whom England learns to judge of war and politics. We prefer to believe with Lord Salisbury that the determination of what England will do in the future is to be judged rather by the whole course of past English history and politics than by the chance opinions of a particular politician.

IV. The French and German Armies of to-day.

When apart from the mere question of frontier we balance our attempt to adjust the present forces of Germany and France the problem is a more difficult and complex one. The seventeen years that have elapsed since the struggle of 1870 have added those years to the men who commanded the German armies, and unless we are much misinformed a tendency of this kind towards too great senility has to some extent invaded all ranks of officers. The peculiarity of the Franco-Prussian campaign was that, able leader as Van Moltke showed himself, it was not he who won most of the battles, but the German army. Hence we may say that it was the ingrained habits or customs of the Germans that gained the day, or at least gave them the marvellous power they developed. We incline therefore to believe that the efficiency of the German army is likely to be maintained for a longer time than has usually happened when armies formed under the ideas of a great leader have rusted during a long peace, and have gradually mistaken forms for the spirit which once animated them.

On the other side we cannot persuade ourselves, that all the gaseous froth which has attended the career of General Boulanger was precisely the thing required to give efficiency to the French army. Every one has acquired the idea from it that that nation have talked a great deal more than they have acted; while the Germans have acted a great deal more than they have talked. This affects largely the question even of the armed forces that will respectively be put in the field. The grand French total shows on paper a force of 646,000 odd more men than the German—the German total being 2,075,000, the French 2,721,000. If a great leader capable of awakening the enthusiasm of the French should arise, there is of course no calculating what influence the fact might have on the future war; but that at present the general temper of the French army, and more especially of the territorial army, represents the same high condition as the German we cannot persuade ourselves. The indications of discipline in the former also are in an unsatisfactory condition. That with such elaborate preparations as the French have made, the war would be really a very different one from that of 1870 we have no doubt; but that at present the German army would still be able to give a good account of the French we feel also tolerably certain.

E. S.

ORLANDO IN MUSKOKA.

I NAMED her name in the silent wood,
And my thoughts swift back to her flew;
For I'd left my love in the distant town
And longed to look on the trail of her gown,
A-sweep o'er the light morning dew.

I could see but a glint of the sky,
Through the veil of the trees above;
Yet I wanted no chart or beacon's ray,
To brighten my path or show me my way,
But the eyes of my Ros'lind love.

So until I found the lost track
That led from the place where I stood,
I painfully carved her dear name on the bark
Of ev'ry tree round, from noontide till dark,—
Then cursed the black-flies in the wood.

Toronto.

CERMER MADA.

PARIS LETTER.

IN the concierge's loge and in the drawing-room, at every soirée, and at all the cafés, cried over, laughed over, and frantically applauded, *Le Maître de Forges* held the principal place in the Parisian theatrical world for well nigh two seasons. Such success said volumes, and if those who are so fond—too fond—of condemning wholesale the tone of matters French, had cared to take note of it, their minds might have been disabused on more than one point. Alas! we do not want to be disabused. In vain we see *Renée* hissed, and the charming play of Georges Ohnet hailed with acclamations. The fact that the good bourgeoisie here groan and jeer at Zola's hot pieces, while abundant tears suffuse their sympathetic faces when some well wrought scene brings before them brave self-sacrifice, noble endurance, or sad repentance, says absolutely nothing to us. Nevertheless, no matter what the Saxon's verdict may be, a Frenchman has as delicate

an appreciation of moral beauty as any one, and the furore that *L'Abbé Constantin* is creating is but another proof of this.

The *Gymnase* ranks third, though I suppose when Sarah Bernhardt plays at the *Porte St. Martin* we should say fourth, among the theatres of Paris. It is a well managed house, where one sees usually excellent plays, admirably acted. The sweet-faced, emotional Jane Hading, and the handsome Damala, Sarah's husband, here charmed us in the popular *Maître de Forges*, *Le Prince Zilah*, and the naughty *Sapho*. But they are gone for the present, and their places have been filled by Mlle. Marie Magnier, and Marais, that eminently clever but spoiled young actor for whom the doors of the *Théâtre Français* opened, but closed again all on account of his insubordination. A pity this, as he is really the most warm-blooded of tragedians, though less artistic than Mounet-Sully. One may find in him, I think, a certain "spark of heavenly flame," many protest the great tragedy-lacking lacks.

Nothing could be more pure, more simple, more thoroughly adapted for "the young person," than *L'Abbé Constantin*, that has just been produced at the *Gymnase*. The play can boast of neither plot nor thrilling situations, nor violent passions, and yet its success seems certain. Boulevardiers and convent "misses," journalists and pretty marquises, all are flocking to see it. Hector Crémieux and Pierre Decourcelle have very cleverly adapted Ludovic Halévy's novel for the stage. The tale can be told in a few words. Madame Scott and her sister Miss Bettina Percival are two superlatively rich Americans who come to France to spend their money. After a short sojourn in Paris, where little Miss Crœsus' life has been made miserable by the aspiring nature of the foreign soul, the fair dames decide to take up their abode in the chateau of Souvigny, which Mr. Scott, who is of course in America, has presented to his wife as a birth-day gift. The news of their coming is by no means welcomed by the inhabitants of Souvigny, and especially does Monsieur le Curé dread the advent of two vulgar heretics to the chateau. However, it happily turns out they are neither vulgar nor heretics, being, in fact, daughters of a French-Canadian lady. These dames throw their money about in the legendary style, much to the satisfaction of everybody, but more especially to the admiration of Jean Reynaud, a young lieutenant in the army, and the godson of the Abbé Constantin. Naturally Monsieur Jean and Mlle. Bettina fall in love, but the phenomenal young man finds one hindrance to the match—Mlle. Bettina's money. After a little skirmishing, this difficulty is overcome, and the plucky little American helps the too conscientious Frenchman, so far as to propose to him herself. The Abbé blesses the union, which is from every point of view perfectly satisfactory.

Even ultra Realists, I think, will with difficulty find anything to cavil at in the *mise en scène* of *L'Abbé Constantin*. The old priest's garden, the grounds of the chateau, and finally the interior of Monsieur le Curé's house, are perhaps the most charming bits of work we shall see this year. As for the toilettes—fair readers, they seem the most superlatively "joyous" gowns I have ever seen. Now it is Miss Bettina, who delights us in a dress of Sicilienne *vieux rose*, trimmed with embroidery of cream and gold; now Madame Scott appears, wearing a costume in the Watteau style, with corsage and train Louis XV. The skirt is of pale pink silk muslin, an entirely new fabric, and manufactured especially for Madame Magnier at Lyon. Would you like to know the price of this marvellous material?—roughly speaking, thirty-five dollars a yard!

Marais as the hero, Jean Reynaud, plays seriously and well as usual, but he is really far too passionate a tragedian to score great successes acting the cool-blooded modern gentleman.

Marie Magnier, *alias* Madame Scott, keeps her beauty in a marvellous fashion, and still captivates us as the beautiful, graceful, but not too refined woman of society.

So conscientious has Monsieur Lafontaine been in his study of *L'Abbé* that it is said his wife became not a little anxious for the first night's performance, fearing he would begin to confess people!

Mlle. Darlaud makes a sweet Bettina, and Madame Desceauzas and N. Noblet rank very high on the French stage as *comédiennes* and *comédiens*.
Paris. Z. Z. Z.

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS.

THE advent of the *Empire* in Toronto as the accredited exponent of Conservative opinion in Canada may possibly draw the attention of newspaper men throughout the Dominion to the question of the present position of Canadian journalism. In offering my opinions on the subject in a literary journal which commands attention from both the rank and file of the profession, I am aware that my brief experience as a journalist will subtract somewhat from the authority which an article of the kind should possess. As it is part of the business, however, of nearly every journalist to read a considerable number of exchanges in the course of the year, it happens that there are very few members of the profession who do not carry in their heads more or less distinct images of the leading (and sometimes the varying) characteristics of the principal journals of the Dominion. In speaking, therefore, in general terms of the present position of Canadian journalism I shall be understood, at least, by my fellow-craftsmen who have studied the question, if they are not all willing to endorse my views.

Mr. Arnot Reid, the English journalist, lately discussed American newspapers in a number of the *Nineteenth Century*. He summed up the difference between English and American newspapers in one sentence. The English newspaper belongs to the leader-writer, the American to the reporter. The Canadian newspaper strikes a mean between the two. It would be unfair to say that the leaders in Canadian newspapers bear evidence to the same fidelity of workmanship displayed in those of Great

Britain, or that the Canadian reporter has as much assiduity or courage as his brethren across the line. But the leaders in Canadian journals are, as a rule, of a good literary character and remarkably free from the defects of the Pott and Slurk school. This may possibly be doubted by readers here and there who are limited to one or two newspapers, but I think it will be admitted by all whose business it is to keep themselves acquainted with the march of opinion in our large and small journals. Again, our journals are advancing in the matter of enterprise. From the smallest country newspaper with a "patent inside" to the great Toronto — there is an increasing tendency towards the gathering-in of local news. The work is in many cases badly done, but the principle is recognized as one of the chief factors towards the increase of newspaper circulation. The stirring items about the death of a cow belonging to Mr. Johnson, of Sleepy Hollow, and the enormous pumpkin raised by Mr. Jackson, of Thompson's Mills, are sometimes laughed at, but it must be remembered that the *Centreville Arrow* is in many cases fixed in the hearts of Messrs. Johnson and Jackson when these items appear in its pages. So far indeed as the business side of newspaper enterprise in Canada is concerned, there is a very general adaptation to the wants of the community. Mr. Pulitzer was once asked the secret of the phenomenal success of the *New York World*, and he replied "First, character; second, local news." If his dictum can be applied to the newspaper business anywhere it may be said that the greater majority of Canadian newspapers deserve success to a certain degree, and a few to the fullest degree.

But what constitutes character in a newspaper? This is a question which might be surrounded with as many difficulties and as many sophistries as that which asks what constitutes right and wrong in politics. Every healthy mind should have no hesitation about either question, although there may be some difficulty in putting the answers into definite words. The following characteristics, I think, will be admitted as those which should most prominently distinguish a newspaper professing to have character.

1. Courtesy towards opponents, political or journalistic.
2. Consistency, intellectual and moral, even to the matter of advertisements.
3. Courage to face, and not to egg on violent and mistaken popular feeling.
4. Independence, social and political.

The latter characteristic seems to me to be the one which is more and more commanding the respect of the public. Violently partisan journals still have the awful power of inflaming the prejudices of certain portions of the public, but the independent and the semi-independent newspapers are increasing in power with a rapidity which promises well for future ascendancy. To define independence still further, it is necessary to consider, so far as politics are concerned, the limits of adhesion to party. I cannot follow Mr. Goldwin Smith in his views with regard to the abolition of party, from the difficulty I have in conceiving what is to take its place in the practical work of determining the political convictions of the majority in any given case. The two great parties of the Dominion are undoubtedly undergoing great changes, but there are certain fundamental qualities in both which lead the most of men to either one side or the other from varying motives. It is not inadmissible for a newspaper to give more or less support to the particular party which most fully embodies those principles or ideas which the newspaper has been in the habit of maintaining. That newspaper is in no wise committed, however, to support the mistakes or the shortcomings of the party which it leans to, and this principle may be applied just as effectively by newspapers whose party is in opposition as by newspapers whose party is in power.

Independent journalism has still a great deal to contend with. The sneers of ultra-partisan newspapers will keep alive for some time the suspicions of a considerable portion of the public, but I believe that the independent newspapers are creating for themselves a nobler, freer and stronger public which will prove in the end the best solvent of narrow prejudices. There are, too, few countries where political independence can be displayed by newspapers more than in Canada, as there are few countries where the political parties are less vitally and historically different.

To sum up, (1) Canadian newspapers, large and small, have on the whole a fair basis of character and enterprise; (2) there is a fair sprinkling of independent newspapers with a growing public, and (3) there is room still for a greater number of independent newspapers. The public may become exacting with regard to them, but the public will demand them sooner or later. To the younger men in the journalistic ranks, at least, that is the pleasing hope. There is a large body of them who take a high view of the possibilities of their profession, and who are anxious to see it unshackled for its own sake and for the sake of the public. J. C. SUTHERLAND.

THERE is one lesson to be got from a visit of an hour or two to the British Museum, namely, the fathomless abyss of our own ignorance. One is almost ashamed of his little paltry heart-beats in the presence of the rushing and roaring torrent of Niagara. So if he had published a little book or two, collected a few fossils, or coins, or vases, he is crushed by the vastness of the treasures in the library and the collections of this universe of knowledge. I have shown how not to see the British Museum; I will tell you how to see it: Take lodging next door to it—in a garret if you cannot afford anything better—and pass all your days at the Museum during the whole period of your natural life. At threescore and ten you will have some faint conception of the contents, significance, and value of this great British institution, which is as nearly as any one spot most vital of human civilisation, a stab at which by the dagger of anarchy would fitly begin the reign of chaos.—O. W. Holmes.

The Week.

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To every thoughtful and right-minded citizen, on either side of politics, the result of the Kingston election trial will be a matter of gratification. It is something, in the midst of too much evidence of widespread corruption, to be saved the deep humiliation of having it declared by a court of justice that the seat of the Premier of the Dominion was won by bribery or fraud. This gratification, so far as it is a moral feeling, will, however, be greatly modified by the knowledge that the unwonted purity was in this case the result of a kind of commercial compact between the party wire-pullers, rather than of any genuine abhorrence of corrupt practices on their part, or on that of the electorate. But when party canvassers can be brought to feel that it will pay better, even on the low ground of expediency, to refrain from debauching voters, a considerable advance will have been gained. The stringent election law has begun, negatively, to educate the people in morality, by delivering the weak from temptation. It can scarcely become a schoolmaster, in a direct and positive way, until it punishes the taker as well as the giver of bribes.

In the absence of authoritative information, which is not now available, and will not probably be for some time to come, it is idle to speculate about supposed agreements or "hitches" of the Washington Commissioners. The nature of the difficulties which were almost certain to arise, and which have, probably, arisen may, it is true, be pretty well wrought out from our knowledge of antecedent conditions. Not the least embarrassing circumstance is the triangular form which the conference would naturally assume. That the American Commissioners would refuse to accept the Canadian interpretation of the Treaty of 1818; that the British "Plenipotentiary," if Mr. Chamberlain rightly describes himself by that term, would be unprepared to insist on that interpretation to the point of rupture, and would seek to obviate the danger by some new convention; that Sir Charles would propose and Mr. Bayard decline a new and limited form of reciprocity by way of compensation for fishery privileges, all this might be pretty safely taken as a foregone conclusion. But whether, this point being reached, the result will be an absolute failure of the negotiations, or the concession of commercial and fishery privileges, one or both, to the United States fishermen, in return for free admission of Canadian fish to American markets, the British Government undertaking to reconcile Canada to the arrangement, is as yet matter for conjecture. That the issue lies between the former alternatives and some modification of the latter seems tolerably certain, though the yielding of the commercial privileges without compensation must be regarded as possible. Meanwhile, the Commissioners have adjourned for the holidays.

It is always well to be frank, but not always easy to draw the line where legitimate frankness ends and loss of dignity and manly independence begins. Many will be inclined to think that Attorney-General Longley, in his letter to the *Portland Argus*, has crossed that line in the wrong direction. In the first place, his statement of fact, if fact it be, does not strengthen the Canadian contention. Many who have been accustomed to suppose that the fishery privileges in question were really of very great intrinsic value to the Maritime Provinces, will be surprised to find it intimated on what should be good authority, that such is not the case; and that the insistence on the literal rendering of the Treaty of 1818 is rather due to pique at the ungenerous trade policy of the United States, than to any very high value set upon the exclusive right to the inshore fisheries. Then, again, if Attorney-General Longley thinks that the United States have dealt unjustly with their weaker neighbour, it might be well to frankly tell their statesmen so, but any plaint about their lack of generosity seems too like an appeal *ad misericordiam* to be pleasing to high-spirited Canadians. As a matter of fact, generosity or magnanimity is hardly to be expected from a democracy. Irresponsible kings, and even oligarchical ministers, may make free with the rights and property of the nation, but rulers who are of the people, and who have to go back to the people to give an account of their stewardship and receive fresh instructions, are under pretty heavy bonds to eschew sentimental considerations and act on pure business principles. When that

people is largely made up of foreign, semi-hostile elements, the granting of any favours from mere friendly or neighbourly feeling becomes still more out of the question.

"THE gods help those who help themselves." From recent reports in the *St. John, N.B.*, papers, it would seem that the enterprising business men of that city are awakening to a realization of this fact and bestirring themselves accordingly. The newly formed "St. John Forwarding and Trade Promoting Company" is vigorously pushing trade with the West Indies, having already chartered a vessel for that business, and is now turning its attention to other matters of great local importance, such as the union of St. John and Portland, and the building of the projected Navy Island and Courtenay Bay bridges, for street railways, carriages, and foot passengers. The taking in of the suburban city of Portland would give St. John a population of 50,000, making it the first city in size and commercial importance of the Maritime Provinces; and at the same time it would be pretty sure to impart a new impulse to the energies and enterprise of both.

IMPERIAL Federation, Commercial Union, Independence, Annexation, Constitutional Revision—on what a restless sea is the Canadian Federation just now being tossed! He must be an optimist indeed, who, in the midst of all this anxious discussion of radical-cure specifics, can calmly maintain that we are going on very well as we are, and there is nothing wrong with the health of the body politic. The fact is becoming painfully apparent that the experiment of provincial union, in its present shape, is threatened with failure. Under such circumstances the true patriot is the man who is not afraid to look the facts of the situation fairly in the face, and ask what is to be done. There should certainly be no need for despair. The resources of the country are ample, its people inferior to none in industry, energy, and other elements of national progress. But geography on the one hand, and alien race and religious influences on the other, militate powerfully against any real national unity. And yet such union is almost essential to permanent independent existence. Any centrifugal force, powerful enough to disrupt the existing federation, would almost inevitably project the fragments within the sphere of attraction of the great nation on our borders. Such words may seem ill-omened, but no pleasant prophecy can change the fact that there is as yet, after twenty years of mechanical connection, no real cohesion or vital unity among the provinces of the Dominion. It is pretty clear that Repeal is slumbering, not dead, in Nova Scotia, and that the failure to secure any substantial tariff concessions as the result of the Fishery negotiations would quickly stimulate it into fresh life and activity. What is really needed is a conference, or commission of inquiry, composed of the best and wisest statesmen the country can produce, irrespective of party politics, to decide, if possible, upon some new departure which may command the assent of the whole people. The deliberations of such a body would as a matter of course, have to be carried on on a higher plane than that of the party politics, which, however necessary in some respects, seem utterly incompatible with unprejudiced deliberation or united action.

THAT the end of the party system in its old shape is at hand is tolerably certain. Even the *Montreal Witness*, staunch Liberal though it is, confesses that the Liberal party, as such, is on the verge of disruption or dissolution. Since the defeat of last year and the retirement of Mr. Blake the rank and file of the party seem to have lost heart. The experiment of modifying the platform in regard to the vital issue of free-trade *versus* protection, or rather of revenue-tariff *versus* "national policy," proved a conspicuous failure. Nor can it be doubted that a rigid adherence to the old programme would at that time have proved still more disastrous. Under the baneful influences which date back to the Pacific Scandal, if indeed they were not operative from the date of union, the constituencies were so far debauched that the party having the money could, as a rule, find enough purchaseable votes in a majority of constituencies, to control the elections. Under the new, and if possible worse device, of buying whole constituencies with the borrowed public funds, the case of the Opposition is well nigh hopeless. Hence the languor, premonitory of dissolution, which has seized upon the Liberal party, as evidenced by the result of the recent Haldimand election. But with the upbreak of the old Liberal party, that of the older Toryism is certain. The resignation of Mr. Blake, and the relaxation of Opposition pressure which followed, are destined to prove no less disastrous to the Party in power than to their opponents. Their disorganization and dissolution may come more slowly, but are equally sure. The excitement of battle is the life of partyism. Not that there is much room to hope for any more rational system of government. The ranks of both parties will fall

asunder and to some extent commingle, only to be reformed on new lines and with new battle cries. What the coming issues will be is a question of the greatest importance to the future of Canada.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has on several occasions shown himself brave and strong above the average, but his message to Congress the other day was, almost unquestionably, his strongest and bravest deed. It is of course always open to the cynical to say of such an act of seeming daring that it is the offspring of shrewd forecast, and a nice calculation of chances. The great majority of honest men will in this case prefer to believe that this bold challenge of what had come to be regarded as the fixed "national policy," this single-handed and vigorous assault upon the combined forces of capital, monopoly, prejudice, and intrigue, is the outcome of sterling patriotism. It is the work of a man who finds, or thinks he finds, the path of public duty and strikes into it without hesitation and without ostentation. What will be the immediate result, either upon his own prospects of a second term or, what is of vastly more importance, upon the action of Congress and the welfare of the Nation, a few weeks or months will tell. This much may be safely said. The singular force of the message, intensified as it is by abstention from all other topics, will set the whole people to thinking, as nothing else of which it is easy to conceive could have done. And when a law or custom indefensible in itself, and upheld only by selfish interests or national prejudices, is once placed in such a light that the people of every grade are forced to think about it, to talk about it, to examine its foundations and look into its merits, the end, in an intelligent nation, is but a question of time. President Cleveland's message has, there can be little doubt, sounded the knell of exorbitant taxation in the United States, whether the end comes swiftly or slowly.

A SINGULARLY purblind view is that of a Canadian Conservative journal which observes that the President's message, in this instance, has not a particle of interest for any one outside of the United States. The matters with which it deals, however important in themselves, are, according to this view, of purely domestic concern. Some of the English newspapers see much farther. While naturally disposed to rejoice over any indication of advance in the direction of the British free-trade policy, they cannot close their eyes to the fact that any large reduction of the United States tariff might have a very serious meaning for England. Would it not mean, for instance, the resurrection of American commerce, and a keener competition than English manufacturers have yet known in the world's markets? If American ingenuity and energy, fettered and enervated by high protective duties, have already wrought such wonders, what might they not achieve, if thrown more completely upon their own vast resources, freed from the incubus of heavy taxation upon much of their raw material, and so entering the contest upon equal terms? To Canada, overburdened with debt and comparatively destitute of capital, the effect of any radical change in the fiscal policy of her powerful neighbour would be still more serious. If the exodus across the border is already so great as to prove a considerable drain upon her strength, what would it become were the United States to be made the cheaper country to live in, while her energies were stimulated, her commercial marine resuscitated and all her industries made to feel the thrill of the new and larger life which free intercourse with the whole outside world could not fail to bring?

ANOTHER interesting question suggested by the President's Message we do not remember to have seen alluded to. Would the means he recommends accomplish the end in view? That end is, of course, the diminution of the revenue by the amount of the surplus now annually accruing. Whatever his own personal views, President Cleveland says nothing of free trade or of tariff reduction below the protective limit. The necessity for such reduction is, as he very forcibly, if not irresistibly, shows, imperative. The best and highest interests of the whole nation are absolutely imperilled by the enormous and rapidly growing surplus in the Treasury. This is now admitted on almost every hand, tacitly admitted even by Mr. Blaine in his proposal to reach the same end by the less feasible and more objectionable method of reduction of internal taxation. But suppose that President Cleveland's specific should fail. Mr. Gladstone in former days astonished the world with his wizard feat of increasing the national revenue by lowering the taxation. Might not the same cause produce the same effects in the United States? Might not the volume of importation, released in part from the heavy pressure to which it has been so long subjected, go up with a bound that would result in bringing more money into the treasury under the lighter scale of duties? What would follow? To retrace the steps already taken would be probably out of the question. What other way of escape save through throwing open the doors still more widely in the direction of Free Trade?

AN anti-immigration bill is to be introduced during the current session of the American Congress. Its essential features are a tax upon every foreigner coming into the country, and a certificate by the United States Consul in the district from which the immigrant comes, that he is a suitable person for citizenship in the great Republic. The proposal, which, seems likely to meet with favour, opens up some very large questions. The fundamental one is that of the abstract right of the people of any country to forbid the poor of other lands from entering upon, and occupying its unoccupied places. We use, of course, the word "right" in its broadest sense, that of moral justice. At what particular stage of progress does a nation acquire such a right? How many people, for instance, were needed in the United States, or what percentage of its area had to be occupied before such a right was acquired? Such legislation, again, appears rather ungrateful in view of the fact that so many of the best citizens of the States were once themselves "strangers and foreigners," and that so much of the blood shed for the preservation of the Union was alien blood. As has been pointed out once and again, if the Anarchists, who a few weeks ago paid the penalty of their crime of wholesale murder, were foreigners, so were almost to a man the brave policemen who lost their lives in defence of law and order. A more practical question, and one worthy of serious consideration, is raised by the *Christian Union*, based upon the fact that the incursions of the great bodies of Poles, Hungarians, and Italians, who now do the mining and railroad building, have been rendered necessary by the fact that the Welsh, English, and Americans who formerly did this work have risen to be shop-keepers, farmers, lawyers, and the like. The question is, whether it "is not better to have immigration come in at the bottom and force native populations up, than to have it come in at the top and force native populations down?" There is a point in this worth considering in Canada as well as for the United States.

SOME startling facts with reference to the operations of American land-monopolists are given in the published abstracts of Secretary Lamar's forthcoming report. He shows that since March 4, 1885, there have been recovered and restored to the public domain upwards of 45,000,000 acres. Nearly half of this has been re-taken from the railway companies, and a large part of the remainder by the cancellation of illegal or fraudulent land entries. The Secretary urges upon Congress the necessity for more stringent legislation for the prevention of land-grabbing practices. No doubt a large part of the enormous frauds thus frustrated were perpetrated upon the Indians, whose reservations are considered in too many cases fair booty for the greedy whites in the vicinity. The Government and people of the United States seem at last to be thoroughly aroused to a sense of their obligations to the Indians, and are taking vigorous measures for their protection from the cruel rapacity which not only despoils them of the property given them by treaty, and crowds them off the best lands of their reservations, but is the chief cause of the so-called Indian outbreaks.

THE facts brought out in the discussion raised by the meeting of the International Conference on the Sugar Bounties, in London, go far to show that if the French and Germans are satisfied with the arrangement the British have little cause to complain. A system which enables the Londoner to buy his sugar for 3d., while the Frenchman pays 8d. for the privilege of having the manufacture carried on in his country, should, one would suppose, be vastly more satisfactory to the former than to the latter. It is no wonder that the consumption of sugar increased in the United Kingdom from less than seventeen pounds per head in 1841, to over sixty-eight pounds in 1883, seeing that the cost of the sixty-eight pounds in the latter year was but a trifle more than that of the seventeen pounds in the former. The *London Times* may well compliment the "Foreign Governments," on being "good enough to subsidize our (British) consumers to the amount of £2,000,000 or upwards." Nor in the matter of industrial employment has the matter worked so badly for Great Britain. While by reason of increased consumption the importation of sugar has not lessened the demand for labour in its manufacture in England, it has largely increased that demand in other directions by making London, instead of Paris, the head-quarters of the confectionery business, and the seat of immense jam factories. More than twice as many labourers, it appears, are employed in these industries as in the establishments of the sugar-refiners, while for the reason indicated the business of the latter has largely increased. The strangest fact in connection with the exhibit is that the consumers of France and Germany are willing to go on paying twice as much, or more, for their sugar as their British neighbours, and consequently to stint themselves in its use from one-half to one-fourth the quantity, all for the advantage of a few manufacturers.

PROMINENT CANADIANS.—VII.

SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G., LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO.

IN Sir Alexander Campbell, all who know him recognize a man so highly endowed with many of the gifts that go to constitute statesmanship, that they find themselves constantly wondering why he never took a more prominent and commanding position in Canadian politics than he has done. In one sense Sir Alexander's position has been both prominent and commanding. In the sphere in which he has chiefly moved, that of the Senate, his was always the most important and imposing personality, and that not simply by virtue of his office as Leader of the Government or else of the Opposition in the Upper Chamber, but, in an equal degree at least, by force of character and talent. To have represented the Conservative party as long as he did in that Chamber, and to have done it from first to last with distinguished success, not merely from a political point of view, but from an intellectual and moral point of view as well, constitutes a record of which even a man of high ability and considerable ambition might well be proud. Sir Alexander may be said to have approached as near as it has ever been given to any Canadian statesman to approach to the ideal type of a Senator—a man grave and strong, moderate, dignified, firm, sagacious, candid without indiscretion, politic without craft, loyal to his party, but ever mindful of his personal honour, and ever thoughtful of the public weal.

Like many other of Canada's leading statesmen, Sir Alexander Campbell was not born in Canada. He came nearer being born in it however than some of his illustrious rivals; for he was only two years old when his father, an English physician, came to Canada in the year 1823, and took up his residence at Lachine, in the Province of Quebec. Sir Alexander's birth-place was the village of Hedon, near Kingston-upon-Hull, in Yorkshire, England; and he has ever retained the warmest sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the British Empire. It might not be far wrong to say that, of all our public men, he is the strongest admirer of British institutions, and the one who is the most thoroughly English in all his feelings. Whether this has had anything to do with his holding aloof, as he has done, from popular politics, we cannot positively say; but we rather incline to think that the two things are not wholly unconnected with one another. Sir Alexander's parents gave him the best educational advantages the country afforded. They placed him first under the tuition of a Presbyterian clergyman, and afterwards sent him to St. Hyacinthe College, and still later to the Royal Grammar School at Kingston, Ontario. The youth was of a studious turn of mind; and, though he left school at what would now be considered a comparatively early age, he had imbibed all the essential elements of a liberal education. At St. Hyacinthe College he acquired a considerable knowledge of the French language and a consequent interest in French literature which has accompanied him through life. On occasion he could make a French speech in the Senate; though he rarely exercised the gift, and only perhaps to meet some playful challenge of the French members. He studied the classics also up to a certain point; but above all he acquired a knowledge and command of his own language, and a habit of using words with a peculiar force and directness. The phrase may not always be the smoothest, but it has a quality that tells—something a trifle Cæsarean in its brevity and point. However this is a good opportunity for reminding ourselves of Buffon's dictum that "le style c'est l'homme." Mere school education does not give this. A man may learn at school to avoid technical errors of speech; but the style he eventually acquires will be more or less the reflex of his own personality.

Young Campbell was only seventeen years of age when he entered on the study of the law at Kingston, whither his family had some years previously removed. No stories have reached us of his student days, but he seems to have applied himself earnestly to his work, seeing that he was able, on completing his course and being called to the Bar, to form a partnership immediately with Mr. John A. (now Sir John) Macdonald, whose reputation even then was rapidly growing. The partnership subsisted for many years under the name of Macdonald and Campbell; and the business, in the hands of these two exceptionally able men, was a lucrative one. Politics, however, soon began to absorb the attention of the senior partner, and the burden of the office work fell upon Mr. Campbell. The experience which the latter thus acquired, aided by his studies, made him one of the soundest lawyers at the Bar of Upper Canada; and had he not, while still a comparatively young man, diverged into politics, there is little doubt that he might long since have occupied a distinguished position on the Bench.

It was in the year 1858 that Mr. Campbell made his *début* in politics by carrying an election for the Catarqui Division, and taking his seat in the Legislative Council of Old Canada. He very quickly familiarised himself with his new surroundings, and became an efficient and highly-esteemed member of the Upper House. No new member probably ever had less crudeness or inexperience to rub off; and no one seemed at all surprised when, in three or four years after his first election, the member for Catarqui Division was placed in the Speaker's chair. The position was, indeed, one for which, by temperament and character, he was pre-eminently fitted, but not one in which his practical energies could find much scope; and a wider sphere of usefulness was opened up to him, while the administrative strength of the Government of 1864 received a great reinforcement when the Speaker of the Council was assigned to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands. Here his knowledge of law and prompt business methods found ample exercise, and it was admitted on all hands that he filled the office in an admirable manner. From this time forward Mr. Campbell was looked upon as one of the strong men of his

party, though one whose strength was shown rather in council than in fight. His was the balanced judgment and sound knowledge of affairs, and one can only regret that the influence he was so fitted to exert, and must at many critical moments have exerted, in favour of sound, safe and honourable methods of party management, could not have asserted itself at all times. A very ugly chapter of Canadian political history might then never have been written.

In 1867 the first Government of the Dominion was constituted under the leadership of the then newly-knighted Sir John A. Macdonald, and Mr. Campbell was sworn in as Postmaster-General. The new position did not call, to the same extent as the previous one, for the exercise of legal acumen, but it involved dealing with large public interests and a very extended patronage. The new Postmaster-General was fortunate in finding as permanent head of the Post Office a man possessing qualities closely akin to his own. No two men indeed could have been better fitted to work together in harmony than the Hon. Mr. Campbell and Mr. W. H. Griffin, then, as now, Deputy Postmaster-General. Few who have any acquaintance with the latter will think the assertion hazardous if we say that no finer intellect than Mr. Griffin's has ever devoted itself to the public service of Canada. With fineness of intellect is linked in his case, what is not its invariable accompaniment, sterling integrity of character. But the resemblances between the Postmaster-General of 1867 and his Deputy were not confined to these general traits. Both were (happily we may also say *are*) men of peculiar dignity and reserve, and of pronounced conservative tendencies. Both had been educated partly in Lower Canada, and had acquired a certain respect and liking for its solid and well-established institutions. Both had a certain instinct for control, though here their methods diverged more or less, the Postmaster-General being rather inclined to a Bismarckian way of doing things, while in his Deputy there was a subtle blending of Talleyrand and Fabius Cunctator. The Postmaster-General soon felt that he had, in the chief officer of his Department, a man whose judgment, experience, and integrity were equally to be depended on; and, so far as the general routine of the Department was concerned, the Deputy Postmaster-General managed it very much in his own way. At the same time, during the six years that Mr. Campbell remained at the head of the Post Office much solid progress was made, in all of which he took a lively interest, and exerted a judicious control. As regards the patronage of the Department, it was administered by the Postmaster-General with a constant eye to the good of the service, and occasionally with a wholesome indifference to mere party demands. One of the chief characteristics of the subject of this sketch during his administrative career was that he was never willing to descend to the level of the mere party politician. Some have said that this was due to the fact that his position exempted him from dependence on the popular vote; but we have seen other Senators whose high position did not seem to exercise any very elevating effect on their political methods.

After a six years' tenure, exactly, of the Post Office Department Mr. Campbell accepted the portfolio of the newly constituted Department of the Interior. Here everything was to create, order had to be called out of a most discouraging chaos; but the new Minister was proceeding bravely with his task, when the Government of which he was a member met an inglorious defeat over the Pacific Scandal. The operations which led to this result had been carried on wholly without Mr. Campbell's knowledge: he was not indeed the kind of a man to whom the schemes formed at that time for creating an election fund were likely to be confided. Mr. Campbell did not, however, like Mr. Cartwright, see in the occurrences to which we are referring sufficient reason for separating himself from his party. He probably judged that he could render better service to the country in the ranks of the Conservative party than anywhere else; and he looked forward, doubtless, to the time when that party, rendered wiser by experience, would again be called to control the destinies of the country. From 1873 to 1878 Mr. Campbell acted as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and discharged the duties of the position with the same ability as well as with the same fairness and moderation as when he had represented the Government. To act a really factious part was, we may say, almost wholly out of his power; certainly, it would have been foreign to his nature. When the Conservative party returned to office in November, 1878, Mr. Campbell first accepted the position of Receiver-General, but in the spring of 1879 he returned to his old office of Postmaster-General. Thence he passed in the month of January, 1880, to the Department of Militia and Defence, which, during a brief term of office, he did not a little to invigorate. The end of the year saw him back in the Post Office Department, which he again left in the month of May of the year following (1881), to assume the portfolio of Justice. Meantime (24th May, 1879) he had been created by Her Majesty a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, an honour which his eminent public services had very fully merited. Sir Alexander remained at the head of the Department of Justice until the latter part of the year 1885, when he once more returned to the Post Office Department, which he finally left last spring to accept the Lieutenant-Governorship of Ontario. His appointment to the latter office was viewed with pleasure and approval, even by his political opponents. On all hands it was felt that in Sir Alexander Campbell Her Majesty would have one of the most constitutional of representatives, such a man as she probably would herself have delighted to choose for the position. Before proceeding to Toronto, however, Sir Alexander went to England at the request of the Government, to represent Canada at the Colonial Conference. That conference was not empowered to enact any measures, or even to concert any scheme, for the modification of the relations existing between Great Britain and the Colonies; but it gave an opportunity for a confidential exchange of views between members of the English Government and leading representatives

of the Colonies; and there is little doubt that it has smoothed the way for the future discussion of questions of the greatest moment.

As a Departmental chief, Sir Alexander Campbell was deservedly popular. He was not, perhaps, the most accessible of men, and his general manner may have been a trifle distant and brief; but it was soon discovered that he had a kind heart and a strong sense of justice. He was not a man to be trifled with; he believed in holding men to their duty: but, on the other hand, he was always glad of an opportunity of rewarding faithful service. He had a keen insight into character, and had, consequently, little difficulty in dealing with men on their merits. His confidence was seldom given where it was not deserved, or withheld where it was deserved. He was always ready to form his own independent opinion on any matter properly submitted to him, and having formed his opinion, he knew how to stand by it. No Department of the Government came amiss to him, for the simple reason that his sound business methods were applicable everywhere. How useful such a man must have been to the Cabinet as a whole, and particularly to its leader, may be imagined, but the full details are not likely ever to become known. It will be remembered that while Minister of Justice it became the duty of Sir Alexander to draw up a memorandum explaining and defending the policy of the Government in executing Riel. This he did in a manner that for force, conciseness, and logic left nothing to be desired. Perhaps, however, the chief merit of the statement was the strong accent of conviction that pervaded it. It was not a partisan manifesto; it was the fitting utterance of the highest organ of executive justice in the country.

As we said at the outset, in surveying the career of Sir Alexander Campbell we are tempted to ask, Why a man with so decided a talent for public affairs, so judicious a counsellor, so vigorous an administrator, should not have plunged boldly into the open sea of politics by taking his place in the popular branch of the Legislature? A partial reason may be found perhaps in the fact that Sir Alexander has not enjoyed the continuous good health that is almost a necessity for the active politician. We can only look upon this, however, as a partial reason; for other men, by no means robust, have tried their chances in the popular arena. We are more disposed to seek the efficient reason in a certain natural reserve, and even *hauteur*, of disposition, which has disinclined Sir Alexander through life to the more violent conflicts of politics. Perhaps, also, the insight which he must early have gained into the methods of politicians may have worked in the same direction. In the speeches of Sir Alexander Campbell—and he has made some good ones in his day—nothing is more evident than the absence of clap-trap, of cant, and of evasion. We may here particularly refer to his speeches in introducing the various measures sent up to the Senate relating to the Canadian Pacific. These were acknowledged by friends and foes alike to be models of lucid and candid statement; and could they have been delivered in the Lower House might have advantageously replaced some more pretentious but less convincing efforts of oratory. Rhetoric, as an art, Sir Alexander probably never either studied or practised. His maxim in this matter would probably be the old Roman one, *Rem tene, verba sequentur*, "Grasp your subject, the words will follow." The question then is, whether, had he followed a more popular line of politics, Sir Alexander would have gained or lost in the total of his characteristics and of his public usefulness? It is hard to say; and yet we may be allowed to conjecture that the plunge into popular politics, if taken, might have added some useful elements to the highly estimable character we have been studying. Such an experience must add to a man's self-knowledge, and should have the effect of identifying him more fully and closely in feeling and sentiment with the country he is called to serve. The seclusion that a Senate grants is favourable, no doubt, to dignity of manner and moderation of temper, but it does not reveal to a man his hidden sources of power, or give him the truest estimate of himself. There is apt to be a certain touch of weakness about protected existences, as about protected manufactures; and the vulnerable point will in general be precisely that which is most speciously covered by an appearance of strength. It is a stronger thing to be able to give and take in the *mêlée* of life than, from a position of vantage, to demand and secure unvarying deference and respect. If we miss anything in Sir Alexander Campbell it is doubtless that something—breadth of feeling we may perhaps call it—which a course of active political campaigning, with its ups and downs, its triumphs and disappointments, its gratifications and mortifications, would naturally have developed in him. Taking him, however, as we know him, it is matter for congratulation that the country possesses in Sir Alexander Campbell a practical statesman of a high order, both of ability and of character, one to whom the old Roman terms of *gravissimus* and *spectatissimus* may with peculiar propriety be applied, and who, if he has not stood on the highest round of power, has manifested qualities which would have won for him, in that position, the confidence of all who have the country's welfare at heart.

HERAT.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

DILLY AND THE CAPTAIN. By Margaret Sydney. Boston: D. Lothrop Company.

Margaret Sydney is so well known to youthful readers that a new book from her pen scarcely needs commendation. *Dilly and the Captain* is tastefully bound, and very cleverly illustrated. It tells the funny adventures of a little boy and girl who get tired of being told that "children should be seen and not heard" and start off in search of a place where this troublesome maxim is unknown. The book cannot fail to please the young people.

GLADYS. A Romance. By Mary Greenleaf Darling. Boston: D. Lothrop Company.

This is a promising book by a new author. Although it is the writer's first work of fiction it is evidently not from an entirely inexperienced pen. There is nothing amateurish in the style; and good as the story is something much better may be expected in the future.

ST. NICHOLAS. An Illustrated Magazine for Young Folks. Vol. XIV. New York: The Century Company.

The last volume of *St. Nicholas*, from November, 1886, to October, 1887, handsomely bound in two parts, contains nearly two thousand pages of excellent reading matter, and a wealth of illustration that will make it a valuable addition to the libraries of older folks. We would like our readers to appreciate, and we trust they do appreciate, the great value of periodicals such as *St. Nicholas* as educational instruments for the young.

THE CENTURY ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE. Vol. XXXIV. New York: The Century Company.

This volume, comprising the numbers from May to October, 1887, is the twelfth of the new series. Constant readers of the *Century* need not be told how varied and valuable are its contents, both in matter and illustration; but they may be pleased to learn that it is a very handsome specimen of the binders' art in its tastefully designed old gold covers. The story of Lincoln's life is brought down to his election as President; and the *War Papers*, a very remarkable contribution to a nation's history, are concluded.

THE CONCISE IMPERIAL DICTIONARY. By Charles Allandale, M.A., LL.D. Toronto: J. E. Bryant and Company; London, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Glasgow: Blackie and Son.

Dr. Allandale edited the last edition of the *Imperial Dictionary*, which appeared a few years ago. He has compressed that great work into one convenient and inexpensive volume, entitled *The Concise Imperial Dictionary*, but retaining all the characteristic and valuable features of the original. Although it contains only about one-fourth of the matter contained in the *Imperial*, it has in its eight hundred pages almost everything for which the ordinary reader has ever any occasion to consult a dictionary; and we are quite sure that for all practical purposes it will be found far more serviceable than any of the larger "unabridged" works. The vocabulary is very ample, and by a judicious and skilful grouping of words "closely connected in origin, form, and meaning," space is greatly economized and facility of reference increased. The definitions and explanations are clear and concise, and, so far as necessary and possible, the encyclopædic mode of explaining the meaning of words and terms has been retained. The etymological department of the work is based on the very latest authorities, and has been very carefully prepared. The size of the book is very convenient, the binding is neat and strong, the paper is of the finest quality, and the type, though small, is wonderfully clear and distinct. It seems to us to be adapted to the wants of a very large class of readers, and to be especially suitable for the home, the office, and the counting-house.

MAJOR AND MINOR. A Novel. By W. E. Norris. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

This is a well told and very readable story of modern English life. Indeed it may be called a story of to-day; for the political talk, of which there is a good deal, is on questions about which we have "despatches" and "special cables" every morning. The story opens at Kingscliff, on the south-west coast of England, formerly an obscure fishing village, but now a fashionable winter resort, thanks to a celebrated London physician, who discovered the salubrity of its climate, and to a speculative, but energetic and successful builder, who bought land, erected villas, and "boomed" the place unceasingly. The principal landowners of Kingscliff are a jolly old sailor—Rear-Admiral Greenwood, and an irascible old soldier—Major-General Sir Brian Segrave, K.C.B. The old Admiral is a Liberal. He has been hard up all his life; but he takes advantage of the celebrated physician's discovery and the energetic builder's enterprise, sells a good slice of his land, realises a handsome profit, has plenty of ready money and, with his amiable wife and pretty daughter, is happier and jollier than ever. The irascible, but really good and well-meaning, old soldier is a Tory. He hates Gladstone and Parnell and the whole land-reforming crew. His ambition is to leave an unincumbered estate to his heir, and although sometimes so pressed for ready money that he does not "know which way to turn for a five pound note," not a foot of land will he sell. The improvements at Kingscliff enrage him. The energetic builder is "an infernal, insolent blackguard." He has no confidence in his eldest son Brian. He does not understand him; he bewails his inaptitude for business, and even suspects that he is tainted with Radical notions. Brian certainly has not the least idea of the value of money. He takes no interest in farming and has no love for country-pursuits. But though improvident, he is no spendthrift, and is withal right principled and transparently sincere. He loves, but cannot always humour his father. Gilbert, the younger son, is never in debt, and never without a few sovereigns in his pocket. He is a lover of sport, a shrewd man of business, an excellent judge of live stock, and a sound Conservative. Whenever Sir Brian compares his two sons it is always to the disadvantage of his first-born. Finally Brian's indifference about business matters brings its own punishment. He is called upon to pay a large sum for which he has become liable through endorsing for some one at Oxford. He tells his

father the story, and after being deservedly rated ventures to suggest the sale of a few acres to Buswell, the builder, as a convenient way of providing the money. This is too much for the old gentleman. He declares his determination to make Gilbert his heir. Next day he goes to London, and executes a new will, by which everything is given to the younger son. He thinks he has done right, but he feels decidedly uncomfortable. Sometimes he has misgivings about Gilbert—a half doubt whether he is after all so thoroughly straightforward as Brian. He returns home with all the anger gone out of him, and already sorry for what he has done. Brian takes his punishment bravely. "Gilbert is to be Segrave Major in future," he said, "and I'm Segrave Minor." But his cheerful, good humoured acquiescence in the new order of things gives no comfort to Sir Brian. He would prefer to be abused. He does not know that in a very few hours he will regard what he has done not as a painful duty conscientiously performed but as an act of expediency, condemned by his own conscience. The very next evening, impressed by a sermon he hears in the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, and still further influenced by a subsequent conversation with the Vicar, he resolves to undo what he has done. He announces his intention to his sons, who understand that their positions are to be again reversed. In pursuance of a well-meant but unfortunate suggestion of the Vicar's the journey to London is put off for a few days. In the meantime Sir Brian is accidentally killed. The last will is the legal will, though the earlier one expresses the testator's last intentions. To the surprise of every one, except the old family lawyer, Gilbert clings to his legal rights, and Brian goes forth to earn his living. All this is but introductory to the story, which tells of the loves and fortunes and misfortunes of these two brothers, who are so utterly unlike each other both in appearance and character. Although not a very exciting story it is one full of interest. The characters are not too numerous, and they are all clearly and distinctly drawn. There is an occasional suggestion of Trollope, as, for example, in Lord Stapleford's courtship of Beatrice Huntly; but we prefer our author's style to that of Trollope. It is lighter and more correct, and his men and women are not so rude, stubborn and selfish. The good they do is done from higher motives.

THE *Magazine of American History* for December is as fresh, varied, and attractive as usual. This is one of the very best periodicals that comes to our table.

THE *Swiss Cross*, the magazine of the Agasiz Association, is an interesting and useful periodical for all lovers and students of nature. In the December number are many entertaining and instructive articles, some of which are attractively illustrated.

THE December number of *Harper's Magazine* has a great deal of fiction and too much poetry. There are five complete stories; nearly all the poetry is narrative or dramatic, and Mr. W. D. Howells' farce, *A Five o'Clock Tea*, is itself a clever and amusing story.

THE *American Magazine* will publish in an early number an article entitled, *The Inland Ocean of the North*, by J. Macdonald Oxley. It will be a full account of the Hudson Bay Expeditions conducted by the Marine Department of Canada, and will be profusely illustrated.

THE Christmas number of *Scribner's Magazine*, in its golden holiday cover, contains a rich collection of choice Christmas reading in prose and verse. The principal poetical contribution, *Ticonderoga*, is by Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, illustrated by Messrs. Hole and Low. The fiction is by Bret Harte, H. C. Bunner, Miss Jewett, and T. R. Sullivan. *In Florence with Romola* has a great many very beautiful illustrations.

THE December *Wide Awake* has a very tastefully designed holiday cover, and much of the reading matter has a distinctly Christmas character. The first attraction is a Christmas poem, by Edmund C. Stedman, entitled *The Star Dreamer*, with frontispiece and text illustrations. Mr. Andrew Lang contributes a short but amusing *Bullad of a Bad Boy*, and Mr. C. S. Pratt, *The Drummer Boy of Kent*. In prose fiction the great feature is Rider Haggard's complete African story, *A Tale of Three Lions*, with three full-page illustrations.

THE *Century* for December has nothing to distinguish it as a Christmas number, unless perhaps a very attractively illustrated article on *The Sea of Galilee* can be considered pertinent to the season. The reading matter is somewhat heavier than usual. The paper by Mr. Kennan on the *Prison Life of Russian Revolutionists* is a valuable one, and throws a powerful light on the prison treatment of political and other offenders in the Empire of the Czar. Mr. Brander Matthews' account of Paris journals and journalists is very interesting and cleverly illustrated. Readers who have been concerned about the fate of *Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine*, will be glad to learn that Mr. Stockton has commenced a record of their further adventures in *The Dusanter*.

St. Nicholas is always good, and it would be hard to tell what is best in the Christmas number. *St. Nicholas*, though intended for young people, is often read, we know, by those who get it ostensibly for their children, and these maturer readers will perhaps turn to Mrs. Burnett's new serial story, *Sara Crewe*. Mr. Frank R. Stockton's quaintly illustrated *Clocks of Rondaine* is full of humour, some of it perhaps a little too subtle for juvenile readers. *Three Miles High in a Balloon* is a very good piece of descriptive writing, and will be read with interest by young and old. *Child and Poet*, by Edith M. Thomas, is an exquisite piece of simple verse. We do not remember having read anything of the kind so good for many years.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE December number of the *Political Science Quarterly* completes the second year of this useful periodical.

PROF. CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS, King's College, Windsor, N.S., has in course of preparation a work entitled *The Life and Times of Joseph Howe*.

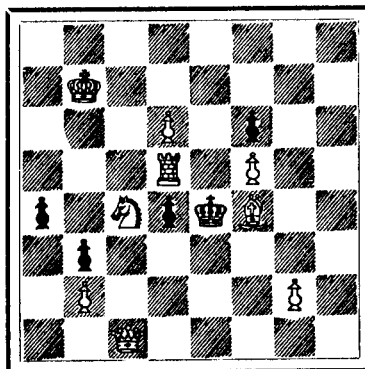
MR. WM. HOUSTON, in the *Educational Journal*, says he knows of only one great English prose writer who never blunders, and that is Mr. Goldwin S mith.

THE *Expulsion of the Acadians* is the most important paper in the last volume of the *Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society*. It was read before the society by Sir Adams G. Archibald.

MRS. HARRISON'S *Canadian Birthday Book* has evoked many complimentary tributes; and a few days ago the *Mail* published the very flattering letters which Mrs. Harrison ("Seranus") received from Earl Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne, and the Marquis of Lansdowne.

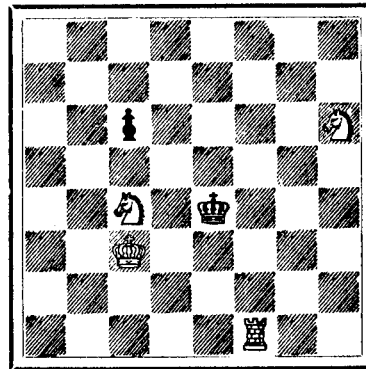
CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 213.



White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. 214.



White to play and mate in three moves.

Solution of Problem No. 209.—Key B—B 8 (S—S 3) S—K 7, and S or B mates. No. 210. Key R—K 5 ch. (K—S 3) Q x P ch., and Q x P mate. (K x R) Q—S 5 ch. and S—Q 6 mate.

New Orleans has a club containing a membership of about six hundred.

An \$120 trophy will be contested at Quebec, 16th January prox.

Monck, of Dublin, wins "Vienna Opening" in the British Correspondence Tourney,

viz.:

W. H. S. Monck.	R. Pilkington.	W. H. S. Monck.	R. Pilkington.
1. P—K 4	S—K 4	15. P—K 5	B—Q B 3
2. S—Q B 3	S—K B 3	16. B—Q S 5	S—Q 2
3. P—Q 4	P x P	17. B x B	P x B
4. Q x P	S—Q B 3	18. P x P	Q x P (bad)
5. Q—K 3	B—Q S 5	19. S—Q S 5 (good)	P x S
6. B—Q 2	Q—K 2	20. Q x R ch.	K—K 2
7. Castles.	P—Q 3	21. R—K 1 ch.	K—B 3
8. P—K R 3	P—K R 3	22. Q—K 4	B—Q 5
9. B—Q 3	S—K 4	23. P—K S 4	S (S 3) K 4
10. B—K 2	B—Q 2	24. P x S ch.	S x P
11. P—K B 4	B—Q B 4	25. S—K B 3	R—Q 1
12. Q—K S 3	S—K S 3	26. Q—K B 5 ch.	K—K 2
13. B—Q 3	S—K R 4	27. S x B	P—K B 3
14. Q—K B 3	S—K B 3	28. Q x S ch.	Resigns.

An invitation is extended to chess players who wish to participate with compositions and exchanges. Address the CHESS EDITOR. Solutions next week.

"ERMINIE" COMING.—The appearance of Mr. Rudolph Aronson's comic opera company at the Grand Opera House in the week of December 19, in the great New York Casino success, "Erminie," will be an event of far than more passing interest to the theatre patrons of this city, for a more successful opera than "Erminie" has never been given at the Casino, while the company of favourites which is announced will insure a perfect production of the celebrated work. The fact that this opera succeeded in entertaining crowded houses at the New York Casino for more than 500 nights is sufficient evidence of its perfect adaptability to the public taste of to-day. Mr. Rudolph Aronson deserves the warmest commendation for the admirable manner in which he has sustained this run by keeping the parts always in the hands of the most capable artists attainable. The temptation which would have been listened to by the great majority of his fellow managers, to cheapen the performance and grasp greater gains by the reduction of his enormous expenses, never won a place in his policy. Rather has he strengthened it, for the present representation is certainly far superior to the one given the public two years ago. The resources of Mr. Aronson's place at the head of the only real house of comic opera in America put him in a position to present in that branch of amusement the very best possible productions, and certainly all his energies have been diligently bent on making "Erminie" the greatest comic opera entertainment that America has ever had. There can be no doubt of the character of the reception that awaits the appearance of this model company in this city. The sale of reserved seats will begin Friday next, December 16.

"On the Rio Grande" made an unqualified hit at Havlin's Theatre yesterday afternoon and evening. If genuinely hearty and spontaneous applause counts for anything, it will play to a crowded house all week. This was the initial production in this city, and all the "first nighters" were out in full force to have the pleasure of a new dramatic sensation and to criticise. They had all the expected pleasure without the alloy of criticism. The performance, taken both in detail and as a whole, was too perfect for that. In fact, it is the most powerful and absorbing romantic play that has ever been witnessed on the stage of this house. The above is said without the least reservation or a single exception. The thread of the story is of absorbing interest, and the play is crowded with a number of thrilling scenes, situations and incidents, which follow each other in such rapid succession that the intense action almost takes one's breath. The scenery and costumes are appropriate and brilliant. M. J. Jordan appeared as Harold Rapley, and made a popular impression with his brilliant rendering of the role. He is one of the stars of the company. Mark Price, the author of "On the Rio Grande," was seen in the impersonation of Del Paso. This gentleman has always borne the reputation of being a talented fellow, but yesterday he outshone all previous efforts as a romantic, as the sun outshines the stars. Miss Clara Flagg's Dora Rapley was appreciated very much. Will S. Marion was the coldblooded villain, calculating and full of dark thoughts and sinister plans. Florence Roberts has a winsome face and figure, and made a charming and refined Kate Shelby, while Harry Hawk, as Daniel Webster Byall, and Miss Lizzie Tugles, as Priscilla Muffins, furnished the comedy element for the entertainment.—*The Cincinnati Evening Telegram*.

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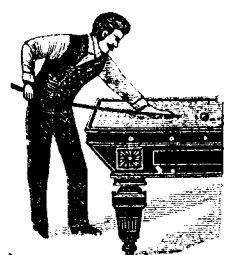
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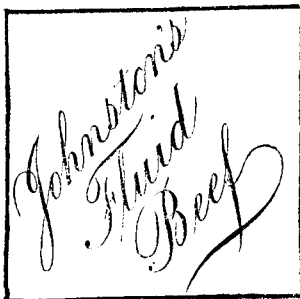
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Mum is the word on all the acts of courtesy and support given by British sons and plenipotentiaries to the American citizen, whereby the pre-tige and status of the Republic has been established and maintained before the Courts of the potentates of Europe and Asia. The mouth must be shut and only silent acknowledgment rendered for the mantle of protection and manifold acts of relief afforded the American citizen in a general way in every port in the world. And where the warships of Great Britain have come specially to the relief of our blood relations an oblivious screen must be hung, when they in their perfidity choose to do the dastard's act. But with all blood is thicker than water at the cor. of Yonge and Gould Streets. STEWART.

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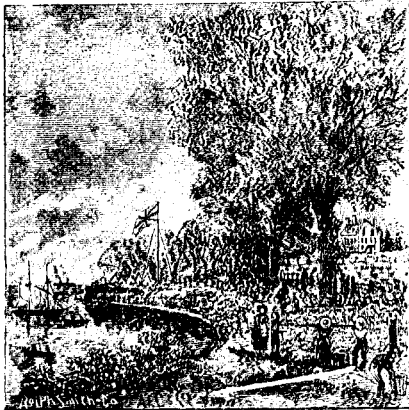
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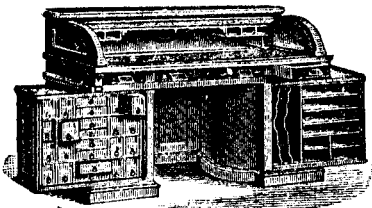
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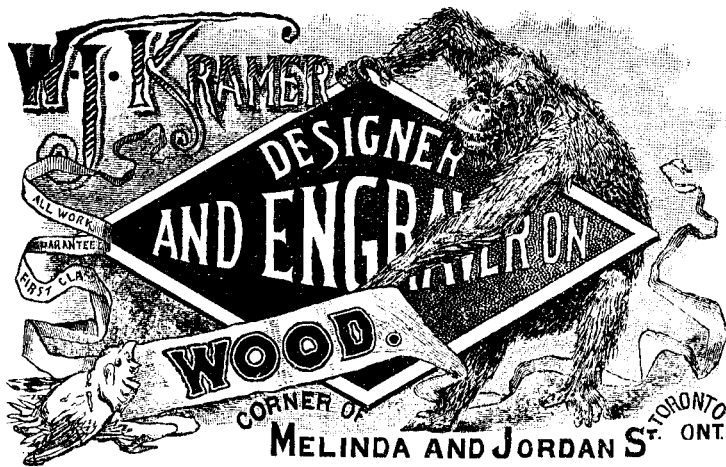
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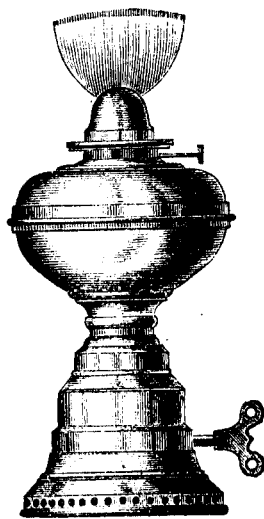
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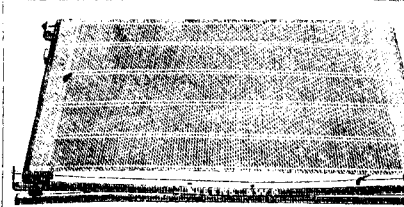
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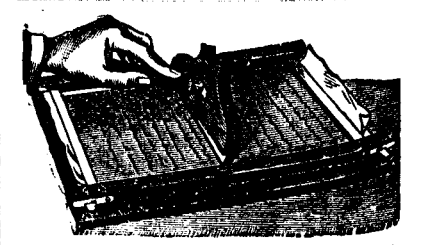
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