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The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, POLITICS, AND CRITICISM.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

It is worthy of note, now that the excitement on the boundary award has somewhat abated, that the great weight of expert opinion is on the side of observers who aver the 88,000 square miles of disputed territory upon the right to which so much oratory and so many dollars have been spent, are a vast wilderness of rock with nothing on it worth growing and nothing in it worth digging for. One witness, who is exceptionally well acquainted with the country, who is fully competent to judge, and whose veracity and impartiality are beyond question, has declared that the territory which Sir John A. Macdonald was to have portioned out in huge timber limits to his supporters, if the award went in favour of the government, is "not worth one cent an acre." From within seventy miles of Winnipeg right through to Port Arthur the land is described as literally and absolutely barren and valueless. The half-breeds, who alone have had the hardihood to thoroughly explore the country, report that it is one monotony of rock, stubble, and water from end to side. However, it has answered Mr. Mowat's purpose well: it gave him a good party cry, and enabled his administration to pose as the champions of Ontario, as well as to deal another blow at Sir John Macdonald as a constitutional lawyer.

EVEN the more level-headed observers who are inclined to take the *Globe's* anti-N. P. reports with the usual grain of salt, cannot help seeing that the manner in which it is sought to impugn those statements serves rather to confirm the unfortunate tidings of trade depression. Could the N. P. be personified, one could easily understand how it might pray to be saved from its friends. The latter attempt to howl down the *Globe* returns by accusing that journal of unpatriotic conduct and of attempting to ruin the trade of the country for party purposes—a charge which, "not to put too fine a point upon it," is cool coming from the party which awarded similar treatment to Mr. Mackenzie. But, we are virtually told, one man may steal a horse whilst another must not look over the hedge. Everybody knows that the *Globe's* object is to discredit the Government's policy, and apart from the political morality of the scheme, in doing so it merely returns a Roland for an Oliver. But the clap-trap about ruining the credit of business men is too absurd to deceive the most superficial. Would the N. P. defenders wish us to believe that the exact financial condition of every firm mentioned is not known to the banks and to the mercantile agencies? How, then, could a newspaper report affect their commercial

standing? Whilst not asserting the *Globe's* accuracy, he who runs may read how patently so-called rebutting statements made in Tory organs are beside the mark, and how by quibbles the writers endeavour to misguide the public mind. The real patriot is not he who glosses over his countrymen's weaknesses or denies their faults, but rather is the man truly loyal who vigorously protests against a mistaken policy, and endeavours to show what is ultimately best for the community at large.

THOSE who remember the miserable revelations of poverty and distress amongst "Tuke emigrants," in Hamilton and elsewhere, last winter, will incline to rejoice that Mr. Tuke's fund has ceased to be used for emigration. The Duke of Bedford, in announcing this decision of the committee of which he is chairman, says the prospect of a good harvest in Ireland, and the lessened demand for labour on this continent, render a temporary cessation of the work advisable. In three years Mr. Tuke's fund had assisted 9,482 persons to emigrate. The average cost per head, including all expenses, was £7 4s. 6d. The total cost of the operations has been £68,500, of which £44,000 has been received from the Government. What has been done has benefited not only those who have been sent away but those who remain behind. It has led to much consolidation of holdings too small when separated to support life in decency and comfort. Mr. Tuke says what is wanted in Ireland is a permanent board of emigration, which with a suitable staff both in Ireland and America, would from year to year deal with a limited number of applications for emigration, and to advise in each case as might seem for the best. In the meantime, one would like to hear what hope there may be of migration accomplishing any good work.

INTERVIEWED immediately on his landing at Plymouth, Mr. H. M. Stanley, the intrepid African explorer, declared that General Gordon may leave Khartoum whenever he chooses, and that he has three routes of escape open to him. He remarks that General Gordon is a great and distinguished man, that he is a soldier but not a traveller. He is sure he will never leave Khartoum ingloriously. He can escape by the Congo; secondly, by means of the Nile; and thirdly, across the desert, and thence to Zanzibar. He can take either of these routes, and may go with the army in Khartoum to Bahr-el-Ghazel, where he would meet Lupton Bey, the commander of the Egyptians. He could force his way through the country, because the people would be afraid of an armed body of men. Mr. Stanley says that Gordon is perfectly well supplied with stores and ammunition, and quite strong enough to meet the Mahdi. Mr. Stanley laughs to scorn the suggestions for sending an expedition to Khartoum, and says the men would die like flies. He adds that General Gordon only requires to act like a soldier, as he believes he will, to settle the whole difficulty.

IRRITABILITY has always been said to be a characteristic of the literary race, and editors consequently have their troubles. The Editor of this journal has evidently given unpardonable offence by the rejection of somebody's article on the Temperance question, and his crime is visited on the head of another gentleman, who, though a valued contributor to this journal, is not its editor, and never has been. Twice the grievance has been aired in print, and, as if this was not enough, it is embodied in a vengeful cartoon. We are accused of breaking our promise of "an open field" by rejecting papers in favour of prohibition while we accept those which are against it. We can plead guilty to nothing of the kind. We have a waste-paper basket, it is true; but it is the impartial receptacle, in this, as in every other discussion, of papers on both sides which had no interest except for their writers. Papers on both sides of the prohibition question have been rejected; letters on both sides have been inserted, while other letters on both sides have been declined. In no case has the rejection been on account of opinion. The subject, though important is trite, and interest can be imparted to it only by freshness of treatment. A perfectly open field for free and courteous discussion THE WEEK is and will always be; it has never pretended to be an open dumping-ground for rubbish.

"BYSTANDER" ON CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

THE two great party organs have been debating, with hot shot, the question between Free Trade and the National Policy. We must be grateful to the *Globe* for having with regard to the National Policy, as well as with regard to Prohibition, taken the question out of the region of polemical generalities and brought it into that of facts, by instituting local inquiries and giving us the result. Its statements are fiercely traversed. Probably they are not untinted by the sombre hue of Opposition. But in their general character they correspond to the indications of trade in the lines of business to which they relate. Had the Finance Minister only kept on the safe ground on which he at first stood, and contented himself with undertaking to raise the requisite amount of revenue in the manner best suited to the industrial circumstances of this country, all would have gone well. His Tariff, in the opinion of those who are best qualified to judge it, was skilfully framed; it not only equalized revenue with expenditure, but produced a surplus, and it did not diminish the volume of trade. Unfortunately he was carried away by his success, flung himself into the open arms of the Protectionists, and undertook to produce prosperity by taxation. The result has been over-investment in the manufactures to which he promised protection, followed by the inevitable recoil, the glutted market, the works running half-time, the men thrown out of employment. At the same time it happens that the lumber trade is in a doubtful state, while the last of Canadian mining enterprises seems to be on the brink of failure. Canadian manufacturers have so far enjoyed a monopoly of the north-western market. This they cannot permanently retain. The people of the North-West will assuredly assert their liberty of buying in the best and most convenient markets; without that liberty they cannot prosper. For Canada at all events Protection will not do. Her case is not like that of the United States. The United States are an assemblage of forty communities, some of them equal in size and wealth to no mean nation, stretching over a territory which embraces the greatest varieties of soil, climate and production, while they enjoy perfect free trade among themselves. On the other hand, it would be at once unwise and unjust abruptly and entirely to reverse our present policy after leading the manufacturers to build their works and invest their money on the faith of its continuance. They are an important part of the community, though they cannot be allowed to insist that the interests of all consumers shall be sacrificed to them as if they were the whole. That for which they must prepare themselves, as their inevitable destiny in the end, is free trade with this continent. The abolition of the Customs line between Canada and the United States is indispensable to the prosperity of this country, and opinion is fast forming in favour of the measure. All along the border our people desire it, and in the Maritime Provinces it would be carried almost by acclamation. That the politicians of both parties have a prejudice against it is true, and its coming may thus be delayed; but come it will, and there are strong indications that it is near.

It seems that what Lord Rosebery tenders to the colonies in exchange for their independence is a representation in the House of Lords. Representation in the House of Lords can hardly, in the present state of the political market, be called a gilt-edged security; but, waiving that reason for misgiving, it surely is strange that after so much discussion of the subject, we should again be called on to state the objections to this scheme. Is it possible that a man of Lord Rosebery's mark should fail to see that a colonist severed from his colony, sent to reside in London and there identified politically and socially with the British aristocracy, would be a colonist, and a trustworthy representative of the colony, no more? Most likely he would become an aristocrat of aristocrats. We see the tendency even when a colonist is knighted. It would be better to put the interests of Canada into the hands of an ordinary member of the House of Lords, who would at all events be under no temptation to betray them for the purpose of ingratiating himself with a society in which his position would be already assured. A member of the House of Lords is irremovable; he is therefore irresponsible; the colonial Peer might and often would outlive the state of opinion which had existed in his colony at the time of his appointment, and he would then become an antagonist of his constituency, while he would remain armed with its commission. But the worst part of such a system would be its inevitable effect on the characters of colonial statesmen, who would be always manœuvring for peerages, instead of devoting themselves heartily to the interests of their own country. Life in high London society is expensive; colonial politicians have not usually long purses; and the temptation to seek increase of income in illicit ways, such as lending the name of a Peer to commercial enterprises of doubtful character, would be as strong as it could possibly be. With what object are

all these complications and liabilities to be encountered? Why should we struggle so desperately against the plain dictates of nature and convenience? A community when it becomes great, as the colonists of England are becoming, no matter what its origin or kinship, must have its administrative centre in itself. Nothing threatens or is ever likely to threaten the moral union between England and her colonies except this unreasoning passion for political aggregation.

THIS seems to be the hour of Federationist fancies. Perhaps it is Australian confederation that sets all brains breeding. In the cable news the other day there was this item: "Jamaicans living in this country (England) will shortly hold a meeting for the purpose of requesting the Solomon (*sic*) of the Jamaica Government, who is now here, to bring before the Jamaica Legislature, on his return in September, the subject of making that island a part of the Dominion of Canada." We have since been told that the admission of the West Indies into the Canadian Confederation is a subject which has been occupying the attention of Sir John Macdonald. Sir John and the "Solomon" of Jamaica, whoever that potentate may be, if they are in communication on the subject, will do well to consider not only the question of distance, but the political character of the population. Dire experience has shown that Jamaica, at all events, is incapable of self-government. She made a trial of Parliamentary institutions but was glad, after a fearful catastrophe, to resign them. Nothing, it seems, can keep the peace between the white and black races, or ensure justice to the blacks, but the strong and impartial rule of a Crown Governor. We bewail the corrupt influence of Quebec in our Parliament, but what do the projectors of this scheme suppose would be the influence of a West Indian delegation? How could there be any unity of interest or unanimity of feeling in a Parliament made up of such heterogeneous elements? St. Domingo flung itself into the lap of the American Republic. The American Republic flung it out again, in spite of the desperate efforts made by President Grant to bring about the annexation. The American people knew too well what sort of addition to their Congress Senators and Representatives from St. Domingo would be. But a Haytian deputation in the Congress of the United States would be a trifling danger compared with a couple of scores of West Indians in the Parliament of Canada. More than two thousand years ago a political philosopher laid it down that every association must have a sufficient object. This is what confederationists at the present day forget. Their conglomerations which they propose have really no object except to gratify the yearning for conglomeration.

THE Committee of "Mr. Tuke's Fund" have issued a report on Emigration from Ireland. The number of persons assisted to emigrate this year, the report says, amounted to little more than half that of last year. The falling off is ascribed to the diminution of over-pressure by previous emigration, and to a good potato harvest. But it is added that there has been an agitation against State-aided emigration, and that "all sorts of absurd stories have been circulated, especially with regard to Canada." Perhaps the last words might be taken in a double sense. The Committee vindicate their care in selection and supervision. Of the despatch of Irish destitution to Toronto, they wash their hands altogether, saying that these families were sent out by Unions. The emigrants sent by themselves to the States or Canada, they aver, have all done well. To the political danger of re-inforcing the Anti-British element on this continent they shut their eyes; perhaps they despair of finding a land in which the Irish emigrant might learn regular industry, improve his condition and advance in civilization, without being duped and fleeced by the traders in a malignant agitation. One thing, at all events, they see, which statesmen have unfortunately not seen, and which political agitators are determined not to see. The condition of the people in the poor districts of Ireland is one of chronic destitution, caused by the existence of a population out of all proportion to the resources of the land upon which it swarms, and liable at any time by a failure of the potato crops to be aggravated to the point of actual famine. But the Committee do not seem so distinctly aware of the fact that for such an evil occasional, or even annual, depletion by emigration, though it may be a palliative, is not a remedy. The population which remains, its character and habits being unchanged, will only multiply all the faster, and be always approaching the famine line. There is no remedy but complete clearance and the conversion of the land, or of so much of it as is cultivable at all, to the purpose of pasture, for which alone it is adapted by nature. If this is hopeless, the malady is beyond cure.

WHEN it was announced by the seceding Independents that their movement was directed exclusively against the character of Mr. Blaine,

the trumpet for a war of personalities was sounded. At once there is a joyous response to the call. Investigations have been promptly commenced into the amours and supper parties of Mr. Cleveland's youth, and as, in the case of a man whose future prominence nobody can foresee, accurate registers are seldom kept of such events, an almost unbounded field of stimulating and luscious controversy is opened. The several charges of drunkenness, seduction, abduction and cruelty form so many distinct issues upon each of which newspaper dissertations equal in their collective bulk to the works of the most voluminous authors are sure to be written between this and November. It would be curious to compute how many yards of disputation were produced on the question whether General Garfield, in the period of his life when he was struggling with penury, had been guilty of leaving a tailor's bill unpaid. The attempt to blast Mr. Tilden's character and bring on him a heavy loss by ransacking his returns under the income tax was dirtier still. Ambition must indeed be a master passion when it can induce a man to go through such an ordeal for the sake of a four-years' tenure of doubtful power, amidst all the swarm of annoyances which beset life in the White House and with no prospect, when his term is over, but total eclipse. The winds of party fury are now fairly let loose; for the next three months the storm will rage, patriotism will be lost in faction, commerce as well as politics will feel the baneful effect, and in case of a disputable result, which, with so much sectionalism and bolting it is at least possible, a crisis of dangerous violence may once more ensue. Compared with these evils, and with the traces inevitably left on the political character of the nation, the expense of the contest is, to people who are so rich, a small matter; yet, in itself, it is not small. Experienced politicians say that two millions at least will be spent in the State of New York alone. What is still worse is, that not a little of this money is raised virtually by pledging in advance the patronage of the State. It cannot be too often repeated, in justice to the framers of the Constitution, that nothing of this kind was intended by them. Their intention was that the President should be quietly selected by a board of presidential electors. Had they only adhered to the decision to which at one time they came, that the President should be elected by the Legislature, all might have been well. Thought begins, as well it may, to be stirred in the United States on this subject. Mr. Henry C. Lockwood's treatise on The Abolition of the Presidency comes in season and is not unlikely to open a serious discussion. To him, the monarchic tendencies of an institution, which he justly regards as a mistaken and needless reproduction of British royalty, are the chief objects of apprehension; but the consequences which attend the mode of election, as now presented to our eyes, afford surely as great a subject for misgiving. Who can doubt that the paroxysm brought on by the Presidential Election of 1861 precipitated, if it did not produce, the Civil War? It is true that a general election in Canada or in England, when possession of the Government depends on the result, is the counterpart of the Presidential election in the United States. But neither practice is in any way essential to elective government or destined to prevail for ever.

In England the agitation against the Lords goes on and continues to illustrate the peculiarity of a Constitution under which, to get a measure passed by the legislature, you descend into the street. The Polish Constitution, under which they all met armed, and everybody had a veto was still rougher and more primæval, but there is an affinity between the two. Both are contrasted with constitutions adapted to modern times, in which all powers are properly defined and are exercised in accordance with the law. All say that the Lords will succumb. Succumb they certainly will in the end and on the main question between them and the people. Heredity is dead at the root; that one house of the legislature should remain the property of a group of privileged families in an age of reason is impossible. Moreover, the peerage rests substantially on great estates which are held together by primogeniture and entail; and, even if agrarian change goes no further, primogeniture and entail are assuredly doomed. But in this present battle about the Franchise Bill, the position of the Lords is perhaps not so hopelessly weak as it is assumed to be. Street parades in themselves are harmless. Violence the Government itself must repress, and if the Prime Minister is persuaded to take the stump in person, he may have as chief of the Executive to put down disturbance which his own eloquence has excited. Nor is the populace all on one side; in some of the cities it is largely Tory; while any popular agitation is sure to produce a certain amount of reaction among the property-holding and Conservative classes. Popular enthusiasm cools unless its temperature is sustained by the sense of some crying injustice; and there are not now, as in 1830, a mountain of abuses to be removed, and great practical objects to be attained. Mr. Gladstone is seventy-four: the cohesion of his party

depends on his presence at its head; events come thick, and the Ides of November, though in the calendar near, are politically some way off. In itself the contention of the Lords is right: they are entitled to demand that Extension and Redistribution shall be laid before them together, in order that the probable effect of the whole measure on the Constitution may be seen; and their case in this respect is strengthened by Mr. Gladstone's avowal that his object in sending forward Extension by itself is to commit the Lords in advance, and put them under a moral necessity of accepting his plan of Redistribution whatever it may turn out to be. Liberals of the more thoughtful class might not repine at a postponement of the Franchise Bill if the result were likely to be a broader and more statesmanlike treatment of the entire question. The long revolution by which supreme power has been transferred from the Crown and the aristocracy to the people, touches its close, and the time has come for finally organizing government on the elective basis, with Conservative safeguards of a rational and effective kind in place of the moribund and discredited relics of the feudal era. To make the Lower House more democratic, by an extension of the Franchise, without any corresponding alteration of the Upper House is to aggravate the antagonism between the two, and to increase the peril of collisions in the future. These things some Liberals in England see, but the Prime Minister does not; he talks about "uniting the people by his Franchise Bill round the ancient throne," as if the ancient throne were still the real government, and the House of Commons, instead of being the real government as it is, were still merely a representation of the people. Great was the genius of Chatham, great was the genius of his son; but both had their limits. Chatham could not have framed a budget and his son was the worst of war ministers. Great, almost miraculous in some respects are the powers of Mr. Gladstone; and splendid have been the services which he has rendered to his country. Yet Ireland is in a state of smothered rebellion, the Union is in danger, the Egyptian question is in confusion, the attempt to reorganize the House of Commons by the new rules has failed, and the eloquence which commends the Franchise Bill, may not be accompanied by an equal measure of the forecast which distinctly anticipates its practical operation.

In addressing the people of this continent Mr. George and his associates show a decided disposition to lower their tone. It is one thing to bully the weak and decried landowners of England or Ireland: it is another thing to tell all the farmers of this continent that their freeholds are not their own, but public property stolen by them from the nation, which the community would be justified in resuming without paying them any compensation. Moreover, in an old country where titles run back into the mist of time, it is possible to make those who are ignorant of economical history believe that all private proprietorship had its origin in fraud; whereas here everybody knows that the land was honestly acquired by purchase from that very State which, with the price in its pocket, is instigated to plunder the purchaser. The scheme of confiscation which the *Radical Pall Mall Gazette* compared to stealing spoons, and the *Radical Mr. Harrison* to Californian mail robbing, is now softened down to a peculiar, a very peculiar, system of taxation. More than this, there is a complete change of the issue. We are told that Mr. George's contention is simply "he that doth not work, neither shall he eat." That saying is found in the New Testament together, it may be observed, with some others which would hardly suit the purposes of the preachers of social war. Therefore every true Christian, though he may have the means of eating without work, will work to the best of his ability; nor will he have much difficulty in finding things which the community needs to have done and which in our present state only a man of independent means can do. But so far as the saying is applicable to the present question at all, it is applicable not only to the idle holder of property in land, but to the idle holder of property of any kind; nay, to the holder, however industrious, of any property which he has inherited and not made. We shall have to confiscate everybody's patrimony, whether it be in land or stock, and to prohibit any man for the future from leaving anything to his children; the result of which would be that a great incentive to industrial effort would be lost, and that saving would altogether cease. Mr. George's principles threaten all property alike, including the plant of the newspaper which seeks by coquetting with his theories to win for its party the votes of the artisans. The thrifty artisan himself owns, or hopes to own, the lot on which his house is built, and that lot is just as much menaced with nationalization as the estates of the Duke of Argyle.

A LIVELY controversy has been going on about Religion in the English Reviews between the Agnostic, Mr. Herbert Spencer, the Positivist, Mr. Harrison, and Sir Fitzjames Stephen, who, perhaps, would be best

described by the old name of Freethinker, if it can be used in an inoffensive sense. The result tends to show that perplexity is not confined to the Christian camp, and that, if we are forced to give up received beliefs, we are not likely at present to find certainty or repose elsewhere. Mr. Harrison pours scorn on Mr. Spencer's Religion of the Unknowable; Mr. Spencer pours scorn on Mr. Harrison's Religion of Humanity; Sir Fitz-james Stephen pours scorn on both. Mr. Herbert Spencer, who opened the discussion, evidently thought that he had mown down Christianity and all existing religious beliefs by one fell sweep of his philosophic scythe. Religion, he says, has its origin in dreams, which generate a belief in ghosts. Hence it is anthropomorphic, always seeking God after the image of man, and varying in its conceptions of the divine nature through the successive phases of human morality and thought. When the mental development of the race has reached a certain point, the theological process ends; man discovers that the God whom he has worshipped is only the creation of his own brain, discards his anthropomorphic conceptions, confesses his hopeless ignorance, and has thenceforth no religion but reverence for the Unknowable. The answer to this seems to be that it is only another instance of the traps into which physicists, however eminent, are in danger of falling when they advance sweeping theories about man without having studied his history. For the dream-and-ghost hypothesis of the origin of religion there is not a particle of historic evidence. It finds no support in the Rig Veda, the Zendavesta, the Egyptian monuments, the Homeric poems, the Roman mythology, the Scandinavian mythology, or any of the important records of primæval religion, among which, for this purpose, we may reckon the Old Testament. All those records alike indicate that it was by the great objects of nature, and especially by the sun, that the religious sentiment was first awakened, while that sentiment, to be awakened at all, must apparently first have had its seat in the human breast, like other sentiments and tendencies, the congenital character of which nobody denies. The dream-and-ghost theory is merely a reproduction of the "Animism" of Dr. Tylor, who founds his induction on the beliefs of savage tribes. But the assumption that the beliefs of savage tribes are primæval, and represent the universal tendencies of humanity, seems itself highly precarious. Savage tribes are probably the refuse of humanity, cast away for the most part into the remote and most unattractive parts of the earth. There seems to be no reason for thinking that their beliefs are any more stable than their language, which we know to be in a state of flux. It is surely in the leading races and in the main current of history that reason bids us look for the real tendencies of humanity. To show that the Christian religion had its source in a belief in dreams and ghosts would be a hard task for the most robust Agnostic. Anthropomorphism is a very effective word, almost as effective as Mesopotamia, though not so blessed. It means, after all, nothing but "human," and the argument against the truth of religion, supposed to be conveyed in it by implication, will be found on examination to be fallacious. There are three natures in man—at least there are three aspects under which he may be regarded—the physical, the intellectual, and the moral. Primæval fancy might invest Deity with a human form; but if an educated Christian does this, it is either figuratively, as we speak of the Eye and the Hand of God, or involuntarily, from inability to present to himself a moral being otherwise than in human form, and with a full consciousness that the connection, though it clings to the human imagination, is the offspring of mental association, and not real. In the same way, when we speak of Divine Wisdom or Design, we are fully aware of the total inadequacy of terms transferred from the operations of the human intellect to those of God; Mr. Spencer himself does not suppose that his intellectual formula of the Homogeneous and the Heterogeneous adequately represents the Councils of the Infinite. But to say that the moral nature of man points true to that of the Author of his being is merely saying that we believe in a God. To charge religion with being anthropomorphic in this sense is a platitude. That human morality is identical with that of the Maker and Master of the Universe is the essential conception of Theism, which, whether tenable or not on other grounds, is not proved untenable by the simple asseveration that it is what it purports to be. Mr. Spencer bids us, in place of our anthropomorphic Deity, revere the Unknowable. Why should we revere the Unknowable? We do not revere a problem because it is insoluble, or a riddle because it cannot be guessed. A moral power only can be the object of reverence: such a power Mr. Spencer must at heart believe that there is behind the veil of nature; and reflection will show him that moral character to excite our reverence must be in kind identical with ours.

A MORE special study of history, including the history of opinion, might perhaps make Mr. Herbert Spencer more philosophic and less

acrimonious in his criticisms on Christianity, at which he never fails to fling a stone or two in passing. "The visiting on Adam's descendants," he says, "through hundreds of generations dreadful penalties for a small transgression which they did not commit; the damning of all men who do not avail themselves of an alleged mode of obtaining forgiveness which most men have never heard of; and the effecting a reconciliation by sacrificing a son who was perfectly innocent, to satisfy the assumed necessity for a propitiatory victim; are modes of action which ascribed to a human ruler would call forth expressions of abhorrence; and the ascription of them to the ultimate cause of things, even now felt to be full of difficulties, must become impossible." It is instructive to compare this and a great deal more of the same kind and in the same tone which has proceeded from the pen of Mr. Spencer, with such a book as Sainte-Beuve's "Port Royal." Sainte-Beuve was not a believer in the Christian Revelation, but he was thoroughly versed in history, a profound student of character, and a man of truly philosophic and liberal mind. He sees that the character is the essential thing and not the dogma; and he paints with comprehensive sympathy and kindly insight, as well as with artistic beauty, the characters of the admirable recluses who are the subjects of his book. To him denunciations like those of Mr. Herbert Spencer would seem platitudes. Almost the same may be safely said of Renan. That an alien mass of dogma has, in the course of theological controversy, gathered round the rational and vital truths of Christianity, many Christians, as Mr. Spencer is aware, are fully prepared to acknowledge. St. Paul, protesting against subjection to the Law, set forth, in opposition to it, the redeeming work and merits of Christ in passionate and figurative language, with imagery drawn from the sacrificial ritual of the Hebrews, which irrational exegesis has crystallized into doctrine and presented sometimes in forms repugnant to good sense and to morality. The Reformers again in combating Indulgences and good works, developed and stereotyped in an exaggerated form their doctrine of Justification by Faith, which drew after it that of Predestination. But what is the practical outcome? The religion of the worshippers of Baal, Moloch, or the gods of Mexico, was immoral and cruel. Immorality and cruelty were the result. Why was not the result the same in the case of Heber, Wilberforce, Fletcher, of Madeley, and Wesley, who unquestionably held the doctrine of the Atonement in the form which would be most repulsive to Mr. Herbert Spencer? How came it to pass that though these men served a God more cruel, as Mr. Herbert Spencer thinks, than the Fijian divinity who is represented as devouring the souls of the dead, their characters and lives were examples of the purest benevolence? It would appear that on their minds the Atonement impressed itself simply as a manifestation of Divine Love. In his "Data of Ethics" Mr. Spencer, after a similar onslaught on the professors of Christianity, ends by admitting that "a rationalized version of its ethical principles will eventually be acted upon." In that case, as the ethics can scarcely be entirely separated from the creed, surely philosophy bids us touch the history of Christianity, and even its doctrinal assertions, with a discriminating hand.

A BYSTANDER.

HERE AND THERE.

THE old aphorism that one must go from home to learn news would undoubtedly occur to the average English journalist who read a recent article in the Boston *Home Journal* on "English Gold in American Journalism." Our contemporary reads between the lines of anti-Blaine editorials in the *New York Times* "and some other journals conducted by Englishmen," and sees there unmistakable signs that they are "heavily subsidized to support the party which is given to free trade." A Toronto daily made a similar accusation against an Anglo-Canadian cotton spinner who ventured to make some unfavourable comments upon the spinning and weaving industries of the Dominion. Had such charges been made by anyone but journalists they might have been more easily forgiven; but how gentlemen of that ilk could be so stupid as to suppose a gigantic scheme for the manipulation of American and Canadian trade could be formulated in England without its coming to their knowledge, baffles comprehension. We have more faith in the assiduity of the ubiquitous "special correspondent" than such an admission implies. The insinuation that either the British Government or a ring of English manufacturers have "sought to accomplish commercial injury to America by establishing or subsidizing papers in America hostile to American interests" is of a piece with the whole tenor of the article, and serves only to betray the writer's ignorance of English matters. Perhaps our contemporary would tell us from what national fund these "subsidies" are drawn, if that is the contention, and in return we will assure him that the greatest weakness of English manufacturers to-day is that they will not combine—that

all the severe lessons taught by American and Liverpool cotton-rings, by terrible waves of trade depression, and by wicked strikes of artisans, have not sufficed to unite them for mutual protection or advancement, and that in the manufacturing industries of England the watchword is unquestionably each man for himself. How, then, were the "heavy subsidies" paid?—from what pool came the \$600,000 which "were spent in one month in antagonizing Mr. Blaine and his policy in the interest of England"?

In the course of some interesting remarks on "British Colonists in the Struggle for Existence," E. Kay Robinson, in *Longman's Magazine*, says British-born colonists, whether man, beast, bird, or insect, seldom fail in the long run to annihilate such indigenous species as they come in contact with. The fickle character of English weather, more trying to all constitutions than the more severe climates of other lands, has, it is claimed, during ages of evolution eliminated all the weaker elements, and left the relic of fauna and flora exceptionally hardy. The English rat is to be found thriving and multiplying at the expense of native vermin wherever British commerce has found a footing. No sooner is the English flag planted on a foreign shore than a London sparrow perches on the top of it. That ridiculous quadruped the rabbit is the plague of Australia; and the Scotch thistle, most uncompromising of vegetables, has annexed whole prairies on this continent. Little room for wonder, therefore, that the common cabbage butterfly should exterminate his Canadian congeners, especially as—shrewd insect—in packing up his luggage for emigration he doubtless overlooked the precaution of taking out with him a supply of his special "ichneumon" parasite.

MESSRS. FRECHETTE and Tasse are both gentlemen of some literary repute in Canada, and have had the misfortune to fall foul of each other to such effect that the first-named threatens to appeal to the Royal Society of Canada to adjudicate in the matter. Mr. Frechette some time ago dramatized a French novel and called his production "The Exile." It should be observed that Mr. Frechette distinctly avowed the source from which he took his plot. Mr. Tasse, however, through his journal accused his brother editor and *litterateur* of plagiarism. The latter gentleman retaliates by charging Mr. Tasse with literary forgery. *Voilà tout*. The quarrel is both undignified and absurd—almost as absurd as the idea that the Royal Society will fritter its time settling the petty quarrels of the excitable journalists. Moreover, it is whispered that politics are at the bottom of the affair.

OVER the signature "An Onlooker" a correspondent to the *Toronto Mail* the other day charged advocates of co-education with inconsistency. "You would not," says he, addressing Mr. Mowatt, "send your own daughters to be educated with the young men in University College, and in their studies, and you did not. You know that the men who are pushing this scheme on the fathers, mothers, and daughters of Ontario, are beardless youths; young men (some of them), who may have growing boys and girls, but are not at the point in age or training requiring of them a decision of this question in the concrete." There is more than a little truth in all this, and the letter has not been answered. It is an old saying and a trite: an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory.

THE Independence-annexation question may now be considered settled. The Oracle has spoken—said authority on this occasion being the *Boston Home Journal*. This is how our contemporary arranges the matter:—

The woods of Canada are full of Independent papers, and they do not fear to speak right out in public. Fifty papers up there have declared for Independence, and they fearlessly and more or less ably advocate the cause. That is the right kind of Independence to talk, and the talk will be to some purpose, too. It is not in the nature of things that Canada will for many years more be satisfied to be governed by the little island of England. The republic of Canada is only a question of time. One thing is sure: we do not want her; nor would she consent to come into Uncle Sam's family; but she will be most heartily welcomed as a sister republic. Our respected Uncle Sam should not receive another inch of territory outside of his present boundaries; he has all that he can possibly attend to; or that he and Mother Columbia can keep in the bonds of peace and brotherhood.

THE scenes which are reported as having taken place at Versailles in connection with the Convention for revising the French Constitution are most discouraging to the friends of progress. Bad language is said to have been freely used, and was probably premeditated, for cablegram reports say that honourable deputies went to the Convention armed with revolvers. It is impossible to ignore the fact that the gradual deterioration of elective assemblies is coincident with the extension of their constituencies—to avoid seeing that a lowered franchise so often results in the return of representatives who turn parliaments into bear-gardens—to burke the conclusion that the admission of large numbers of imperfectly educated men to the burgess lists in England has made obstruction ram-

phant and a decay of courtesy apparent in her Parliament. Of course the mercurial gentlemen who form the French legislature will fret and fume—and subside again, as is their wont, without doing anything desperate; but each succeeding exhibition lowers them in the eyes of the world and of Alphonse, who is not now consumed with a too great respect for the national pow-wow.

PROF. THOROLD ROGERS has an article in the current *Bradstreet's* on the British House of Lords which at least possesses the merit of being outspoken. He thinks that Americans, as well as Englishmen, bear abuses and scandals which have long since been condemned because they dislike to have their business interrupted by side issues and are patient to an incredible extent. "The Lords," he says, "have, during the whole period of their political activity, which dates from the Restoration of 1660, never done a single good act in their collective capacity. They have resisted all reforms as long as they could, and they have rejected and mutilated all reforms whenever they dared." Lord Salisbury, Mr. Rogers declares, "a hot-headed and violent man," has merely formulated the resentment which the Upper House have long felt at becoming "a mere machine for registering and accepting the bills of the House of Commons." The Lords still possess the farmers' votes, and still have influence in the south of England, which is reactionary, backward, and ignorant. But education is weakening them daily, and their present plight, in direct antagonism to the Commons and to the people, "is absolutely laughable." The contrast between "five hundred recalcitrant gentlemen, the veriest accidents in the world—the stupidest, the most ignorant, the haughtiest, the most self-satisfied, the most scandalous, and the most incompetent people"—reminds Mr. Rogers of Ajax defying the lightning. The existence of the House of Lords is, he thinks, doomed. "It is certain that there are powerful agencies at work which will not leave it till it is extinguished." But, with all due respect to Prof. Rogers, it is not at all certain that any vital or immediate change will be made in the constitution or powers of the Upper House. Even when the absolute necessity of reform is universally acknowledged, the manner in which that change is to be made will require great consideration. So far as the present dead-lock is concerned, the strong probabilities are that, after a more or less prolonged resistance to the Commons, the House of Lords will repeat the policy adopted in other crises, will conclude discretion to be the better part of valour, "back down," in nine days the whole affair will pass out of the popular mind, and the *statu quo* will result.

Now that "our ancient English Peerage" occupies so much public attention, it may not be uninteresting to point out how small is the claim of the average nobleman to consideration on the score of family antiquity, splendid origin, or public service. We are told stories of the bold Barons, who at Runnymede extorted Magna Charta from King John; but where are they now, or their descendants? Not in the House of Lords, for the almanac gives the dates of the creation of each peerage, and only two are found in the 13th century—De Ros, 1264, and Clifford, 1299; two in the 14th—Dacre, 1307; Camoys, 1383; and even of the 15th century only five—Shrewsbury and Talbot, 1442; Stourton, 1448; Norfolk, 1483; Derby, 1485; and Willoughby de Broke, 1492; whilst of the whole 16th century's creation there only remain 10, from Baron Conyers in 1509 to Howard de Walden 1597; and of the 17th century, up to the last creation of the Blessed Martyr, namely, Stafford, 1640, only 13 exist; and of the royal illegitimates and other ennobled personages of 1660 to 1689 only 11 remain until now, with five creations of the revolutionary period, 1690 to 1700. If this be a correct enumeration, it remains that "our old and venerable Peerage" is a myth—only seven peerages being 400 years old, and those of half that age largely of doubtful, if not even shameful origin.

THE birth of a posthumous son to the late Duke of Albany gives to his widow an heir to the Prince's not very large property. The first child, born on February 25th in last year, was a girl. The birth of a son gives us at once a Duke of Albany, and so far, at all events, falsifies the superstition that no Dukedom of Albany will ever descend. This dukedom has already descended, and there is now no reason why the family should not be perpetuated save sickness.

AN epigrammatic description of Lord Salisbury by Professor James E. Thorold Rogers, M.P. for Southwark (a metropolitan borough): "This is a person of excellent private character, whose father used him rather roughly, and who was at one time forced to earn his bread as a newspaper writer. When his brother died he became an elder son, rapidly developed

from an acrid writer of articles into an acrid member of Parliament, and on his father's death and his ostracism into the House of Lords has chafed with a bitterness which is as malignant and ferocious as it dares to be."

THE energetic gentlemen who are given to practising "the noble art" have for long been aware of the peculiar properties of raw beef in reducing ocular swellings. A contemporary is responsible for the assertion that, a lady has discovered a new use for this combined article of poultice and hunger-assuager. For eight years she has slept every night with a piece of raw beef on each cheek for the purpose of making her complexion permanently beautiful. If this be true, butchers need never again despair of dullness in trade, for when this fact becomes generally known the amount of beef sold will be unprecedented. Every lady will in that manner use so much of the raw material. Beef, as a beautifier, promises to become one of our leading institutions.

MR. BLAINE AND HIS ACCUSERS.

WHETHER Cæsar's wife might live above suspicion depended, perhaps, not less upon her lord than upon herself. Accusations are easy to make, but suspicion is not conviction, and we are taught that the accused must be treated as innocent till they are proved guilty. Many men, wanting the benefit of such a rule, have unjustly suffered; and others have profited beyond their desert, where the evidence has fallen short, by the negative verdict of "not proven."

There are suspicions of Mr. Blaine, the Republican candidate for President. He has been in the public service for years, and it is charged that he used office and its influence in the interest of great corporations who could and did reward him. It is said that in this way public life has enriched him. It is an old story, but his candidature has revived it, and it is told with various details which circumstances make plausible to many minds, and which threaten a serious party disruption. But the influence of party is strangely cohesive, and it may be doubted if discipline has lost its power.

The New York *Times* alludes to a prediction it made some months ago, that Tariff Reform would be a prominent issue in this Presidential contest, and says: "So it seemed six months ago; but the uprising of an absolutist party with a candidate for Emperor of the United States could not more surely and completely have changed the aspect of the contest, and have put all other issues than that of his defeat in the background, than has the nomination of a man who throughout his public career has been a notorious trader on his political and official influence. The good name of the Republic is at stake, and no other question can be given prominence over that supreme issue."

Are the charges against Mr. Blaine true or false? We repeat, it does not follow that a man is guilty, especially in party warfare, because he is accused. The evidence, at best, is incomplete. There has been a wide difference of statement between Mr. Blaine and his accusers; and as yet nobody has cleared up the discrepancies. Some time ago, the Young Men's Republican Club of Brooklyn undertook to investigate Mr. Blaine's record. The *Tribune* is reported to have warned the club in advance that the evidence "does not convict, and cannot be made to convict." The committee are said to have reported merely such evidence as they found, unaccompanied by any observations of their own. This led Mr. Blaine's enemies to retort: "The evidence does not acquit, and cannot be made to acquit." Probably both these propositions are true, and the verdict must, therefore, be taken as "not proven."

Sometime in 1876 the United States House of Representatives investigated the affairs of certain railroads enjoying national land grants, and certain letters were then produced which Blaine, while Speaker of the House, had written to a Mr. Fisher, of Boston. The first of these, which *Puck* calls "the letter of acceptance," reads thus:—

AUGUSTA, June 29, 1869.

MY DEAR MR. FISHER,—I thank you for the article from Mr. Lewis. It is good in itself and will do good. He writes like a man of large intelligence and comprehension. Your offer to admit me to a participation in the new railroad enterprise is in every respect as generous as I could expect or desire. I thank you very sincerely for it, and in this connection I wish to make a suggestion of a somewhat selfish character. It is this: You spoke of Mr. Caldwell's offer to dispose of a share of his interest to me. If he really desires to do so I wish he would make the proposition definite, so that I could know just what to depend on. Perhaps if he waits till the full development of the enterprise he may grow reluctant to part with the share, and I do not by this mean any distrust of him. I do not feel that I shall prove a deadhead in the enterprise if I once embark in it. I see various channels in which I know I can be useful. Very hastily, and sincerely your friend,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. FISHER, India street, Boston.

The second, dated three days later, reads as follows:—

AUGUSTA, Me., July 2, 1869.

MY DEAR MR. FISHER,—You ask me if I am satisfied with the offer you made me of a share in your new railroad enterprise? I am more than satisfied with the terms

of the offer; I think it is a most liberal proposition. If I hesitate at all it is from considerations in no way connected with the character of the offer. Your liberal mode of dealing with me in all our business transactions of the past eight years has not passed without my full appreciation. What I wrote you on the 29th was intended to bring Caldwell to a definite proposition. That was all. I go to Boston by the same train that carries this letter, and will call at your office to-morrow at twelve m. If you don't happen to be in, no matter; don't put yourself to any trouble about it. Yours,

Mr. FISHER, jr.

J. G. B.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives is, next to the President, the most powerful man in the United States, and exercises a vast influence over the legislation of the country. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Caldwell were interested in the building of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, which had received from the National Government a valuable land grant, and whose interest might be greatly promoted or damaged by the influence of the Speaker in Congress. It will be seen that Blaine was satisfied with the terms offered by Fisher, whatever they were, but he wished also to impress Caldwell, who might dispose of a share of his interest to him, and he desired both Caldwell and Fisher to understand that he "would not be a deadhead in the enterprise, and that he saw various channels by which he could make himself useful." In the following letters he became more earnest, and entered into fuller details:—

[Personal.]

AUGUSTA, Me., Oct. 4, 1869.

MY DEAR SIR,—I spoke to you a short time ago about a point of interest to your railroad company that occurred at the last session of Congress.

It was on the last night of the session, when the bill renewing the land grant to the State of Arkansas for the Little Rock Road was reached, and Julian, of Indiana, Chairman of the Public Lands Committee, and, by right entitled to the floor, attempted to put on the bill, as an amendment, the Fremont El Paso scheme—a scheme probably well known to Mr. Caldwell. The House was thin, and the lobby in the Fremont interest had the thing all set up, and Julian's amendment was likely to prevail if brought to a vote. Roots and other members from Arkansas, who were doing their best for their own bill (to which there seemed to be no objection), were in despair, for it was well known that the Senate was hostile to the Fremont scheme, and if the Arkansas bill had gone back to the Senate with Julian's amendment, the whole thing would have gone on the table and slept the sleep of death.

In this dilemma Roots came to me to know what on earth he could do under the rules, for he said it was vital to his constituents that the bill should pass. I told him that Julian's amendment was entirely out of order, because not germane; but he had not sufficient confidence in his knowledge of the rules to make the point, but he said Gen. Logan was opposed to the Fremont scheme, and would probably make the point. I sent my page to Gen. Logan with the suggestion, and he at once made the point. I could not do otherwise than sustain it, and so the bill was freed from the mischievous amendment moved by Julian, and at once passed without objection.

At that time I had never seen Mr. Caldwell, but you can tell him that, without knowing it, I did him a great favour. Sincerely yours,

J. G. BLAINE.

W. FISHER, jr., Esq., No. 24 India street, Boston.

On the same day he wrote a second letter to Mr. Fisher, which reads thus:—

AUGUSTA, Oct. 4, 1869.

MY DEAR MR. FISHER,—Find inclosed contracts of parties named in my letter of yesterday. The remaining contracts will be completed as rapidly as possible, as circumstances will permit.

I inclose you part of the *Congressional Globe* of April 9, containing the point to which I referred at some length in my previous letter of to-day. You will find it of interest to read it over and see what a narrow escape your bill made on that last night of the session. Of course it was my plain duty to make the ruling when the point was once raised. If the Arkansas men had not, however, happened to come to me when at their wits' end and in despair, the bill would undoubtedly have been lost, or at least postponed for a year. I thought the point would interest both you and Caldwell, though occurring before either of you engaged in the enterprise.

I beg you to understand that I thoroughly appreciate the courtesy with which you have treated me in this railroad matter, but your conduct toward me in business matters has always been marked by unbounded liberality in past years, and, of course, I have naturally come to expect the same of you now. You urge me to make as much as I fairly can out of the arrangement into which we have entered. It is natural that I should do my utmost to this end. I am bothered by only one thing, and that is the indefinite arrangement with Mr. Caldwell. I am anxious to acquire the interest he has promised me, but I do not get a definite understanding with him as I have with you. I shall be in Boston in a few days, and shall then have an opportunity to talk matters over fully with you. I am disposed to think that whatever I do with Mr. Caldwell must really be done through you. Kind regards to Mrs. Fisher. Sincerely,

W. FISHER, jr.

J. G. BLAINE.

It may have occurred to Caldwell that if a Speaker could do so much for him "knowing it," he might be a still more powerful aid when, being no longer a "dead head," he was fairly enlisted for the company, and had an interest in what he was doing. Mr. James Mulligan, the book-keeper of Fisher, was summoned to testify before the committee, and he took these and other letters with him to Washington. Mulligan, who is described as a man of undoubted veracity, testified that Blaine had come to him begging for the letters, that he drew a touching picture of the ruin they would cause himself and his family if they were published, and that he hinted at a foreign consulship if he was permitted to look at the letters, which he promised to return, but kept them in violation of his promise, and Mulligan has not seen the originals to this day. What did they mean? The Independent Republicans declare that they mean the prostitution of official power to base personal greed of money. There are charges of Mr. Blaine's corrupt relations with other roads, but we will not pursue them. We are not concerned to establish the guilt of Mr. Blaine, and we wish we had the material which would make his innocence plain. The Independents pretend that their assault is not upon Mr. Blaine himself, but rather upon those corrupt elements of the party which extenuates and even justifies his methods. The old Republicans retort that even Washington and Lincoln were traduced and accused, and the answer of Carl Schurz is

worth reading. He says: "What a comparison! It is true Washington was called by his enemies a monarchist and Lincoln a baboon. But we cannot learn that either of them found it necessary to defend himself against the imputation. If the friends of Mr. Blaine want to establish a real parallel between him and them they should carefully examine Washington's and Lincoln's private correspondence. Among Washington's letters they would have to find one somewhat like this:—

HEADQUARTERS OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

To W. Fisher, Esq., Army Contractor:

MY DEAR MR. FISHER,—Your offer to admit me to a participation in your beef contract is very generous. Accept my thanks. But I want more. You spoke of your friend Caldwell, who has the flour contract, as willing to dispose of a share of his interest to me. I wish he would make the proposition definite. Tell him that I feel I shall not prove a deadhead in the enterprise. I see various channels in which I know I can be useful. Sincerely your friend,
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

P.S.—In looking over my order books I find that when Mr. Caldwell delivered the last lot of flour there was some irregularity, which induced the Commissary of the army to refuse acceptance. I promptly cut the red tape by ordering the Commissary to accept the delivery at once, so that I saved Mr. Caldwell much trouble in getting the flour passed and in obtaining his money. Thus, without knowing him, I did him a favour which must have been worth much to him. Let him hurry up his proposition to me.
G. W.

Or in Mr. Lincoln's private correspondence they might look for a letter somewhat like this:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

MY DEAR MR. FISHER,—Your agent, Mr. Blaine, a very smart young man apparently, who got your Spencer rifle accepted by the Ordnance Department, brought me your very generous offer for a share in the contract, for which accept my thanks. I learn, also, of your friend Mr. Caldwell's disposition to let me have a share of his interest in the manufacture of belts and cartridge boxes. Let him make me a definite proposition as quickly as possible. I tell you I am not going to be a deadhead in that enterprise. I feel it. There are lots of channels in which I can make myself useful. By the way, you can tell Mr. Caldwell that I did him a great favour some time ago without knowing him. A large lot of belts and cartridge boxes were detained here because the ordnance officers wanted more time to inspect them. But the troops needed them, and I ordered them to be hurried to the front, and Caldwell got his money. You see? I want him to send me a definite proposition at once. Yours truly,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

It is not always easy to establish the official corruption of a clever man, nor yet for such a man to defend himself against unjust accusations; but safety abides among the people whose high sense of honour will lead them to treat official corruption as a crime. On the other hand, when the people are prepared to follow corrupt leaders they neither desire nor deserve honest government, and they may render it impossible. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

A CANADIAN IN THE UNITED STATES.

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

THE probability, or possibility, of Asiatic cholera finding its way to this country has produced the usual amount of newspaper talk, more or less to the point, and has given wiseacres, as well as the wise, opportunity to air their views on the nature of the disease, the mode of propagation and spreading, while specifics so-called have been given to the public with the greatest confidence in their virtue.

Because, on several occasions, the disease has passed from the polluted soil of Asia to Europe and then to America, it is inferred that the same thing is likely to occur again. But there is good reason to doubt that the history of the past will be repeated. The science of preventive medicine has taken great strides since 1854, when the Asiatic cholera last visited this continent. The subject of cholera has engaged the attention of some of the foremost scientists of the day. Its source, the manner in which it extends from place to place, the circumstances which favour its development, the state and condition of place and person which predispose to attacks of the disease, have all been studied with great care. With the knowledge thus acquired it has become possible to prevent or control to a great extent the ravages of the disease. Of course it is possible for a specific disease, so subtle in its nature, to find an unwatched avenue by which it may travel from the east to the extreme west, but the chances seem to be against such a result.

The public has been greatly interested in the alleged discoveries of Dr. Koch, who is the chief of the German Scientific Commission appointed to investigate the causation and spread of cholera, and who has been visiting Egypt and India. He declares that the bacilli found in the intestines of cholera patients are the cause of the disease, and are not found in any other disease. If this statement proves to be true, it will but prove a theory long held by the medical profession: that cholera is a specific disease which spreads by infection, and anyone found affected must have received into his physical system the germs derived from a pre-existing case, in much the same way as a field of potatoes is the result of seed placed in the ground, which in turn had been the result of seed-planting. But it is not clear that this discovery of Dr. Koch's will add anything to pre-existing knowledge in relation to those sanitary laws by

which the disease can be held in check from spreading. However, the knowledge of specific germs will or ought to assist the physician in successfully treating a cholera patient. Still more, the administration of a germicide to persons exposed to the disease might be expected to prevent the germs from development and the production of the malady. Again, Dr. Koch says, if linen is soiled with the discharges from cholera patients, and kept in a moist condition for twenty-four hours, the bacilli are seen to have multiplied themselves in a most remarkable degree, which shows how the disease may be transmitted by clothing. But the view has long obtained that the disease may be thus spread. It is of more practical importance to learn that the bacilli of cholera are more easily destroyed by heat than any other. He gives three hours of heat as sufficient time to destroy every evidence of life in the germ.

It is interesting to note that the microbe of cholera is rarely met with in the stomach. The condition of that organ is not favourable to it; but in the small intestines it finds a refuge where it can readily multiply. As the microbes grow and develop the function of the canal is altered, and diarrhoea with vomiting results. This leads to thickening and chilling of the blood, followed by the characteristic cramps and dark blue hue of the skin. In some cases, however, the poison is so virulent that prostration and death speedily take place without any diarrhoea. Dr. Koch corroborates the view, which is not new, that the microbes enter the body not by breathing, but by food or drink, in which they have found lodgment, into the stomach, and then pass along to the small intestines.

Cholera microbes, it should be remembered, may multiply and develop without the body as well as within. Probably the germs may lie inactive in a dry state for a long period; even as long as the grains of wheat found with the Egyptian mummy, which readily germinated when placed in the earth. When the disease, however, is prevailing, there are doubtless conditions favourable for the multiplication of the microbes. Some of those conditions are well known. Filth of place and person form the most prolific soil. Impure water is another element to promote the disease. Dirt in connection with animal life, decomposing organic matter, moisture with summer heat, constitute fruitful soil for the microbes. Hence the necessity of removing garbage, of proper drainage, and proper disposal of excrementitious matter. The fact that moisture favours multiplication of the bacilli has led Dr. Koch to condemn the watering of streets. The opinion is ventured that microbe laden air, flying about, lodging on articles of food, and taken into the lungs, will form a more serious evil.

The cholera scare is having this beneficial effect. The requirements of the law in relation to sanitation, and the efforts of the health officers to clean the lanes and premises, to secure adequate drainage, the removal of excreta, use of disinfectants, discarding the use of well-water, and procuring a free supply of pure water, are all very much furthered by a dread of cholera. But the truth is, these insanitary conditions are more likely to favour the increase of typhoid fever and other so-called filth diseases. Speaking of Toronto, the death rate from infectious diseases is considerably higher than it ought to be. There is urgent demand for placing the city in a proper condition with regard to filling up wells, construction of sewers on the streets, and drainage of private premises. The report of the Medical Health Officer on the Sanitary Condition of the City, based on the house to house inspection made last summer by the sanitary police, shows there are 4,396 premises without drainage, and 1,421 with defective drainage, 1,538 foul wells, 1,162 foul cisterns, 3,936 full privies, 1,996 foul privies, 2,444 unclean yards, and 512 places where no water at all was provided. The evils in connection with the privies have been in many cases removed; but many remain. The want of drainage is a crying evil. While the city remains in this condition it is far from being in a sanitary condition, and should the cholera bacilli find its way to Toronto, it would find a fruitful soil for development. But it should be remembered that these insanitary conditions no less favour the existence of filth diseases, as typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other low fevers, and at the same time make contagious diseases and inflammatory affections more virulent and fatal. W. C.

PARTY POLITICS.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH has made it a marked feature of his various observations on Canadian politics to deprecate the system of party warfare, which is characteristic of our political institutions. Not, indeed, more characteristic of ours than those of Great Britain, the United States, and other countries where popular government is in full operation; but, perhaps, carried to greater lengths in the social organizations of the State. This view is often echoed by independent writers, who profess to see in the system of party a solution for all the evils which affect the country and drag down its institutions. It is just as well to look into this matter, and

see if the element of party is really injurious to the State, and whether it would not, after all, involve graver dangers if we undertook to blot out the system of party government and reduce all political discussion to the dead-level of abstract reason. Have those who see so much evil in party warfare seriously considered what would be the immediate or ultimate result if the party colours were torn down, the hostile camps broken up, and the chief Sachems of the respective parties blended in a sweet and beautiful harmony? A very superficial study of human nature—a very hurried glance at the records of human experience in political matters—suffice to show what would be the result. Some of us really believe in party government, and regard the system as in most satisfactory working when the party lines are most clearly and sharply defined, and the party discipline most severely and effectively maintained. It remains to be seen if anything can be said in favour of this view.

Agitation, competition, opposition are the life of the physical and moral world alike. It happens in this country, that the rewards of political life are the highest attainable. What position can be more lofty, either in Great Britain or Canada, than that of Prime Minister? The Premier of England determines who shall be Archbishop of Canterbury, and who Lord Chancellor. He controls the foreign policy of the State, and holds in his grasp half of the desirable honours and emoluments of the kingdom. There is bound to be competition for such a position. Shall it be promiscuous or systematic? Shall it be fought for by irresponsible factions or by well-constituted parties? We have the results of the first clear and well-defined system of party government known in the world in the political condition of England to-day. Are they discouraging? On the contrary, it is the admiration of the world. And, be it remembered, the English Constitution never approached the perfections which are its present glory and boast until recent years, when the party system was introduced, and it has grown more and more a part of the institutions of the country every year. They have now the Caucus, the Convention, and the Club. Never was there so much clearly-defined partyism in Great Britain—never was the Independent vote smaller and weaker than to-day.

If the history of England is studied carefully about the time of William and Ann and the beginning of the Georges, it will be found that this was the period when party government was first recognized. Who doubts that this was the noblest epoch in the history of the country? This was the period when Liberalism of the purest type held sway; when the enlightened thought which struggled against the usurpations of the Jameses and the Charleses became dominant in the affairs of State. Party government in England is both synchronous and synonymous with constitutional government. The recognition of the people was not fully achieved until two opposing hosts were seen dividing the House of Commons, both seeking the favour of the people, and both depending on popular support for existence, power, and all that makes power of value. Will any one say that British institutions are deteriorating? Would any one go back to the Tudors or the Stuarts for models of constitutional government? Certainly not Liberals.

If we examine the history of the several Provinces of Canada, the case appears still stronger. The battle of responsible government was fought out in all the older Provinces of this Dominion forty years ago. It was accomplished by the best means and upon the safest and most desirable principles in the Province of Nova Scotia. The struggle was as keen here as in Upper or Lower Canada, but there was no rebellion, no bloodshed, no disturbance. This is due to the leadership of Joseph Howe, who fought out the question on constitutional grounds, and relied with confidence upon their ultimate success. But the real question at issue was: Shall we have party government? The grievance was that the Lieutenant-Governor insisted upon choosing his advisers, and desired to have men in his council of all shades of opinion. The Liberal leaders insisted that whenever a majority in the Assembly voted adversely to the government it should go: that another should be formed which must have the confidence of the Assembly; and that it was *not* fitting that men of opposite views should sit in council together, but that all should be in harmony. The achievement of this idea in politics meant strict party government, and as the colonial system developed, and responsible government became more fully recognized in all the Provinces, party government followed as a matter of course. Now it is so well-recognized that no one imagines we ever had anything else. Would any one go back to the principles of '37? Certainly not Liberals. It is of admitted importance that the government of the country should fall into able and worthy hands. Mediocrity and trickery are the twin enemies of good government. The utmost care must, therefore, be taken to secure the best possible material for the government of the country. This can best be done by guarding as strictly as possible the avenues to political power. Party is the only practicable means of accom-

plishing this end. In order to attain power a party must have able and competent men at the head of it. The party methods demand that the best men be sought for in all parts of the country, and placed in prominent positions. Break down the party organizations now existing, and a number of factions would be formed, each one bent on power, and each jealous of the other. Statesmen would give way to demagogues, and amid the general scramble government would come to a dead-lock. The superiority of the British system—of two well-defined parties, in which every politician must be or be nobody—is illustrated by a glance at the history of the last French Republic. In the Legislative Assembly of France, instead of two well-arranged parties fighting for the government, we have Legitimists, Bonapartists, Right, Left Centre, Left, and other divisions. The consequence is perpetual turmoil and dead-lock. The average life of a French Ministry is nine months. No sound thinker would venture to compare the French system with the English and Canadian.

It is not easy to understand what real objections can be urged to the system of party government. The safeguard is that both parties are catering for popular favour. Their principles may differ, but it is quite certain that each party will be bound to have principles which will meet the necessities of the country. The principles of one party may be superior to those of the other to-day, while new issues may arise to-morrow which will exactly reverse the condition. But the whole struggle is to outdo the other side in promoting the best interests of the country. This conflict is the life of the State. It is a competition which stamps out corruption and wrong-doing, and develops all the virtues the community is capable of. What would the professed opponents of party substitute in place of this ceaseless rivalry? How could talents be conspicuously displayed if it were not for the fierce battles of party warfare?

It is not contended that party government is free from evils. These are inseparable from all human methods. Perfection in government means absence of government. When evils and imperfections vanish from society, we may dispense with government and revel at our ease in the golden days of the Millenium. But while governments continue to be necessary, we have to approximate to the best available standards. Is there any system of administration yet devised which, in the main, is productive of so few evils and complications as that of government by well-defined, well-organized and well-disciplined party?

J. W. LONGLEY.

COUNTRY ACQUAINTANCES.

AMONG social demands there are perhaps none more fraught with personal inconvenience to the city man than those attentions his country acquaintances expect of him. On a holiday themselves, they come at his busy season, they forget that the business man's time is money, and, full of the importance of the occasion to themselves, do not comprehend it is not equally of interest to him, and that while he is perhaps their only acquaintance in the city, he has numerous ones in different places who expect the same attentions on similar occasions as they do. The city man who was born in the small town or village, though he may have left it in early boyhood to carve a place for himself in a busier world, may lose interest in his native place, but he may be very sure his native place will never lose interest in him. He may have gone away an unfledged boy, hardly conscious of the description of friends he needs, but after a few years spent in the city the country boy has disappeared, and he has formulated tastes and opinions different from those in the unprogressive place where his boyhood was passed. Year by year the ties that bind him to it lessen, making it sometimes irksome in the extreme to respond to the interest taken in him by men of whom he knows nothing since they became men, and remembers only as small boys who attended the same school as he did. He cannot help wondering how on the strength of that acquaintance they can expect him to act the polite and invite them to dinner.

Every female relative, to the most distant cousin he has, expects him to pay them attention on any chance visit they make to his city; to show them the sights, devote an hour or two to walking about, and without fail, irrespective of time or distance, to meet them when their train arrives. They are as familiar as if a great gulf of years and habits of thought did not lie between them or him, their interests and his. Not only is he expected to show any old-time acquaintances of his own civilities, but any friend of his father or mother, uncle or aunt, feels he has, in view of that fact, an indisputable claim on the rising young man, and is sure to be mortally offended if he evinces any disinclination to respond to their friendliness, accusing him of pride, ingratitude, and of giving himself airs.

The cordiality of a country welcome is proverbial, but people are apt to impute to the inhabitant of the busy centres of life a cold worldliness he is by no means always deserving of. While in the country the rare

advent of a visitor is an important and delightful experience, and the occasion deemed worthy of any amount of trouble, forethought, and preparation, it would be impossible for the busy city family, however hospitably inclined, to spend an equal amount of time, and to feel equally important every one of their more frequent visitors. Their rush of acquaintances is so much larger, and every day has so many more demands in a business and social way. The man, wherever he lives, who is worth anything, does not forget those obligations, or fail to extend friendly courtesies, according to his circumstances, to friends from the country or elsewhere; but the people who feel themselves slighted would do well to pause and ask themselves if they had any real claim on the busy man's time, and not exaggerate in their minds an acquaintance of long ago into a friendship wholly imaginary which admitted no such demands.

In point of fact, it might be shown that people in extending attentions to friends from the rural districts frequently put themselves to an amount of inconvenience little understood or appreciated by them. Even between friends, there is often on the part of the visitor to the city a feeling that he has not been treated quite as he should have been; but if the man who complains of his city friend would make an introspective examination he would see that the fault lies in himself and in an over-sensitive self-consciousness which makes him feel at a disadvantage when thrown into the society of city people. Again, while he has kept track of the career of his city acquaintance, he is hurt to find his own doings and successes have hardly been noticed, and that though perhaps the "biggest" man at home, when Jones introduced him at the Club it was quite evident Jones had never mentioned his name before, and considers it a mean omission on Jones' part. Next he unconsciously compares himself with the people he is meeting, completely to the disadvantage of himself in the superficialities of life. He feels he is as much of a gentleman and yet awkward. Thus the man of the world has an easy readiness and polish of manner in which he knows he is deficient; equally up in the news of the day, perhaps better read, he is bewildered by hearing so many educated persons whose facile tongues have the effect of making his own slow, their very slang having a, so to speak, cultivated tone he has missed among his acquaintances at home. If his entertainer is obliged to leave him to attend to business, he has an uneasy feeling that the business was only an excuse to get rid of him, and is more than ever assured of the hollowness of the world, and glad when he gets back to his own place. People are prone to talk of the ingratitude of those who achieved success in the world, without questioning at all closely the claims (where any exist) they have to their remembering them. The fact of merely having known a person at some period of life does not entitle you to his everlasting friendship, nor give one the right to call him ungrateful because, having been school-fellows, you kept up an interest in his success your misfortunes or humbler lot in life have not had for him. This tendency of human nature might explain in a great measure the not infrequent complaints of want of hospitality on the part of the city man, who, as he grows older, grows more weary of paying attentions to people he has no interest in—to dread the excursion train that brings an influx of visitors from the place where he was born. J. M. LOES.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—In a recent number of THE WEEK you conclude a rather bitter article on the House of Lords with the statement "that they have come to the unenviable position of having outlived their usefulness, have become a political excrescence, requiring the statesman's scalpel, and their petulance has given their enemies abundant cause to demand their extinction." There has been a good deal of talk of this kind in the papers from time to time. Some object to the House of Lords as an hereditary house. Now, it is only this to a limited extent, and in so far it represents the land-owning interests of the country at large, not only their own individually. The remainder of the House is made up of picked men, the best of our generals, admirals, and the Bishops—an abler set of men than the Commons, one would imagine, even without Lord Tennyson. Some speak of the House of Lords opposing the will of the people, whereas they are a part of the "people" themselves, understanding by that term, not the working men only, but the nation at large. What the House of Lords does in rejecting a Bill is simply to take the opinion of the country on the matter. The House of Commons are sometimes out of accord with the "will of the people." Besides this, the Lords represent the land-owning interests of their respective countries. Now, the question I would like to ask is: Would not the suppression of the Upper House lead to the members thereof, instead of being as they are at present, capable of only hindering measures, enable them to exercise a far more formidable obstructive power in the Lower House? I presume it is hardly intended that the franchise shall be exercised by ploughmen and tailors, and denied to lords simply because they are lords. If they have, then, the same political rights as the people at large, will not their wealth, not to mention any other influence, enable them to get themselves elected into the Lower House, and also, in a large degree, influence the election of other candidates pledged to

support the Conservative party? Of course this might be avoided by sequestrating the estates of the lords, but the time seems hardly ripe for such a step at present, and with a Lower House largely composed of lords it could not be effected without a revolution. If, therefore, the House of Lords be abolished, it seems to me it will be a long time before another Liberal party will control the destiny of the country. The present proposal to abolish the Upper House reminds me of a certain picture of Hogarth's, where, in the frenzy of a political struggle, one enthusiast has mounted on the sign board of the rival candidate's tavern and is sawing off the end on which he is himself sitting, to the eminent danger of his life. There is great poverty of talent in the House of Commons, it has frequently been remarked, and it may certainly be a good thing for the Lower House to have some of the best men of the lords drafted into it; but, for the object in view, viz., to pass popular measures more easily, the attempt would be a failure as English society is at present constituted. H. B. B.

Toronto.

THE DRESS REFORM MOVEMENT.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—In your last issue you give as a reason why women should not wear garments similar to those now worn by men, that "the feminine proportions" would thereby be disclosed, adding that "the more the female form is hidden the greater the charm." This seems to me an extraordinary position to take, if it is taken seriously. Must women, then, encase their busts in garments as loose and ungainly as those which now encumber their lower limbs? The loose skirt is inartistic enough, even when its unæsthetic character is concealed as much as possible by draperies of various kinds; to extend the unshapeliness any higher up would be a concession to barbarism which I am not willing to make.

We often hear of "unsexing" the female sex, and you speak of this process as the inevitable result if a woman wears a dress approximating to that of a man. I am somewhat curious to know exactly what this term "unsexing" means. I find it applied to the women who in their eager pursuit of higher knowledge choose to brave prejudices, ignore sneers, and attend college lectures which are attended at the same time by men. Is there anything in either attendance at lectures or the wearing of bifurcated garments which is calculated to make a woman less feminine than she is while attending a female academy or wearing heavy skirts at the cost of her bodily health? If there is, you will confer a favour on some of your readers by explaining clearly the rationale of the "unsexing" process.

Why should not Fanny Kemble ride man-fashion in the saddle if she felt so disposed? As a matter of fact the custom is becoming much more common than it used to be, and if lady equestrians were wise it would be more common than it is. The side seat, on horseback, is a serious drawback to a woman, and as the objection to the other mode of poisoning oneself is purely conventional, women have the remedy in their own hands. The same remark is true, *mutatis mutandis*, of the use of bifurcated nether garments for other modes of exercise, as e.g. walking and running. At a pic-nic, the other day, I saw a foot race, in which the competitors were adult ladies. There is nothing inherently ridiculous in the idea of women running a race, but there is in the idea of doing so while their legs are impeded by heavy clinging skirts.

May I be permitted to say a word, also, on the subject of men's unmentionables? Why should bicyclists and Anglican bishops be favoured beyond other men in the matter of breeches? The wheelman's garb is a typically graceful one, and I am glad to see the increasing popularity of the bicycle, because I believe it will yet be the means of banishing loose baggy trousers. Of course one can wear tight pants now, but so long as they come below the knee the penalty is inability to stoop without incurring a risk too fearful to contemplate, not to mention liability to be mistaken for a dude.

A MALE DRESS REFORMER.

Toronto, August 7th, 1884.

DANGERS OF BATHING.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—A most afflicting drowning accident has now come to emphasize the suggestions of mine which you were good enough to comment upon, with some approval, in the columns of your journal. One of the most energetic workers in the English Church in Montreal, a layman in charge of the Côte St. Paul Mission, at the head of his Sunday school excursion, of which he is described as the life and soul, Mr. Geo. M. Rendall, "accompanied a number of the boys of the party for a bathe from one of the small islands in the St. Lawrence at Vaudreuil. The bathers had been enjoying themselves for a short time, when Mr. Rendall, who was on the outside of the lads, suddenly got out of his depth and sank, and on arising called out to his companions to keep away from him." He then sank again . . . "It was three hours before the body was recovered"—three hours of anxious, miserable labour. He thus died in the very spirit of a Christian martyr, thinking of others more than of himself. The remaining particulars may be obtained from the *Star* of Monday. But the points so strongly brought out by this sad occurrence are, chiefly: that it is impossible to select a safe bathing ground for non-swimmers at haphazard, on a popular excursion, as is so constantly attempted and risked on our inland waters; and also, that, practically, no bathing place is safe for such without the guardian and his boat—an arrangement that, if included in every similar excursion, might add about a couple of dollars to the day's expenses. Your

CORRESPONDENT.

Quebec, August 6th, 1884.

THE necrology of the peerage for the current year promises to be lengthy as well as notable. Already 1884 has witnessed the removal of the Dukes of Albany and Buccleuch, of the Marquis of Hertford, and of the Earls of Sandwich, Seaford, Cowley, and Abingdon. Viscount Falkland, too, has joined "the great majority"; and such names as Mostyn, Raglan, Torrington, Farnham, and Petre also figure in the roll. Among the peers named were four octogenarians, and several others were over seventy years of age; so that "the heavy hand of all-destroying Time" in many instances seems to fall reluctantly upon members of the House of Lords.

A PLAINT.

How sad to gaze on thee and find
 In thy stern eyes no answer kind,
 No languorous liftings of those lovely lids,
 That tell me love half wishes, half forbids ;
 To know henceforth we are estranged,
 That much is past and all is changed.
 And though, for your dear sake, I know
 It is but right it should be so,
 How sad to gaze on thee and find
 In thy stern eyes no answer kind—

Alas !

How sad it is—Alas—how sad !

How hard to leave thy hand unclasped,
 The hand which mine so oft hath grasped,
 To watch thy upturned delicate white wrist,
 And watching wearily, leave it unknissed !
 To gaze with longing evermore,
 And yearn to be as once before ;
 O, though for your dear sake I dare
 Not show my grief and my despair,
 How hard to leave thy hand unclasped—

Alas !

How hard it is—Alas—how hard !

SERANUS.

THE BROOK.

[From the German.]

All, brook, sweet brook, with sparkling rill,
 Why ever onward rushing still ?
 I stand and gaze, and fain would know
 Whence thou dost come, where thou dost flow.

"From out the rock's dark womb I speed ;
 I bound along through moor and mead,
 Whilst mirror'd in my bosom clear,
 The sunlit clouds of heaven appear.

"Thus on with childlike glee I go ;
 I know not why, or where I flow,
 My birth was 'neath the mountain's crest,
 'Tis God alone can give me rest."

LEONARD D. ARDILL.

THOMAS GIBSON BOWLES ON NEWSPAPERS.

It must not be forgotten that a newspaper is a commercial venture, and, regarded in this light, our modern newspapers present some strange anomalies. The expense of producing a morning newspaper may be divided into two heads—first, there is the cost of writing the newspaper (in which I include the payments to editor and writers and the cost of telegrams and other matters), added to which, there is the cost of composition or setting-up the writing in type. The charge under this head is a constant sum whether there be one copy printed or a million. Then comes the second head of charges, which vary with the number of the paper printed. It is composed of the cost of the paper itself on which the journal is printed, and the cost of the actual printing or "machining" of the type already set-up. Now it is a fact, that with the utmost economy, the charge under this second head amounts for the penny newspaper of the common size to about as much as the paper itself is sold for to the trade. It follows, therefore, that while the varying charge under the second head is more or less provided for by the sale of the papers, the constant and much larger charge under the first head is not so provided for. How then is it met? Solely and exclusively by the revenue derived from advertisements. The result is this, that a newspaper lives, not upon its circulation, but upon its advertisements. In fact, it buys publicity for its news by selling publicity for its advertisements; it gives away for nothing the news which it professes to sell, on condition of being paid for the advertisements which accompany it. Its real customers are not its readers but its advertisers; the commodity it deals in is not news but attention. It buys the attention of its readers by its news and sells that attention to its advertisers for their money. If now the cost of the paper and the machinery, instead of merely equalling, should, as is sometimes the case, exceed the sum for which the paper is sold, then the best financial position for that newspaper to be in is one in which not a single copy of the newspaper should be sold at all.

Thus, it will be seen that newspapers are in reality somewhat in a false position, they profess to sell news and to give advertisements to boot. What they really do is to sell publicity for advertisements and to give news to boot.

The proper business of a newspaper would appear to be the publication of news; and the proper function of a newspaper editor would therefore appear to be to collect the largest possible amount of news and to print it without reserve and regard to its effects or partiality towards one effect rather than another. There is, however, in modern journalism, a prevailing feature, which, far more than is generally suspected, affects, and to a

large extent defeats, its original and proper purpose. The newspaper originally, as I have already remarked, published news alone; but in the beginning of the present century, the editor, no longer content that his paper should fulfil its purpose of publishing news, began to assume the right of professing opinions. He began not merely to tell his readers what was happening, but also to tell them what he thought and they ought to think of what was happening. It is now over sixty years since this became general in English newspapers, and the result has been that the leader has overshadowed the news in importance, and that the horn of the leader writer has been exalted while that of the news monger has been abased. Newspapers, indeed, are less news papers than opinion papers.

The profession of opinions not only causes the editor to neglect the collection of news, but it prevents the honest and unreserved publication of such news as is collected. Opinions being regarded as of more importance than intelligence, the editor will occasionally suppress altogether intelligence which makes against the opinions of his newspaper, or publishing such intelligence, will so present it and with such a gloss as to diminish as much as possible its influential force. Every writer in a daily journal is understood and expected to view all acts and events from the special position occupied by that journal. And it is not too much to say that the whole staff of a newspaper is engaged in presenting things, not as they are, but as it is held by the editor on behalf of a certain class that they should be.

As with news so it is with opinions for the purpose of a daily newspaper. The opinion expressed need not be true: it is enough if it be new and plausible. Nay, for it to be true is a fatal defeat, for in that case it can only be asserted once as a new thing and must henceforth be merely repeated as an old and stale thing, whereas if it be false any number of new changes may be rung upon it. Truth is one, but falsehood is many. When an editor declares that two and two makes four there is an end of his leaders on that subject, but if he points out that many thoughtful persons have held that under certain circumstances they make seventeen, and that in certain places the sound good-sense of the majority has accepted them as making fifty-two, then an interminable vista of leaders is opened up, on practical as opposed to theoretical arithmetic, on circumstances, places, conditions, fitnesses, experiences and what not.

The model newspaper, in my humble opinion, should be—the newspaper of the future, in my expectation will be—one that concerns itself solely with news, and the whole brain power of which is directed to the discovery and collection of news, while it will be left to others in other journals to express separately the opinions which may be formed upon the events chronicled by the newspaper proper.

In every other department of human activity due, and occasionally undue, recognition has been given to those who by their talents have raised themselves above their fellows; but the Press has never yet been officially recognized. Beer and banking, riches, romance, and poverty, have been ennobled; baronetcies have been showered upon lord mayors, sheriffs, and doctors, and music-masters have been knighted, but never yet has the fountain of honour flowed even for the ablest, most enterprising, and most successful of those who have organized with so much success the daily brains of the nation. There are men among them who can challenge comparison, either for personal qualities and attainments, or for personal position in the country, with any brewer or banker ever raised to the House of Lords; but they only represent brains, and brains, though unofficially courted, secretly coaxed, and sometimes abjectly entreated in private, are not yet officially recognized in public as an existing force in the daily life of Great Britain. It may be that the time will come when this also will be changed. If so, it will be well. Meantime, the newspaper press has no great cause to be ashamed of the part it has played in the past, while it has the greatest cause to look forward with confidence, yet with a deeper sense of responsibility, to the part it may, if it will, play in the future.—Condensed from *Fortnightly Review*.

THE BUSINESS OF PLEASURE.

CONCEDING at the outset that there is much that is wholly healthy and admirable in our national sports, we yet believe the present to be a not inappropriate occasion for making a protest against the exaggerated social importance attached to proficiency in them. The full extent of our heresy becomes apparent when we further announce our intention of singling out lawn-tennis for especial consideration. Let us, however, frankly admit the fascination of the game, and grant that, were any ulterior end to be attained, we can perfectly understand how easy it might be to make it the chief business of a lifetime. It takes less room, fewer players, and less time than cricket, and, within the compass of an hour or two, gives don, journalist, or barrister a sufficiency of the healthful excitement, distraction, and fresh air so valuable to them. But it is the overdoing of it that we object to as at once ridiculous and dangerous.

It is when one considers the extent of the sacrifices requisite to attain this severity of "service" and "return," that the seriousness of the question arises. The specialism of the age is carried into the sphere of games. As a contemporary remarks, "the time has passed when a country curate or a competition-wallah home on leave could aspire to championship honours." Not only must the aspirant have the requisite leisure, but he must refrain from indulging in a diversity of pastimes, and concentrate his energies upon the one game, and that alone. Cricketers, to keep their hand in in the winter, find themselves under the necessity of undertaking tours to the Antipodes. The lucky lawn-tennis player need not, however, travel so far afield. True, he must sacrifice his hunting, but the sacrifice is slight

when we consider that no further off than the Riviera does he find ample scope for indulging his favourite taste; and the dwellers at Pau and Cannes are now initiated into the mysteries of the "smash," "foot-faulting," and the like. We already have tournaments all over the three kingdoms, championships meetings for ladies as well as gentlemen, inter-university and inter-national matches; and we confidently look forward to the day when a team of Australian lawn-tennis players will visit our shores with the regularity and success that attend on the redoubtable band of cricketers whose names have already become household words amongst us. A decent respect, a becoming silence, and motionlessness of attitude, are indispensable on the part of the spectators on any great occasion. An anecdote in point is related of a noted performer, who is very particular on this score. During a grand match, after he had been just adjuring one of the small boys in attendance to stand still, and had got into position, an audacious butterfly, totally devoid of any proper feeling, boldly fluttered on to the court, and caused the famous *virtuoso* a further delay of several seconds, until it thought fit to depart, to the great amusement of a certain section of the spectators who were hardly alive to the solemnity of the occasion. It would be easy to multiply instances of the seriousness, the Teutonic thoroughness, which characterize the pursuit of this game. Of late, the correspondence columns of the *Field* have been devoted to a discussion as to the difference between "absolutely unreturnable" and "impossible of return," conducted in a truly Aristotelian spirit. Perhaps, the *reductio ad absurdum* of the whole thing may be best exemplified by the following story:—We have been assured, on credible authority, that the run upon the crack lawn-tennis racket-maker is so great that gentlemen who have found their own powers of persuasion and offers of enhanced prices unavailing, have been reduced, and with success, to the employment of the feminine wiles of their sisters to coax the coveted implements out of the artists. We should greatly like to hear what an intelligent foreigner would have to say who had witnessed the recent tournament at Wimbledon. His comments would, at any rate, prove entertaining, even though he saw no more "wit" in the game than the Frenchman did in cricket, or felt as mystified as the Turk at Constantinople who, seeing some young Englishmen playing football, cried out, "Will no one stop this fight?"

There is, however, we think, a real danger in this earnestness with which we Englishmen take our pleasure, when it reaches such lengths as we have endeavoured to show that it has reached in the case of lawn-tennis. In a thoughtful paper on "Athleticism," contributed by Mr. Edward Lyttelton to the *Nineteenth Century* some while ago, the writer, himself a mighty cricketer, spoke of the great fascination exerted by proficiency in any branch of athletics. Once at the top of the tree, the temptation to endeavour to stop there is very great. The risks of so doing may not be apparent at the time, but they are none the less real. For we conceive that a serious danger must be allowed to attach to this practice of allowing the pursuit of excellence in a game to eat up one's energies at that critical time when the choice of a profession has to be made. It is a generally admitted fact that good brain-work cannot be done in combination with an excess of physical exercise. Moreover, for the ambitious lawn-tennis player, this exercise must be confined to the one pastime. This singleness of pursuit has, as its inevitable consequence, a wonderfully restrictive influence on the conversational powers.

Even though the victims of the modern craze be few, still we think that an appeal to that section of society which encourages them in their ways, is neither out of place nor useless. The surplus activity displayed by the devotees of the lawn-tennis world might surely be devoted to something better than gadding about the country from tournament to tournament. When the day arrives, as arrive it must, when the running-shoes must be doffed for good and all, or when the "form" of the amateur cricketer no longer warrants his selection, for five days out of every seven throughout the summer, to represent his county, what a barren vista must needs open out for those who have neglected to cultivate other and more enduring tastes while it was still possible to acquire them? We speak particularly of men for whom the necessity of earning a livelihood has unluckily been dispensed with through the possession of independent means. Doctor Johnson, in perhaps an access of dyspepsia, once declared the reason for all the dancing, theatre-going, and pleasure-seeking of so large a portion of the community, to be that they were afraid to sit at home and think. Introspection is seldom an agreeable task, but it is doubly unpleasant when no record of solid achievement presents itself as the pages of the past unfold themselves.—*Spectator*.

THE SCRAP BOOK.

A CURIOSITY IN JOURNALISM.

In the case of such a curiosity in official journalism as the *Police Gazette*, formerly known as the *Hue and Cry*, the public will be interested to learn a little more than the newspapers have briefly announced about the changes made in it by the Government authorities. The paper itself, which was commenced shortly after the formation of the metropolitan police in 1828, is not allowed to circulate beyond constabulary circles, but its efficiency of management unquestionably concerns the general community. Previous to the year 1828, the metropolis, like other centres of population, was under the care of the old parochial watch, who, as corrupt as they were feeble, became an absolute street nuisance. Far from being a terror to evil-doers, their notorious negligence and inefficiency enabled the midnight burglar or daring footpad to pursue his criminal avocation with comparative impunity. Peel's Act introduced a greatly improved regime, and the new police, nicknamed after their originator,

were for a long time popularly known as Peelers. The newly established force required new methods of working, and one of these was the starting of an official newspaper which, though it is perhaps the only one the public never see, has nevertheless often done them good service, and is now to be made of still more value.

It is probably known to few that there exists in connection with the detective departments at Scotland Yard a regular printing establishment from which sheets are issued four times a day containing information as to the persons wanted, current offences, property stolen, lost or found. A daily list of property stolen is also printed and distributed to all licensed pawnbrokers.

Particulars received from county constabulary forces are inserted in these publications, which are carefully read at parades and studied by the detectives. This, however, only applies to the metropolis, and a strong desire has long prevailed at head quarters to make that larger medium of publicity, the *Police Gazette*, more useful as a means of intercommunication between the whole of the two hundred and ninety police forces of the kingdom. Until the beginning of the present year, that wretched print had shown scarcely any progress or improvement since it was commenced. Its direction has hitherto been nominally in the hands of the chief clerk at Bow Street police court. The editorship has now been committed to Mr. Howard Vincent, director of criminal investigations, who will be assisted by Chief-inspector Cutbush, of the executive department of Scotland Yard. In addition to being much better printed, the new *Gazette* already shows decided improvement both in the selection and arrangement of its contents. Illustrations have also been introduced as a new feature. These take the form of woodcuts from photographs of persons wanted, on various charges, or of valuable articles stolen.

The first number of the *Gazette* contains the likeness of several criminals of whom the authorities are in pursuit. In one instance, so as to aid identification, the subject is shown not only with beard and moustache, but also as he would appear when clean shaved. Some of these faces, it is true, seem decent and common-place enough, such as one seen almost every hour of the day in the public streets; but others, an index of all villainy, are unmistakably those of dangerous characters whom none of us would like to meet alone in a quiet road on a dark night. But it is in the police album that we can best study the variety of expressions by which the human countenance can betray every shade of criminal depravity. The War Office and Admiralty have always had the privilege of inserting in the pages of the *Gazette* a list and description of deserters from the army and navy. In future Tuesday's issue will be entirely devoted to these matters, and when it is known that last year the total number of deserters was only one short of six thousand, it may be inferred that the weekly list does not leave much space in a small four-page paper. As far as increased circulation is concerned, arrangements have been made to send supplies of the *Gazette*, not only to every police force in the United Kingdom, but also, through the Government offices, to the guardians of the peace in the British Colonies and India. From the public generally the *Gazette* is withheld.—*Chambers' Journal*.

MR. SANDFORD FLEMING'S VIEW OF PARTY IN CANADA.

THE difficulty with our present system lies in the fact that the interest of party must be consulted whatever the cost; whatever the sacrifice, party takes precedence of every other consideration, party seems to cloud the judgments of men who, in many instances, are irreproachable in private life. Public men seem to act on the principle that there is one creed and language for the hustings, the press and Parliament, and another for social intercourse.

In Canada we enjoy a liberal constitution, and it may be affirmed that it is the only principle of authority which, as a people, we would tolerate. It cannot, however, be said that in its present form our system of government is an unmixed blessing.

We may ask if representative government is ever to be inseparable from the defects which form the most striking feature in its application and administration, especially on this continent? Must a country constitutionally governed be inevitably ranged into two hostile camps? one side denouncing their opponents and defaming the leading public men of the other, not hesitating even to decry and misrepresent the very resources of the community and to throw obstacles in the way of its advancement. Never was partyism more abject or remorseless. Its exigencies are unblushingly proclaimed to admit the most unscrupulous tactics and the most reprehensible proceedings. Is there no escape from influences so degrading to public life and so hurtful to national honour?

It is evident that the evils which we endure are, day by day, extending a despotism totally at variance with the theory and principles of good government. Possibly Canada may be passing through a phase in the earlier stage of her political freedom. Can we cheer ourselves by the hope that institutions inherently good will clear themselves from the slough into which they unfortunately may be immersed; may not the evils of partyism at last become so intensified that their climax will produce a remedy. As by natural laws a liquid in the process of fermentation purifies itself by throwing off the scum and casting the dregs to the bottom, so may we be encouraged to believe that we are approaching the turning period in the political system we have fallen into, and that year by year Parliament will become less and less a convention of contending party men and be elevated to its true position in the machinery of representative government. Public life will then become more ennobling; it will indeed be an object of ambition for men of honour and character to fill places in the councils of

the nation, when rectitude of purpose and patriotism and truth will be demanded in all and by all who aspire to positions of national trust and dignity.—*Old and New Westminster*, p. 402.

SERVANTS' OUTINGS.

PROMINENT among the many troubles of the housewife is the much vexed and constantly recurring question of "servants' outings." In large households there is but little difficulty in allowing all to get a little air and leisure in turn; but in small establishments, of one or two maidservants, "evenings out" are often a source of trouble and discomfort to the mistress, and a cause of dispute between the maids and herself.

In many parts of the country there is a demand also for an evening during the week, and in some places servants will not enter a situation unless this is permitted. When an establishment consists only of a cook, who acts as general servant and a nurse, this is a serious drawback. It is inconvenient with a cook and housemaid; and, with only one maid of all work, it is almost slavery. On nurse's evening-out the mistress must put the children to bed, and therefore absent herself from the dinner or tea table. On cook's evening out, nurse is supposed to dish up dinner and wait at table, but she can rarely manage to do this and attend to her nursery duties as well. In houses where a cook and housemaid are kept, each must undertake the other's work on their respective evenings, and this gives rise to frequent confusion and mistakes, besides misunderstandings between the two. In modest establishments of one servant only, the mistress must do everything herself on the "evening out," and most irksome it is.

The problem is, How are they to be dispensed with? It seems hard that a servant who does her work well in the house, and, perhaps, has not a moment of leisure all day, should not have the variety of a little fresh air and exercise, and be able to visit her friends and do her own shopping one evening in the week. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and we can hardly blame maidservants for demanding one evening to themselves; but it is due to the mistresses that this "outing" should be kept within certain limits. Also, when the evening out is agreed upon during the week, an outing every alternate Sunday is all that a servant in a small establishment could reasonably demand. With regard to the chief holidays of the year, Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Bank Holidays, whenever possible it is only reasonable to allow servants "outings" at these seasons. The little inconvenience that is caused in a small establishment by a servant being absent for the best part of the day ought also to make her (if she is in any way a good servant) all the more willing and obliging afterwards, and anxious to please her mistress. When this is not the case, and holidays and outings are taken as a right, and made an excuse for subsequent carelessness and inattention, a mistress can scarcely be blamed for turning hard-hearted and refusing to grant such privileges in future.

On the whole, however, I do not think a mistress who is firm on all essential points will regret giving a little indulgence of this kind to her maids, as holidays come round. We all complain of servants, we all suffer more or less from their "ways," we all wish we could be provided with some domestic machinery that could replace them entirely; but until that happy time arrives we must be content with things as they are, remembering that servants, like ourselves, have minds and bodies, which need occasional rest and recreation.—*"Crusader," in the Queen.*

DECLINE OF THE PURITAN STOCK.

DR. JOHN ELLIS has published a pamphlet entitled "Deterioration of the Puritan Stock, and its Causes," which contains matter for reflection. He gives official statistics for Massachusetts, covering the six years from 1876 to 1881 inclusive, which on their face appear to indicate that during that period the deaths exceeded the births among native Americans in that State by 29,796; whereas the births exceeded the deaths among the foreign-born population by 87,824. As there is some confusion in the classing, however, Dr. Ellis thinks it unsafe to infer from the statistics more than that "the foreign-born inhabitants of Massachusetts, numbering not less than one-fourth the population of the State, give birth to more than one-half of the children born in the State." This conclusion, if trustworthy, is sufficiently serious, and it remains to ascertain the cause of such a marked decline in the vitality of a once specially hardy and vigorous race. Dr. Ellis believes that tight dressing, luxury, indisposition to assume family cares, and impatience of the domestic life, among the women, and intemperance among men, are the principal causes of the apparent deterioration in the Puritan stock.

As the foreign-born population drink more whiskey and beer than the native-born, intemperance can hardly be accepted as the explanation. As tight dressing has never been confined to Massachusetts, in the first place, and, in the second place, is nowhere at present practised to anything like the extent that it was a quarter of a century ago, neither can that evil be regarded as solving the problem. The chief difficulty consists in the obvious fact that the people of Massachusetts, generally speaking, live very much as the people of most of the other States live. They are certainly not more given to bad habits than their neighbours. They are certainly not behind the rest of the country in civilization, in sobriety, in ordered habits, in intelligence. Where is it that the causes of the decline referred to are to be sought, then?

Climatic conditions will not afford the answer. But the training of the young and the increasing ambition of girls may perhaps breed an indifference to, or dislike of, marriage, and thus encourage that dread of large families, which, whether in Massachusetts or in France, is always reflected

in the vital statistics. The growth of such sentiments among women of any community must, sooner or later, affect its increase. The tendency to cultivate the intellect exclusively also has mischievous results, and it would appear that Nature has in this way made it impossible to err far or long in that direction, since the consequence of such a policy is the rapid disappearance of the stock upon which such experiments are made. Reviewing all the facts and suggestions, it seems necessary to conclude that the main cause of the decline in the Puritan stock is really a change in the views of life held by women, and it can only be presumed that the new views are more influential in that State than elsewhere in the Union. This alone can account for the fact that a similar decline is not observable in the other States.—*New York Tribune.*

JEWS.

If any man objects: "But we are speaking of *Jews*, not of Greeks and Romans; and surely the Jews of that time were credulous and prone to see miracles where no miracles were?" we need not insist, in reply, on a fact for which there is nevertheless much evidence, viz., that even the Jews were deeply infected in the time of Christ, and for two or three centuries before that time, with the sceptical philosophy of Greece and Rome. There is an answer to it so conclusive that, though it has often been adduced, it has never been met, nor am I aware of any attempt even to refute it; for at this very age there lived a man who answered more closely to the popular, and even to the Jewish, idea of a hero than Christ Jesus; a man, moreover, who made a far deeper impression on the imagination and memory of his fellows; and yet no miracle was ever attributed to him, whether in the Bible or out of it. John the Baptist was a Jew. The Jewish people recognized in him a prophet, and more than a prophet. They would gladly have accepted him as the Christ. So profound was the impression he made that "all Jerusalem and all Judea went out after him"; so profound that Josephus, who dismisses Jesus with a single dubious sentence, has much to say of the character and mission of the stern, unbending seer and moralist, who struck his contemporaries rather as an embodied and inspired voice than as a man of like passions with themselves. And yet no legend has gathered round this strange impressive figure, no halo gleams on his brow. Neither his own disciples nor the Jewish people, nor Josephus or any other writer of his time, credits him with the supernatural power so freely ascribed to Jesus, and even to the meanest of his followers. So marked was the contrast between John and Jesus, that even the outlandish folk of Perea were struck with it, and exclaimed, "John did no miracle, but all that John said of this man is true." It is, therefore, to beg the whole question, it is to evade rather than meet the point in dispute, when certain critics ascribe the miracles of Jesus to the credulous and myth-making tendencies of the age in which He appeared, although the most prominent and popular Jewish prophet of that age stands before us untouched by any ray of miraculous glory. Till this fact has been explained, this problem solved, we are hardly called upon to adduce any other argument against those who would reduce the wonders attributed to Christ to the level of worn-out and incredible myths.—*The Spectator.*

AMERICAN HINTS ABOUT PIC-NICS.

THE most important part of a pic-nic, says Susan Anna Brown, in *St. Nicholas*, is not the weather or the place or the dinner. You may choose the most beautiful spot in the world, and spread the most delicious lunch ever prepared, and yet have the whole thing a complete failure, simply because the company was not well selected. Out of doors, where people are free from formality, unless they are congenial friends, and what Mrs. Whitney calls "real folks," they will be likely to feel ill at ease, and miss the support given by company, clothes, and manners. Small pic-nics, for this reason among others, are usually much pleasanter than large pic-nics. In making up the party, be sure to leave behind the girl who is certain to be too warm or too cold, or to think some other place better than the one where she is, and who has a "horrid time" if she has to submit to any personal inconvenience for the sake of others: and with her the boy who loves to tease, and who is quite sure that his way is the only good way. Put into their places some others, young or old, who love simple pleasures, and are ready to help others to enjoy them. Next in importance to the company is the place. It must not be at a great distance, or you will all be tired, not to say cross, when you arrive there. It must be reasonably shady, and not too far from a supply of good drinking water. If the company are to walk, you must be especially careful not to be over-burdened with baskets and wraps, for the bundles which seemed so light when you started are sure to weigh down much more heavily before you reach your destination. Be careful to have the work fairly distributed. Never start until you are sure that you know just where you are going, and the best way of getting there. Wandering about to choose a place, and thinking constantly to find one more desirable is very fatiguing. That matter should be settled beforehand by two or three of the party, and the others should go straight to the spot, and make the best of it. If any do not like it, they can choose a different place when their turn comes to make the selection.

SEVEN years ago the Congo was practically an unknown river, but to-day its great possibilities as a navigable stream, and the density and intelligence of the population living along its banks are thoroughly known. This continent must bid hard for the emigration of Europe in the next few years, for in a decade's time the tide of emigration will flow to portions of Africa.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

IN Ontario the same thing has obtained. Farmers have gone too much into wheat, instead of diversified farming, so that they would always have something to sell, or that when one crop failed, the loss would be made up by good prices and an increased yield in some other production.—*London Free Press*.

MAJOR-GEN. MIDDLETON will do. He may be just as great a disciplinarian, and just as particular in his requirements as Gen. Luard, but he knows how to carry himself, and he has the disposition to suggest instead of damn. He, of course, knows something about Canada and its militia, and that makes a difference.—*Kingston Whig*.

NOT a single material advantage can be pointed out by any one as likely to accrue to the colonies from an union in which such heavy sacrifices would be demanded from them; and we are mercenary enough to think this a fatal objection. Colonists are a "greasy" lot, by no means above pecuniary considerations, and in the regular habit of demanding a *quid pro quo*. They are not likely to depart from their custom in this instance. Therefore if the members of this new Imperial Federation Society are not above taking into consideration the inclination of "mere colonists," they may as well disband their organization at once, devoting any funds that may have gone into their treasury to the purchase of a leather medal for Lord Lorne, in commemoration of his valuable services as an apostle of the unattainable and the undesirable.—*Manitoba Free Press*.

WE suppose that after a short time the Liberals will again come into power. They will find a Senate in existence of Tories all compact, and unless history refuses to repeat itself, this Senate will feel it a matter of duty to thwart Liberal measures. The people may be incensed. They will have to submit. Ministers may rage, but they will be unable by additions to the Upper House to get a working majority in it. The greatest public embarrassment must ensue. Is it not then better to agitate the Senate question now, than reserve it for consideration until such time as popular passions may be excited? Even the Conservative should feel that it is. The people may now be contented with an elective Senate. If they do not get it they will probably keep "none." Roused too far they will treat the Constitutional Act with slight respect.—*Halifax Chronicle*

SOME of the arguments of Mr. George are exceedingly weak and fallacious. He actually assumes that, because we could not tell the difference between a pauper's baby and a landowner's baby, nor between the bodies of a duke and a peasant on the dissecting-table, this proves that the one has as much right to the land as the other! Suppose Mr. George had a horse stolen from him; and that on laying his body and that of the thief on a dissecting-table no difference of structure was visible, would this prove that the one had as good a right to the horse as the other? He also argues, that because all men, in physical structure, are made capable of working or using land, this prove it was the intention of the Creator that all should have land! He might as well argue that, because all men are capable of using a tailor's needle and thimble, it therefore follows all men were intended to be tailors, and are wronged by being kept from that trade.—*Christian Guardian*.

SOME Democratic newspapers have proclaimed a warfare of retaliation if Mr. Blaine's friends do not "call off their dogs." They declare with much distinctness that, if party capital is to be made out of alleged youthful indiscretions of Governor Cleveland, there are certain incidents in the private life of Mr. Blaine which, to put it mildly, will not serve as high examples of domestic virtues. It is to be hoped that this campaign of slander will come to a speedy end; but the slingers of mud ought to know that this sort of warfare cannot be carried on wholly on one side. A campaign of this kind cannot be regarded by all thinking citizens as less than a public calamity. It betrays either a dearth of political issues or an eagerness in the party organs to evade their discussion. If the issue is to be made upon the personality of the candidates, there is in the public career of Governor Cleveland, as well as in that of Mr. Blaine, ample scope for political discussion without descending to defamation of private character. While this kind of scandal is eagerly caught up by a portion of the public, long experience has shown that it never exercises any serious influence on the result of a political campaign.—*Philadelphia Record*.

UNDER all the circumstances, we fear that the year 1884 cannot be a prosperous one for the farmers of this country. The extremely low price of wheat, the rather poor prospects for other generally grown crops, and the probability of a deficiency of winter-keep for their live stock, together place them in a position in which it will be hard for them to make both ends meet. It is just possible that the cereals may yield so abundantly in proportion to straw that its produce will be, altogether, but little below average. That, however, would not entirely make up for the other disadvantages of the season. As a rule, when the cereals are light, there is a good crop of hay, and very often of roots also; but it is not so this year, and pastoral as well as arable farmers are hard hit. What makes the position all the more distressing is the fact that this is peculiarly a season in which the most needy farmers will suffer most severely. It often happens, when there is a great crop of straw, that the best farmers suffer most seriously from the lodging of their corn, while poor farmers have fair standing crops; but this year, those fortunate enough to occupy farms either naturally fertile, or made so by liberal expenditure, will reap a rich harvest, while their less skilful or less favourably situated neighbours will go short.—*London Spectator*.

THE great demonstration of Monday in London happily leaves us nothing to excuse or apologize for. There is no need to plead Lord Salisbury's provocations and irritations as an explanation or palliation for violent acts done, or intemperate words used. The mighty procession which gathered from all parts of the metropolis and of the country included thousands of those whom Lord Salisbury and the Peers have cruelly injured. Crowds

of suburban artisans, wrongfully kept from their privileges as citizens, and of agricultural labourers, who had been maligned and insulted by Tory legislators, passed peacefully within arm's-length of their revilers, without so much as a gesture of insult or a word of reproach. Even the casual hangers-on of the crowd never went beyond the utterance of a few words of harmless chaff directed against the authors of so much confusion. The irritated offenders, now made aware of the extent of the storm which they have raised, could only find fault with the numbers, but not with the conduct, of the men who have come together in response to their own challenge. For these agitators had gone almost to the doors of Parliament, and had passed the headquarters of London Toryism, without causing any more inconvenience to their persecutors than the casual blocking of the streets.—*Manchester Weekly Times*.

THE PERIODICALS.

PARTLY through an accidental delay, and partly because it is published at the end instead of the beginning of each month, the July number of the *Continent* is noticed somewhat late. It is a pity to see that so excellent a magazine should need to be pushed by means of a thousand dollar competition; but with so many first-class magazines in the field perhaps this is not a matter for surprise. The editor announces a new story, by a nameless author, obtained in quite a romantic manner, to commence in the next number. He also publishes an extraordinary and amusing letter from a sore-head contributor whose poem had been refused. Principal amongst the contents of this number are, "A Legend of Polecat Hollow," "Tenants of an Old Farm," continued, "Too True for Fiction," another serial, "Going Abroad," "An Nucouth Legend," "Volcano Land," "The Choice of Words," "How We made Over the Library," "What shall we do with Her?" "A Nation's Vitality," "Her Family Tree," "Migma," consisting of editorial comments, not the least interesting feature, poems, reviews, etc.

THE August number of *Choice Literature*, Mr. Alden's excellently-selected and well-gotten-up eclectic magazine, contains papers by Principal Dawson, Grant Allen, Henry George, Herbert Spencer, Fanny Kemble, P. V. Ramaswami Raju, Charles Stubbs, M.A., Dr. Andrew Wilson, Walter S. Lichel, J. N. Dalton, Balfour Stewart, and others.

THE *Andover Review* more than fulfils its high promise. Liberal and progressive in its tone, religious questions of vital interest are discussed in a thoughtful spirit by some of the ablest writers of the time. The August number is fully up to any of its predecessors. Among its chief attractions may be mentioned, "The Religious Problem of the Country Town," "Free Fiction for the People," "Italian Politics and the Papacy," and "A Nineteenth Century Crusade." The last-named by a Canadian writer.

PART VII. of the "Life of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen (Toronto: Geo. Virtue) opens with a description of Buckingham Palace. Chapter xvi. treats of the death of the duel in England, of the Queen's visit to Chateau D'Eu, and the next division describes her trip to Ostend to her uncle, King Leopold. Other visits made about the same time are also referred to. "Allies from Afar," "The Birth of Prince Alfred," etc., are touched upon in succeeding chapters, and the part is prefaced by a most interesting engraving of Hyde Park in 1851.

BOOK NOTICES.

HAND-BOOK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA. By S. E. Dawson. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

The appearance of this well-written hand-book is most opportune. Indeed, Mr. Dawson has prepared it specially with a view to its usefulness for the meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science. In the preface its object is thus avowed: "for the purpose of giving to the members attending the meeting at Montreal an outline of the main facts of interest concerning Canada generally, and, especially, concerning the place of meeting and its immediate surroundings." The latter clause of the foregoing extract gives a key to the prominent weakness of the book. It is too parochial. Everything is sacrificed to Montreal, Quebec, and their surroundings—Toronto and Ottawa, for instance, dividing only some dozen pages between them, while 140 out of the whole 330 pp. are given to the cities of Montreal and Quebec. Apart from this the guide is well done; the information contained in it is fairly accurate and up to date, and the whole is presented in attractive form, and is accompanied by four excellent maps, two of them reduced from government surveys.

THE WORK AND WORKERS OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION. By Cornelius Nicholson, F.G.S., F.S.A. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

This little sketch is a historical review of past proceedings and achievements of the Association from 1831 to 1884, "designed chiefly for the information of the affiliated associates in British America," by a gentleman who has been a member for half a century.

POINTS OF INTEREST NOTED IN A TOUR OF CANADA. Toronto: A. H. Dixon and Co.

A charmingly got-up illustrated guide to some of the principal points of interest touched by the Grand Trunk Railway, and presented by that corporation "with compliments" to the travelling public.

THE HISTORY OF FRANCE. By M. Guizot. Translated by Robert Black. Vols. V., VI., VII., and VIII. New York: John B. Alden.

These four volumes complete the work. It will be remembered that the death of M. Guizot took place whilst he was dictating the last pages of Vol. IV. of his history to his daughter, Madame de Witt. The work to which he had consecrated the last years of his life was thus left incomplete. M. Guizot had planned his fifth and last volume. The outlines of the chapters had already been traced. It is upon the plan thus laid down that Madame de Witt edited the fifth volume. The remaining volumes were compiled by Guizot's daughter from material supplied during the historian's lifetime by conversational and written instructions to his children and grandchildren. Appended to Vol. VIII. is a copious index, this putting the finishing touch to a work which ought to be upon every book-shelf, now published at a price which places it within the reach of mechanic and artisan, as well as the man of culture.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE September *Contemporary Review* will contain a paper on the British House of Lords by Prof. Goldwin Smith.

A STATEMENT is going the rounds that General Grant is to receive from the *Century Company* \$10,000 for twenty articles on his battles.

J. R. OSGOOD & Co. announce Julian Hawthorne's long-promised biography, "Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Wife"; Edmund Quincy's "Stories and Sketches," edited by Edmund Quincy, jr.; "Tales of Three Cities," by Henry James; Cable's "Doctor Sevier"; and Fawcett's "The Adventures of a Widow."

JAMES PAYN, in his "Literary Recollections," now in course of publication in *The Independent*, earnestly advises young authors not to publish their works anonymously. "If one," he wisely says, "has any personality belonging to one (whether it is spelt with an i or not) it is just as well to claim it, otherwise some one is sure to do so."

THE September *Manhattan* will have, from the pen of a Russian lady residing in Florence, an illustrated historical and descriptive account of the Company of the Misericordia in that city, an institution which has lasted for more than six centuries, and in which are enrolled all the men of the Tuscan capital. Ernest Ingersoll, under the title of "A Californian Acadia," will narrate the romantic story of the Russian occupation of a part of the coast of California.

THE *Athenæum* says, in a review of Underwood's "Life of Whittier": "Mr. Whittier's name will always stand high in the rank of American poets. If he lacks something of Longfellow's grace, Longfellow, on the other hand, has none of his fire; and if he is less stately than Bryant, he is much more spontaneous. A writer who can be pure, yet not cold, religious, yet not didactic, who is swift of thought and sure of touch, claims what he has so largely received—respect and admiration."

MR. MORRIS has issued a new volume of his "Earthly Paradise." The present number is in exalted prose, and speaks of the coming triumph of socialism in England. Mr. Morris says the intelligent middle class are finding themselves Socialists unknowingly. The only thing necessary to effect an orderly civilized revolution is an organized determination of the workmen to end wage slavery by nationalizing the means of production and exchange. Verily, to the advent of cranks there seems to be no end.

AN American literary clique is about to start a *Nineteenth Century* of its own. Its object is announced as the discussion of all burning questions of the day. Orthodoxy and agnosticism "will be separated only by a column rule"; and the most brilliant literary, political, and religious writers will be invited to discuss their special subjects, not at length, but in short, pithy articles, that one may read "without being bored." *Without being bored!* Mr. Escott and Mr. Knowles will no doubt be glad to know how it's done.

CHARLES G. LELAND will contribute a curious paper to the September *Century* on the legends of the Passamaquoddy. It will be illustrated by drawings on birch bark, by a Quadi Indian. Mr. Leland has spent a number of years in studying the Legends of the Algonkin Indians, which he regards as superior in the subtle charm of the myth to the *märchen* of Scandinavia and the Tueton and the Celts. As in Uncle Remus's stories, the Indians have their "brer rabbit," and he is the most cunning of all the animals.

THE following announcement is "special to the *Mail*," and must be taken for what it is worth:—"An elaborate book, the preparation of which has been suggested by the Queen, who has also taken the venture under her direct patronage, is in preparation. Its title is 'Songs of the North,' and its contents are to consist mainly of old songs, the words and music collected in all parts of Scotland, and hitherto unpublished. Magnificent illustrations are to be a prominent feature of the book, and Paton Orchardson, Pettie, and a host of other artists are engaged upon them."

MR. ROBERT FRANK SPENCE, of the Federal Bank, Toronto, has just completed the manuscript of a volume of one thousand pages, and to be entitled, "The Birds of Orkney." Although the title might seem to imply limitation, the volume will be one of the most valuable extant, as it will embrace a short history of nearly every bird known to ornithologists. Canadian birds, of which Mr. Spence has made much study, will come in for prominent notice in the volume. Judging by the sheets going through the press, the work will be interesting as well as valuable. Mr. Spence's style is direct, clear, vigorous and unaffected. The publishers are William Peace and Son, *Orkney Herald*, Kirkwall.

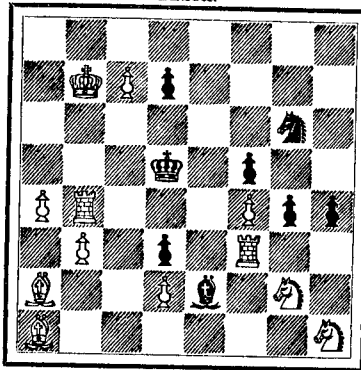
CHESS.

All communications intended for this department should be addressed "Chess Editor office of THE WEEK, Toronto.

PROBLEM No. 34.

By J. McGregor and C. W. Phillips.

BLACK.



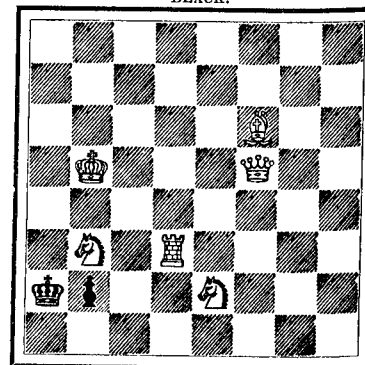
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 35.

By Chas. P. Beckwith. (From the *Detroit Free Press*.)

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. J. C., London.—Sorry tourney collapsed. Of course, take your word for the other matter. E. B. G., Montreal.—Will write you regarding problem. There is a dual in your own version. W. A., Montreal.—Your strictures re Indian problem only partially well founded. Will commence to publish tourney problems as soon as there are enough in to keep up the procession.

PAUL MORPHY'S PLAY AT THIRTEEN.

GAME No. 19.

(New Orleans *Times Democrat*.)

The subjoined curious little *partie* at odds, which is given in the various collections of Morphy's games, simply as being "between Mr. Morphy and an amateur," will acquire renewed interest for the chess world when it is stated that the amateur in question was in fact Morphy's father, Judge Alonzo Morphy, and that the game was played about 1850, when the great master was hardly thirteen years old. It will be found in Frere's Collection, p. 99; Lowenthal's, p. 403; Dr. Max Lange's, *Skizze aus der Schachwelt*, 2nd ed., No. 75, etc.

TWO KNIGHT'S DEFENCE.

(Remove White Queen's Rook.)

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
Mr. Paul Morphy.	Judge Alonzo Morphy.	Mr. Paul Morphy.	Judge Alonzo Morphy.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	10. Q to B 7 (c)	10. B to K 3 (d)
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	11. B x B	11. Kt x B
3. B to B 4	3. Kt to B 3	12. Kt to K 4 ch	12. K to Q 4 (e)
4. Kt to Kt 5	4. P to Q 4	13. P to Q B 4 ch	13. K x Kt
5. P x P	5. Kt x P (a)	14. Q x Kt	14. Q to Q 5 (f)
6. Kt x B P	6. K x Kt	15. Q to Kt 4 ch	15. K to Q 6
7. Q to B 3 ch	7. K to K 3	16. Q to K 2 ch	16. K to B 7
8. Kt to B 3	8. Kt to Q 5 (b)	17. P to Q 3 dis ch	17. K x B (g)
9. B x Kt ch	9. K to Q 3	18. Castles	Checkmate

NOTES.

- (a) 5. Kt to Q R 4 is, of course, considered best here.
- (b) More usual at this point is 8. Q Kt to K 2.
- (c) Threatening mate next move with the Kt.
- (d) Favourable so far as forcing desirable exchanges, but 10. Q to K 2 would, apparently, have been more to the point.
- (e) The Black King now starts on a journey with a curious ending.
- (f) Locking himself up securely, but suppose instead 14. Q to Kt 4 ch, K to Q 6, 16. Q to K 2 ch, K to Q 5, 17. P to Q Kt 3, and Black can only avert mate by sacrificing his Queen for the Bishop.
- (g) The game might have been prolonged, of course, by 17. K to Kt 8 instead, but then the rather odd move of 18. Q to Q seems to win speedily, e.g., 18. Q to Q, B to Kt 5 ch, 19. B to Q 2 dis ch, K x R P, 20. Q to R 4 ch, K x P, 21. Q x B ch, K to B 7, 22. Q to R 4 ch, K to Kt 7, 23. Castles, and mates in five more moves. If 18. K x R P, 19. Q to R 4 ch, K to Kt 8, 20. Castles, Q x Q P, 21. R to K, and wins.

CHESS FRAGMENTS

From old chronicles prepared for the *Cincinnati Commercial* by Miss JULIA EASTMAN.

A book published in 1764 describes a very elaborate set of Persian chessmen, made of solid ivory, of carved work interspersed with gold. The colours are green and white. Of these pieces the Shah or King is seated upon an elephant in armour. Upon the back of the elephant is a square wooden castle painted within and without, and adorned with gold. In front of the King stands the governor of the elephant, and guides him with a rod.

Behind the King stands an attendant, holding an umbrella over his head. The King's pawn or foot-soldier is an archer, with bow and arrows. Phrezin (General, afterward made Queen) sits on a horse. His head is adorned with feathers, and in his hand he holds a short sword. His footman or pawn is a trumpeter, sounding a trumpet. Pil (elephant, afterward Rook) carries the colours of the cavalry. A man sits on his back guiding him with a rod.

His pawn is called an ensign and carries the colours of the foot soldiers. He is armed with a heavy dart or short spear.

Next is placed Asp, the horseman, a horse in armour, his rider bearing a drawn sword; to his right side is fastened a bow, to his left a quiver. His footman carries a scimeter, also a bucker.

Ruch, the Dromedary, has a rider who is beating two brazen drums, one of which is fastened on each side of him.

His footman is called musqueteer. He is armed with a kind of gun. The English word musket is derived from the name of this footman.

It is said that in Eastern chess the Queen, or Lady, was at first only allowed to move two steps at a time. The English thought this was treating her more like a slave than a lady and so made her the most considerable piece on the board.

Two distinguished people—one at Madrid and one at Rome—once played a game, sending a courier between each move. The first player, who died before it was finished, directed his executor to go on with the game.

Box, the Syracusan, was taken by corsairs. He was an adept in chess, and for some months he instructed the corsairs in the game. They were filled with gratitude, and set him at liberty without any ransom.

A CERTAIN man at Aleppo was a fine chess player, but very poor. A Pasha, who was also a good player, invited him to go to Stamboul with him. He pleaded poverty, upon which the Pasha gave him a new suit of clothes, and, talking him to Stamboul, introduced him to the Sultan, who called at once for the chess board. He had, as usual, left his slippers at the door. The Sultan won the first game, and turning to the Pasha he said:—"Why do you introduce this man as so great a master when he plays so poorly?" The Pasha asked his protegee why he played so badly. He answered that he had left his new slippers at the door, and was so afraid that some one would steal them that he could not play well enough to watch so strong an opponent as the Sultan. The Sultan was flattered by the reply, and had the slippers brought in, after which the man from Aleppo won every game, and the Sultan did not resent it.

WHAT IS CATARRH ?

From the Mail (Can.) Dec. 15.

Catarrh is a mucopurulent discharge caused by the presence and development of the vegetable parasite amoeba in the internal lining membrane of the nose. This parasite is only developed under favourable circumstances, and these are:—Morbid state of the blood, as the blighted corpuscle of ulcer, the germ poison of syphilis, mercury, toxæmia, from the retention of the effeted matter of the skin, suppressed perspiration, badly ventilated sleeping apartments, and other poisons that are germinated in the blood. These poisons keep the internal lining membrane of the nose in a constant state of irritation, ever ready for the deposit of the seeds of these germs, which spread up the nostrils and down the fauces, or back of the throat, causing ulceration of the throat; up the eustachian tubes, causing deafness; burrowing in the vocal cords, causing hoarseness, usurping the proper structure of the bronchial tubes, ending in pulmonary consumption and death.

Many attempts have been made to discover a cure for this distressing disease by the use of inhalants and other ingenious devices, but none of these treatments can do a particle of good until the parasites are either destroyed or removed from the mucous tissue.

Some time since a well-known physician of forty years' standing, after much experimenting, succeeded in discovering the necessary combination of ingredients which never fail in absolutely and permanently eradicating this horrible disease, whether standing for one year or forty years. Those who may be suffering from the above disease, should, without delay, communicate with the business managers,

Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON,
305 King St. West, Toronto, Canada,
and inclose stamp for their treatise on Catarrh

What the Rev. E. B. Stevenson, B.A., a Clergyman of the London Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, has to say in regard to A. H. Dixon & Son's New Treatment for Catarrh.

Oakland, Ont., Canada, March 17, '83.

Messrs. A. H. Dixon & Son:
DEAR SIRS,—Yours of the 13th instant to hand. It seems almost too good to be true that I am cured of Catarrh, but I know that I am. I have had no return of the disease, and never felt better in my life. I have tried so many things for Catarrh, suffered so much and for so many years, that is hard for me to realize that I am really better.

I consider that mine was a very bad case; it was aggravated and chronic, involving the throat as well as the nasal passages, and I thought I would require the three treatments, but I feel fully cured by the two sent me, and I am thankful that I was ever induced to send to you.

You are at liberty to use this letter stating that I have been cured at two treatments, and I shall gladly recommend your remedy to some of my friends who are sufferers.

Yours, with many thanks,
REV. E. B. STEVENSON.

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Montreal, January, 1884.

CHARLES DRINKWATER,
Secretary.



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