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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.



## The Meck.

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## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Senate reform, the opinion was expressed last week in these columns, is not likely to be brought about by a chance reference to the subject in an occasional speech. The Globe reminds us that Mr. Blake's objection to nomination was first made ten years ago. This is true; but it would no more be fair to Mr. Blake to hold him to an opinion of Senate reform expressed ten years ago than it would be to assume, which we hope would not be correct, that he still holds to the view which on the same occasion he casually let drop in favour of Imperial Federation. But though he declared in favour of Senate reform ten yoars ago, it will scarcely be contended that he has continuously pursued the subject in the spirit of one who is determined to bring about a change. There may have been good reasons why, when he was in office, Mr. Blake did not attempt to carry his opinion into action, and also why, when the Colonial Secretary refused to allow an increase of nominated members, the alternative of election was not insisted on. Mr. Blake is on the side of Senate reform : whenever he refers to the subject he gives no uncertain sound; but he does not marshal his forces with the energy and persistency which, in political contests, are the conditions of victory. Not that he is lukewarm, for it is not in his nature to be so ; but he is pre-occupied with objects which, if more urgent in point of time, are often of minor importance. The result is that Senate reform has been but little advanced by the eloquence of the leader of the Opposition. An Opposition leader may, as things go, well believe that he best performs his duty to the public during the sittings of Parliament by criticizing the measures of the Government rather than by the introduction of questions himself; but the reform of the Senate is at present rather a popular than a parliamentary question; and the first step to be taken is to convince the electorate of the necessity of a change. To say that it is not especially the duty of the leader of the Opposition to undertake the preliminary work, would practically be a plea for delay. The press, if it believes Senate reform to be necessary and desirable, has a duty to perform equally with any member of the Legislature, since the question belongs to the domain of opinion. The reform of the Senate, if it is to be reformed, its abolition, if it is to be abolished, concerns the whole people, without respect to party : one party, finding the Senate under its control, is only anxious that things should remain as they are ; the other professes a desire for a change, and is, no doubt, sincere in doing so, but it does nothing effectual towards bringing it about. The only hope of Senate reform would seem, under the circumstances, to be a popular demand that shall express the voice of the nation, irrespective of party.

Iт is proper to say, by way of correction, that the Opposition at Ottawa did once, M. Laurier being mover and Mr. Blake seconder, divide the House on the coal and "breadstuff's" duties, and that so far a distinct issue was made on the 30 th March, 1882. Forty-seven members voted for the motion, and we take it for granted that these members belonged to the party led by Mr. Blake. We are glad to be able to put on record the fact that a pro forma motion against these obnoxious duties was even once made; but the satisfaction which the friends of free bread and free coal feel at the movement is somewhat diminished by the fact that Mr. Blake contented himself with seconding the motion and did not consider the occasfon to be one on which he was called upon to speak. The languid nature of the attack goes far to account for the feeble impression it made on the public mind and its early fading out of recollection. The occasion for making the motion was properly taken when the Minister of Finance moved the House into Committee of Supply ; and if the motion had been repeated each Session in the spirit of earnestness which overcomes obstacles, those who made and sustained it would have got the credit due for having done something more than making a formal record. Even now it is not too late to commence a systematic attack on the coal and bread duties. If the Anti-Corn Law League had conducted its campaign in the feeble way in which those duties have been dealt with, the British Corn Laws might have been in existence still. An annual motion, such as that made by M. Laurier in 1882, accompanied by a debate displaying the whole strength of the Opposition, though it might not have much changed the complexion of the division in the present House, would have sown seed that would have gone far towards bringing the fruit of future success. The public would be delighted if it were able to accept what has been dono as an carnest of more vigorous effort.

The breaking up of the Bleus in Quebec has gone very far. What was once a united party now presents the spectacle of two hostile camps, with separate leaders and mutually hostile journals making daily war upon one another. One camp acknowledges Chapleau, the other Langevin, for its chief. The discords are telling on the constituencies; to them the Bleus owe the loss of Jacques Cartier, Levis, and Megantic. The Minerve is greatly discouraged at the insubordination en permanence of the Castors; and it calls on the chiefs of the party to cast out the authors of discord. Political excommunication would make the breach complete, but it could not heal it. The desperate remedy recommended does not even meet the desperate case. There is only one thing that can reunite the Blous: in a raid on the Federal exchequer they may always be relied upon to act as one man, but they would re-commence their quarrel over a division of the spoils.

Speculation as to the causes of the Premier's visit to England has exhausted itself, and the multiplicity of conjectures has ended in confusion, From the first, however, a grain of certainty lay on the surface; Sir John's health is critical, and it is desirable for him to seek the advice of a London physician, from whom in a previous crisis he received marked relief. But if his errand had no other object than a visit to Dr. Clarke, it would scarcely be possible for him to remain in London for a month, at the present time, without some public question coming up to which his attention would unavoidably be directed. The annexation of Jamaica will soon have to be decided upon. Mr. Solomon, on his return to the island, lost no time in bringing the question before the Council, and Lord Derby has again volunteered the statement that the British Government will interpose no obstacle to annexation. Does this mean that the Colonial Office, perplexed with the difficulty of the Jamaica question, intends to ask Canada to shoulder the burthen? Annexation to Canada is the third remedy which Jamaica has sought for the commercial prostration under which she is suffering ; the other two have been put aside as impossible of application, and this apparently receives encouragement from Lord Derby. But annexation cannot be brought about without the consent of Canada, and if the Colonial Office has resolved to use its influence to get Jamaica annexed, Sir John Macdonald is the man above all others whom Lord

Derby would find it necessary to consult. Sir John could with truth reply that annexation, in the present state of opinion, is unpopular in Canada, and that a speedy change that would make the admission of Jarnaica acceptable is improbable. A question of such serious import as this, if it must be decided, ought to be referred to the constituencies. But would it be possible to get a distinct answer to this one question, as a result of a general election? Annexation would be complicated with other questions, but the magnitude of the issues which it involves would place it in the foreground and possibly it might become, in the mind of the average elector, the question of questions. The other great issue before the country, the Tariff, has not been made as broad and distinct as it might have been, and, except the bread and coal duties, there would probably be a disposition to postpone its settlement for the purpose of bringing Jamaica annexation to the front and making it the most conspicuous object for the decision of the electors. The Minister would count the chances of success, and it is quite consistent with his antecedents to believe that, if he saw annexation would be a losing card before the constituencies, he would not hesitate to force it through the prosent Parliament by the aid of an assured party majority. The achievement would, in that case, probably cost him loss of office whenever the day of reckoning came. But then Sir John could look to England for his reward, and a new title might become his recompense for the loss of popularity and power in his own country. Who can say that, as things are now managed, all this is not liable to happen 1

Eight hours to form a day's work is the claim of the Knights of Labour, whose organization covers Canada as well as the United States. In all occupations in which ten hours' labour can be sustained by the average workman without injury to health, a reduction to eight hours means a diminution of production of something like twenty per cent., and when less wages are earned it is inevitable that less should be paid. Besides, American industry must either confine its products to the home market or place itself in a condition to meet foreign competition. At present, only about two per cent. of United States manufactures is exported, and the reason why a larger proportion is not exported is that they cannot be sold on as good terms as the manufactures of other countries. In many countries the average day's labour is more than ten hours. If a German in the United States worked only eight hours a day, he could not hope to do as much in that time as a German in his native country could do in twelve. Other things being equal, the industrial greatness of the nation must be determined by the relative extent of the product of each labourer ; it is, in fact, now largely determined in this way. The workman has in this question of what shall be a day's labour a common interest with the employer. Nations compete with one another, and that which slackens in the race must be content to be left behind. The proposed reduction of the hours of. labour among artisans would have the same effect as if the farmers should come to an agreement to sow, in future, only four acres where they had hitherto sown five; the effect of which would be that where they had reaped sixty bushels before, they would in future roap only forty-eight. It is probable that, if the American and Canadian farmer were to do this, he would everywhere, except on new soils, find himself unable to grow wheat for exportation at all, under the existing conditions of competition. And the manufacturer, put under the threatened restraint of an eight hours' day, would, with even more certainty, meet the same doom. But the loss would fall exclusively on the worker, because it would be in the power of the employer to increase the number of his hands. The share which the worker can get for his labour must bear a direct relation to what he produces ; and if all artisans were to produce less, their share would diminish in proportion to the slackening of their industry. The workman cannot enforce the reduction of the day to eight hours of labour without injuring himself in the proportion that he becomes less industrious.

The experience of the Neptune in the Strait and Bay of Hudson, though it was probably exceptional, was not reassuring. The theory that there was no land north of Hudson's Bay high enough for icebergs to form upon is contradicted by the fact that icebergs were found in the Strait. That bergs were often found there had long been on record, though it was denied by some who assumed to speak with authority. The Neptune encountered ice to the end of August, which is probably later than it would in most years be found to offer obstruction, in the Strait of Hudson. From Notingham Island ice was found to extend forty-five miles, and much of it was forty feet thick. Between Notingham and Mansfield Island the vessel steamed through heavy fields of ice for nearly two days, laying up at night for fear of accident. Arctic ice comes down Fox Channel from as high as the seventieth degree of latitude, and it often greatly encumbers the $\mathbf{S}$ trait in passing out. The Neptune received some injury from the ice and
at Cape Diggs intelligence was received from the Esquimaux of a schooner having been nipped in the ice there a few days before. Four ice-bound vessels were observed, one of them a belated Hudson's Bay Company's craft. Fogs were met both in the Bay and Strait. The Strait is by no means free from sunken rocks. The presence in the Atlantic of unusual numbers of icebergs at a late date shows that there is something exceptional in the season; but, as these icebergs nearly all come from Baffin's Bay through Davis Strait, their presence in the neighbourhood of Newfoundland would not justify any conclusion about the normal state of Hudson's Strait in the month of August. The circumstance that a large number of ieebergs were detached above Davis Strait this year does not create a presumption that the same thing would occur in Fox Channel. If we cannot form a favourable opinion from the experience of the Neptune, we are perhaps not yet justified in drawing any general conclusion at all. But the fact must be acknowledged that there are years in which, during the best months of summer, this navigation is so difficult as to have little or no certain commercial value. The observations which will be made by the men who have been posted at different stations; where the movement of the ice into and through the Strait of Hudson can be seen, will give us more certain information than is at present available. The record of these observations will be looked forward to with great anxiety. But important as it would be to a vast extent of country to find Hudson's Bay and Strait practically navigable for commercial purposes, it will be best not to court disappointment by indulging expectations which are not likely to be realized.

The barbarities said to be practised in the lunatic asylums of Longe Point and Beauport, Quebec, would be incredible if their existence were not affirmed on authority to which no suspicion can attach. Dr. Tuke, an English expert on insanity, who came with the British Association to Montreal, has came forward as a volunteer witness of what he saw in these institutions. The strait-waistcoat was used in a ward set apart for quiet patients ; men were fastened to chairs by straps ; handcuffs were freely used ; naked men were found crouching on beds of straw, and kept under restraint by handcuffs and belts, and the condition of a large number of women was still worse. Many of the rooms are low and illlighted ; the available space is over-crowded, and unnecessary restraint and cruelty are practised. Dr. Tuke's revelations will explain, what was before known, that the proportion of cures in these asylums is much less than in the asylums of Ontario, and the mortality much greater. Apologists for the Quebec asslums had given the public assurance that these institutions had, in a long course of years, accumulated a large number of incurable patients who reduced the proportion of cures to admissions, and whose enfeebled bodies accounted for the disproportionate rate of mortality. In the absence of the statements now made public, the excuse was lame, for some of the Ontario asylums are old enough to have reached the possible average of incurable patients. In these two Quebec asylums some three thousand pationts are confined ; and one building into which a thousand are crowded could only afford suitable accommodation for six hundred. The attendants are less than half the necessary number. Dr. Tuke seems to be of opinion that the abuses which he has exposed flow from the semi-private character of these institutions, and he urges the Government to assume their management. When Dr. Douglas owned the Beauport asylum, before it came into the possession of its present owners, a violent and sustained attack was made upon the managenent by the Journal de Quebec, and it was deemed a suspicious circumstance that M . Cauchon, by whom the attack had been directed, became one of the purchasers, when Dr. Douglas was frighted into selling the establishment at a figure which was deemed greatly below its value. If there were reason for that crusade, in which much exaggeration was probably employed, there could be none for the degeneracy which has evidently taken place under the new management. Into the charges made by Dr. Tuke the Quebec Government cannot avoid making enquiry, and it is necessary that the investigation be searching and thorough. Sometimes the machinery of an official enquiry is made use of to cover up, not to expose, the real facts. These dens of horror are under the charge of the nuns, and it will be interesting to see whether the Church will make an effort to prevent the whole truth from being officially made known.

Michipicoton would be famous if it could. Once the scene of a little Indian war which arose out of the Robinson treaty, it now seeks the celebrity which belongs to whiskey riots. Under the Public Works' Act the sale of whiskey is prohibited in the neighbourhood of the Canadian Pacific Railway works, and whiskey peddlers have appeared on the scene at Michipicoton to minister to the forbidden craving. A dozen Toronto
policemen have been sent to restore peace. It is a pity the selection of men should have been made from a force which is too small to answer all the needs of the city.

Cuba, like the British West Indies, has been appealing to the Mother Country to put forth a helping hand to succour the sugar industry. The prayer of the petition has been granted; a decree having been published at Madrid by which the sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico is to be admitted into Spain free of duty, and a drawback is to be allowed on what goes to foreign countries. If cable reports may be trusted, Cuba is also to have the benefit of a commercial treaty with the United States. The free admission of the sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico has drawn a protest from the native producers of sugar in Malaga and Granada, who contend that colonial sugar ought to pay a good round duty for their special benefit. But a delegation from these same producers who waited on the Ministor for the Colonies, before the decree had passed, found remonstrance unavailing. Two months ago the hope was expressed in Cuba that the sugar produced in the island would find free admission into the United States; but it is not probable that the treaty now said to have been agreed upon goes so far as to make Cuban sugar free. The return to the original principle of colonial administration is possible to Spain, because, in respect to Cuba, she has continued to exact it in her own favour. The one-sided nature of the benefits has hitherto been a cause of serious injury and deep-seated discontent to Cuba. In this action on the part of Spain the West India colonies of other nations will find something to envy; but England is not in a position to follow the example of colonial reaction. England derives no direct benefit from her West India colonies as Spain does from Cuba, and she owes nothing by way of counterpoise; on the contrary, she finds the West Indies burthensome and importunate in asking concessions, in the form of countervailing duties, which it is not in her power to grant. The defenders of the artificial encouragement which France and Germany give to the exportation of their refined sugars will derive new courage from the decision of Spain to admit Cuban sugar free; and the desperate hope that an international conference could induce these nations to change their policy in favour of sugar producers in the British West Indies and sugar refiners in Great Britain may now be definitely abandoned. Indeed, nothing but the delusion of self-interest ever caused anyone to put faith in a remedy of which there was no rational hope of attainment. But if England cannot herself grant the relief sought by her West India colonies, Lord Derby is quite willing that they should find in Canada a market for the free admission of their sugar, even though the change involves the necessity of their annexation to this Confederation.

## "BYSTANDER" ON CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

Canada has a serious interest in the events which are pending in the Mother Country, for England is still the fountain-head of our civilization, and any disaster which would befall her would be morally felt here. But it is idle to attempt to extract a trustworthy estimate of the situation from the stream of conflicting rumours and surmises which chase each other along the wires. No one who is not on the spot can tell which way the current is running. The contest seems to have taken very distinctly the shape of a struggle between the Lords and the Nation, as to the ultimate issue of which there can be no doubt, whatever may be the immediate result. There have been popular demonstrations on a large scale in favour of the Lords as well as against them, but those in their favour seem to have been wanting in spontaneity and to have required the adventitious stimulus of picnics and the throwing open of noblemen's parks. As in 1831, a party in the Lords, prescient of fate, is trying to bring the Order to reason; but Lord Salisbury and those about him seem to believe that by forcing a dissolution, which must precede a swamping creation of peers, they might bring themselves into power; and their councils are darkened not only by their ambition, but by their intense personal hatred of Mr. Gladstone. Have the Tories really made up their minds, as they profess to have done, that the Franchise Bill must pass? If they have it would seem folly to put everything to hazard for the sake of the difference between two forms of a Redistribution Bill which, in any case, must be framed by Liberal hands. When you have consented to be eaten there is little use in cavilling at the sauce. But a shadow from another quarter is falling on the scene. It would seem that the Parnellites had a great interest in the Franchise Bill, as they proclaim that it would bring them a large accession of strength; but they appear to feel that they have a greater interest in baffing all legislation, wrecking every Government and throwing everything into confusion. Possibly they may be somewhat alarmed by the spread of the movement among the labourers, for the tenant farmer in

Ireland has been a worse oppressor of the labourer than the landlord has of the tenant farmer. It looks as if they were inclined to coalesce with the Tories, the violent section of whom is ready for the alliance. The Liberal Party has a decided majority over Tories and Parnellites combined; but hardly a majority. large enough to enforce the surrender of the Lords. "The negotiations," says the cable, "between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell have been broken off." For "Mr. Gladstone" we should read "Mr. Chamberlain," who has been playing this game from the beginning, though the Prime Minister cannot be held unaccountable for the machinations of his aspiring subordinate. If Mr. Parnell were a reformer, whether political or agrarian, however extreme, or even revolutionary, and however hostile he might be to the Government, there could be no objection to negotiating with him for the passing of the Franchise Bill so long as no principle were betrayed on either side. But he is not a reformer: he is a declared enemy of the realm; he openly and avowedly aims at its dismemberment and its ruin; he seeks to compass these objects through an alliance with a foreign organization which has twice invaded the Queen's dominions and is publicly taking up subscriptions for the destruction of her subjects. Negotiation or intercourse with him of any kind is therefore surely forbidden by duty and honour to any British Government. Nor is the dictate of true wisdom at variance with that of duty and honour. It is by these wretched tamperings with conspirators who it was evident from the outset were implacable and insatiable that the rebellion, which firmness might have extinguished in its birth, has been nursed and pampered into its present formidable dimensions. Such a curse is faction even in the land where it is supposed to be best regulated and most under control. In defeating the Franchise Bill, however, the Irish may after all be unwittingly doing a service to the country. It is a measure for which the nation can well afford to wait, if the respite thus afforded to statesmen brings reflection and leads then to turn their minds to a comprehensive revision of the Constitution in its different parts and in its general balance, instead of hurrying forward blind extensions of the suffrage.

Some of our contemporaries not unnaturally scouted the idea that such a scheme as the annexation of Jamaica to Canada could be receiving the serious attention of practical politicians. But students are not the only dreamers. Practical politicians in Jamaica at all events are earnestly pressing the measure. Yet surely no dream ever was more extravagant. Not only is Jamaica two thousand miles off, but Cuba and Haiti lie between. In the present state of the world, or any state in which the world is likely to be for generations to come, let the Peace Society do what it can, a reasonable security against external attack will be an indispensable condition of all political arrangements; and it is strange that men, styling themselves practical, should be ready totally to disregard this necessity. Belgium, Holland or Switzerland, it is true, would be unable to defend itself against'the attack of one of the great powers at its side : but each of them has a considerable force, and they are protected both by European guarantees and by the mutual jealousies of the great powers. Canada is safe in the unaggressive character of her only neighbour. But a federation of Canada and Jamaica, or of Canada and the West Indian Islands, would be at the mercy of any filibustering republic which could fit out a fow gun-boats. Cuba may any day fall into anarchy, and become a dangerous and piratical neighbour. The moderation of the United States, and their unwillingness to extend their territory, have been more than once decisively proved. They were proved by the rejection of St. Domingo, as well as in that of St . Thomas, and by the forbearance shown notwithstanding repeated provocations in the case of Mexico. But as this federation would be an ostentatious move in the direction of building up an Anti-American Empire, the people of the United States could hardly be expected to regard it with a friendly eye, or in case of need to mediate in its favour. Its only defender would be England ; and that there are limits, and very visible limits, to the powers of England as a protectress, beset as she is with enemies and dangers on every side, Jingoism itself must be beginning to perceive. The political consequences to the Dominion of a union with Jamaica can only be regarded with horror. The population of Jamaica is now about 600,000 , of whom not more than 12,000 are whites, the white population having decreased, while the black population has increased rapidly of late years. The unfitness of such a population, the negro being what he is, for free institutions, if it could ever have been doubtful, has been proved by experiment, at once disastrous and decisive, in the case of Jamaica itself, and in that of St. Domingo. In Jamaica the bloody farce terminated in the eager return to the condition of a Crown colony, it having become apparent that only by the strong hand of a Royal governor could peace be possibly kept between the races. But the Jamaican delegation in the Dominion Parliament, if proportioned to the
population of the Island, would be large enough, in anything like an equipoise of parties, to hold the balance of power. In other words, it would be able to pillage us without limit, to say nothing of the demoralization of which we have already quite enough. At the same time we should have the quarrel between the white and black races in Jamaica, with all the troubles arising from it, on our hands. Nothing in the meantime would be gained which might not bo equally well secured by fiscal arrangements. These arguments will surely prevail. Yet it may not be needless to enter a caveat against any more dealings with Canadiau nationality behind the back of the Canadian people. Monarchical traditions prevent our states men from seeing what they owe the commonwealth and what, in a democratic era, sound policy dictates in this respect. The constitution of the Dominion itself lacks moral validity and the highest claim to allegiance, because it was settled by the politicians with the Imperial Government and was never submitted to the penple. It would rather be too much if we were to wake up one morning and find that by an agreement between Ottawa, Downing St., and Mr. Solomon, we had been politically amalgamated with the black population of Jamaica.

The garrulity of Lord Malmesbury's old age, though amiable, will not please his political friends. It will certainly not please the wearers of the primrose. Lord Beaconsfield has hitherto been the divinity of Imperialists, of Colonial Imperialists above all. To these it will be no agrecable surprise to find that in his private correspondence their idol spoke of the colonies as "those wretched colonies," that he looked forward to their independence in a few years, and regarded them in the meantime as "a millstone" round the neck of the Mother Country. It is true that a few years later he was publicly denouncing in lofty periods those who proposed to relieve England of such a millstone as the Ionian Islands, a malcontent dependency from which she derived neither military strength nor advantage of any kind, which, in case of war, would have required a garrison of fifteen or twenty thousand men, and the loss of which, since the cession, nobody has been heard to deplore, while Greece, the rising power of the Eastern Mediterranean, to which the Islands were ceded, became bound to England by a strong tie of gratitude and friendship. Possibly in that case something might be due to Mr. Disraeli's personal antipathy to eastern Christendom and his sympathy with Islam. But let enthusiastic Imperialists take notice that conventionality and hollowness sometimes lurk beneath the professions even of British statesmen. Let them take notice also of the real ground on which the British Jingo sets or affects to set a high value on the colonies. Are they likely to remain for ever dependencies, and in that character to contribute to the military strength of the Imperial power? Will they furnish men and money for wars in Afghanistan or for wars to maintain the dominion of the Turks over Christian slaves? If not, thoy are objects of contempt, and "millstones." There is no feeling of pride in the prospect of seeing England surrounded by a progeny of free nations, the hoirs and images of her greatness; there is no appreciation of the moral strength or of the enhanced grandeur which she would derive from the attachment of such an offspring. Nor is there a thought as to the comparative effects of dependence and emancipation on the political character and destiny of the colonies themselves. The tie of mutual citizenship is so far from being highly prized that the Jingo is scarcoly conscious of its existence. Emancipationists are always branded as Anti-Colonial. Yet the Emancipationist does prizo and cherish all that the Jingo disregards, and his chief objection to the system upheld by the Imperialist is that it prevents the growth of that nobler empire of equality, free development, and spontancous affection which alone is really worth founding, because it alone can endure for ever.

The experts in American politics have all told us that Ohio being a Republican State, if the elections there went against the Republicans, Blaine's cause would be lost, but that a Republican victory in Ohio would not be decisive in his favour. Still, a great success in a case which was deemed both doubtful and important cannot fail to inspirit his party and to draw the waiters upon Providence over to his side. . The balance must now be said, at all events, to incline in his favour. His election to the Presidency will be a serious event. For the first time a man will appear at the head of the American Republic with a dark stain upon his personal honour. There have been unworthy Presidents before: Jackson was a barbarian, Polk and Buchanan were mean figures to be placed in the front of the State; Andrew Johnson was a meaner figure still. But the lowest of them could never have been suspected of such things as have been proved against Mr. Blaine. Let any one imagine the effect of such disclosures respecting the character of a Prime Minister of England.

What makes the matter worse is that the great public issues having been cast comparatively into the background by the refusal of the Democrats to take up the glove thrown down by the Republicans on the Tariff question, the contest has become personal, and the question of character is the main issue. The election of Mr. Blaine will be the ratification of a standard which will be taken as the moral maximum, not only by all politicians, but by every young and ambitious man. Yet if Mr. Blaine becomes President, we must all pray for his life. That he is a man of real ability his speeches and writings vouch, and if he professes intense hatred of England or love of the Invincibles we may cherish the comfortable assurance that his profession is insincere, that he will give effect to it no further than his personal game requires, and that he will keep his country and the world out of serious mischief if he can. But Logan is a demagogue of the coarsest kind, who thoroughly shares the mob passions to which he appeals and is perfectly capable of putting in action the violent nonsense which fills his incoherent and ungrammatical harangues. If by any accident he gets power into his hands the consequences may be serious. It seems certain that notwithstanding the loyalty of Tammany to the loaves and fishes, the Irish, in considerable numbers, have gone over to Blaine, and that if he wins, it will be partly by Nationalist votes, in which case Nationalism is not unlikely to be represented in his government. This makes the outlook darker. But on the other hand it may be the beginning of a happy change in the character of the Democratic Party. The only bond between the Conservative wing of the Party and the Irish wing was Slavery : that being now a thing of the past, the unnatural connection may come to an end, the Party may become simply Conservative, and favourable at the same time to a reduction of taxation and to administrative reform. Cleveland, in short, who is loved by the best Democrats, as they avowed at Chicago, for having made the Tammany corruptionists his enemies, may prove to be the typical man of the Democratic future.

In the meantime the system of Presidential Elections by popular vote is revealing its full beneficence. The cost in money of choosing an Executive Officer for four years will, according to experts, reach a sum which spread over the President's term far exceeds the expense of any court in Europe. To this there are to be added the loss of time and labour, the interruption of industry and the disturbance of commerce, the last of which items is most serious. But the expense is the least part of the matter where riches abound as they do among the people of the United States. The greatest evils of the system are the venomous passions which it excites and the evil agencies which it calls into play. The Presidential Election itself was still three weeks off when blood was already being shed at two places, Cincinnati, as a matter of course, being one of the two. A legion of political intriguers and corruptionists is everywhere at work bedevilling the constituencies and demoralizing the people; nor do the more respectable politicians and the citizens of the higher class who take an interest in politics altogether escape defilement from the pitch which as Party managers they are obliged to handle. Should the result chance to be disputed, as in the case of Hayes and Tilden, an event always possible in the midst of so much violence and chicanery, the nation may again be brought to the verge of a civil war. Amidst the frenzy of the Party conflict, each Party being ready to sell its soul to any demon for a vote, the spirits of political evil gain preternatural power ; and the Union now stands a fair chance of virtually receiving a government at the hands of a set of people who avow that the principal object of their allegiance is not the American Republic, the force of which they only desire to use as the instrument of an Irish feud, while their votes will be given to the candidate who is most likely to involve the State in a ruinous war. With each recurring election the violence of the struggle seems to increase, and the strain upon the commonwealth to become more intense: it is hardly conceivable that any political machinery should be strong enough to bear forever the stress of these periodical convulsions. Yet all this is as purcly the result of accident as anything in politics can be. The framers of the Constitution, when they hesitated between the plan of giving the election of the President to the Legislature and that of entrusting it to a special College, little dreamed that in embracing the latter plan they were instituting a quadrennial carnival of discord and corruption. The fate of their measure is a warning to all statesmen, and among others to the statesmen of England, at this juncture, in erecting or reforming institutions, not merely to consider the propriety and justice of a measure on paper, but to forecast, as far as possible, its practical working. No extraordinary foresight would have been required to tell the architects of the American Constitution that the election of a Gollege for the nonce would result in a mandate and would soon degenerate into a cumbrous mode of registering
the result of a popular election. Two redeeming points there are in the scene before us. One is the gallant protest made against the degradation of public character and the disgrace of the country by the band of men called Republican Bolters, or, more courteously, Independents, whose patriotism will not be the less honoured hereafter if, with fortune, the retainers of fortune should desert them and they should at last carry but a sinall force with them to the polls. The other redeeming point is the behaviour of Mr. Cleveland, who in the first place has made no tricky attempt to hide or extenuate his youthful fault, much less to draw his friends into any such attempt, but has simply left his case to the moral judgment of the community; and in the second place has throughout borne himseif with dignity, writing a simple and straightforward letter of acceptance instead of a prolix and turgid manifesto, declining to go on the stump and awaiting the result of the contest at Albany in the calm per. formance of his regular duty. If the Democratic Party loses everything else it will at all events have gained a leader.

President $W_{\text {ilson, }}$ in his address at Convocation, formally announced the introduction of co-education into the University College by an order of the Government, to whose authority he bows with a good grace and without any surrender of his personal convictions. His conduct throughout the controversy has been unimpeachable, while his position has at times been trying. As guardian of the institution, he was bound in duty to state his reasons against a change which, in common with the great majority of those who have paid attention to these subjects, he believed to be inexpedient. He has done this, notwithstanding some irritating incidents, with unfailing temper and courtesy, as well as with a moral firmness, which, unhappily, is too rare. He is now relieved from responsibility by the mandate of authority, and there can be no doubt that he will loyally give effect to the policy which he has conscientiously opposed. To accuse him of setting public opinion at defance was absurd ; neitier public opinion nor the opinion of the educational profession has ever been manifested in favour of co-education. The change has been brought about by a small but active and persistent agitation operating on the weak nerves of a Party Government and aided by the fatuous gallantry which fancies that whatever a woman asks must be grauted without reference to the real interests or the general wishes of the sex. It would have boen impossible to get the ladies of Ontario generally, with the question between co-education and a woman's college fairly put before them, to sign a petition in favour of co-education. The most important thing to be remarked, however, is that in forcing co-education upon the College, the Government and the Legislature, while they have taken the cheapest, and, as they think, the most popular course, have not really made provision for the higher education of womon. That problem remains still, so far as they are concerned, untouched. As a geueral systom, co-education has been thoroughly tried in the United States and has decisively failed. Parents have almost unanimously recoiled from sending their daughters, unprotected by any safeguards, to mix with the students of a male university ; they continue to patronize, as before, the separate colleges for women ; and their objections, which everyone but an enthusiast of co-education must deem obvious and strong, are, from their nature, likely also to be permanent. All that has been done then is to concede to a handful of young women of exceptional aims, and who will perhaps in most cases be drawn from the Normal Schools, the liberty of going through a male course of education. The provision of higher education for women generally remains just where it was before; or rather it is somewhat prejudiced by the impression, which is sure to prevail, that the problem has been solved by the introduction of co-education. Not in this case alone, the identification of a few women of advanced opinions with the other sex is likely rather to retard than to accelerate the progress of improvement with regard to the female sex at large.
"Temporal happiness is the goal of existence and the whole aim of action." In these words Mr. Lucien Wolf formulates the historical teaching of Judaism, which he identifies with "Material Optimism," They are equally applicable to the teaching of Agnosticism; and they present with uncompromising clearness the practical aspect of one of the two great schools of thought into which the world is now divided, and between which every one of us, more or less definitely and consciously, must choose. "The wise man concerns himself not with death but with life," is the saying of Spinoza, which Agnostics constantly repeat. It is the direct contradiction of the saying of Socrates: "The one aim and concern of the true philosopher is to die." By dying he meant the liberation of the soul from the body and its lusts carried on through a philosophic life and completed at its close. Mr. Lucien Wolf assumes that the recognition of temporal
happiness as the goal must bring with it a special adaptability to the conditions of life, and a peculiar capacity for making the most of them. There is, however, more than one sort of happiness. Socrates, if the picture drawn of him by his friend and disciple is true, was happy in his way; he enjoyed to the full the pleasures of friendship, as well as those of speculation. Nor was his practical activity paralysed by his belief in the probationary character of the present stage of its existence. 'He was an excellent citizen, and, when his country called, a brave soldier in addition to his labours as a teacher. With fully as much truth as Spinoza he may be said to have lived his life. The belief in a future state of higher and purer happiness to be enjoyed hereafter which shed its serene light over his last hours, even if it was illusion, was certainly not to him a source of misery. The same may be said with regard to Christians. Monastic asceticism is a perversion of Christianity ; and so is every religious fancy which makes people shut themselves off from society and its duties, or refuse innocent enjoyment. That believers in Christianity have attained the practical ends of the present life as completely as any secularist is surely an undeniable fact. Equally undeniable is it that they have risen to the highest excellence in all callings, not excepting either that of the man of science or that of the soldier. Even enthusiasts have been foremost in their time as men of action; nor is this wonderful, since singleness of aim and freedom from the lower temptations cannot fail to be great elements of moral force. Everything which tends to health and length of days is just as congenial to Christianity as to Secularism: nothing, in truth, is more sanitary or conducive to longevity than Christian purity of life. Intellect and art, with all their enjoyments, are not less certainly parts of a reasonable Christian's heritage. Christianity cannot be called pessimistic: it first kindled for humanity the light of hope; the nations which have accepted it have been progressive, while all has been stationary beyond its pale. Nor is it to be assumed on the other hand that Materialism or Agnosticism is synonymous with Optimism. Schopenhauer is not an Optimist ; and he is able to support his theory with arguments of formidable force, drawn, not only from the condition of man, which social effort may change, though it can neither get rid of death nor of bercavement, but from the unchangeable constitution of nature, which must always gravely affect man's estate. If any one would be likely to fold his hands, renounce the duties of life, and let a doomed world perish in its own way, it would be an Agnostic of the Schopenhauer school. Still the difference between the two views of existence is not only immense in itself, but must exert a great influence on action and character ; and Mr. Wolf deserves our thanks for presenting so broadly and frankly the view which he and his school espouse. The secularist will pursue his temporal end with an undivided mind, and, therefore, possibly with more success. Conscience has been called by Taine a product of Christianity ; and whatever may be its genesis, it will probably be found on analysis now to contain in it a religious element, without which it could neither assume to speak with authority nor appeal from human opinion to anything higher ; and it is very probable that it may sometimes interefere with the playing of a successful game. There may be reason for thinking that a believer in another world will be at a disadvantage on the stock exchange. Resignation under adversity will, on the secularist hypothesis, lose its present basis; and affection will hardly remain unaltered, though it may, of course, continue to exist, when the idea of anything beyond a transient union is withdrawn. But it will, perhaps, be in the conduct of the masses rather than in that of individuals that the change, if a change is coming, will first appear. If temporal happiness is the goal and there is no hope beyond, it seems clearly to follow that the less fortunate classes camnot afford to lose any time in trying to grasp their share of this world's goods. They will be naturally disposed at once to use for that purpose political power or any other power that may come into their hands. For them, if they die without having tasted of the cup of pleasure, there is no compensation in store. To bid them share by mental anticipation the joys of future generations is to suppose that they have all had a university education and that their imaginations as well as their sensibilities have been cultivated to the highest point. If they are asked to sacrifice thomselves to posterity, they will be apt to ask with the Irish member what posterity has done for them.

A Bystander.
Lemon Juice has this property, that what is written in it can be read in water quite as well as by fire, and when the paper is dried the writing disappears again till it is steeped afresh, or again held to the fire. But anything written with orange juice is at once washed out by water and cannot be read at all in that way; and if held to the fire, though the characters are thus made to appear, they will not disappear ; so that a letter of this sort once read can never be delivered to any one as if it had not been read. The party will see at once that it has been read, and will certainly disown and refuse it if it should contain anything dangerous.

## HERE AND THERE.

On Saturday, St. Luke's Day, the new chapel of Trinity College, reared largely through the munificence of Messrs. James and Elmes Henderson, was consecrated with imposing forms. The chapel by its beauty does high credit to its architect, though its site, breaking the façade of the main building, is unfortunate. Three bishops were present. The Bishop of Ontario preached a sermon on religious education and the relation of religion to science, which showed great mastery of composition, though the flank of the reasoning might perhaps have been turned by M. Le Sueur. The Bishop tried theoretically to admit free and scientific enquiry in religious matters, yet practically to shut it out. The consecration ceremony was followed by a luncheon, with pleasant and hearty speeches from the Lieutenant-Governor and others. Allusions to university confederation seemed to be well received. Dr. Nelles, the Principal of the Methodist university, was present, and spoke in the most kindly terms, not only of Trinity College, but of the Church of England, in the writings of whose great divines he avowed that he had found his best intellectual food.

If Canadian bakers in the near future find their occupation gone they will have only their own short-sighted greed to blame. As compared with the price of flour, bread is beyond all question too dear, and if the distributors of this prime article of food do not presently content themselves with a less exhorbitant rate of profit, the people will assuredly begin to supply themselves, as is generally done in England. The shopkeepers' bête noir in that country is the co-operative store-an institution which owes its inception principally to the high prices charged by retailers for necessities of the table and toilet. Scarcely a town of any magnitude but has its co-operative associations, the shares of which are for the most part held by working-men. Under this scheme all business is conducted upon the cash system, profits being divided amongst customers with a limited preferential call to pay interest on the shares. Originally established for the supply of food at reasonable prices, these institutions rapidly developed, and are now practically huge bons marches for the retailing of every conceivable article of necessity or comfort. Bread rings, coal rings, milk rings, may succeed in forcing up prices for a time, but only so long as consumers consent to submit: once they are driven to co-operation and the storekeeper's palmy days of large profits are gone.

IF it should unfortunately be shown that the attempted destruction of the Parliamentary Buildings in Quebec was the work of Irish dynamiters, it would not be necessary to go far to find a reason for the diabolical outrage. The Irish National League is not flourishing financially-this much is acknowledged by Mr. Harrington, a prominent member-and that means the disintegration of the Parnellite faction. The Irish "Patriotism" of to-day is a plant whose roots must be constantly nourished by a golden stream or it immediately languishes. It is perfectly well understood that some members-including the most blatant and seditious-of the Home Rule Party in Parliament are men of no substance, whose salaries are paid out of the Irish National League funds, and an exhaustion of these means the ruin of the party as a popular or parliamentary power. In Ireland, subscriptions in aid of "the cause" have dwindled almost to disappearance, and though Mr. Parnell, having secured a handsome share of the spoils, may not be greatly concerned at the situation, his lieutenants who hoped to rise to popularity and a competence on the fiood of agitation are dismayed at the prospect. Even in America enthusiasm for Home Rule would seem to have spent itself-or, perhaps, it is overshadowed by the Presidential election. Whatever the cause, no assistance has been sent for some time to Ireland, and it is not at all unnatural to suppose that the fiat has gone forth: "Something must be done." The fact that previous dynamite explosions have often been coincident with an emaciated Fenian exchequer, together with the significant boast of the man who loves to be known as O'Dynamite Rossa, makes it only too possible that the Quebec outrage may have been the work of Irish Thugs.

Montreal is, after all, to have another ice carnival. A liberal subscription has been taken up for this purpose, and the promoters give solemn assurance that every effort will be made to prevent extortion and to punish parties guilty of that offence. The enterprising gentlemen who have the management intend that the forthcoming festivities shall entirely eclipse anything hitherto attempted.

There were twenty-two failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's - during the past week as compared with twenty in the preceding week and with thirty-one, twenty-seven, and thirteen, respectively, in the correspond-
ing weeks of 1883, 1882, and 1881. In the United States there were 209 failures in the same period as compared with 213 in the preceding week, and with 180,141 , and 109 , respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882, and 1881. About eighty-three per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was under $\$ 5,000$.

Lady Verney, in the Contemporary Review, has, at all events, found a way of delivering a thrust at the Americans which they will have difficulty in parrying. She takes their society and manners as painted by themselves in their works of fiction, and a telling use she makes of this undeniably authentic evidence. "The first and most striking trait," she says, " in their books, is the extraordinary respect for class distinction, position, gentility and money, among the characters described, with scarcely an exception. The highest feature in a girl's cap is to have refused a British nobleman, or at least one of the British 'aristocrats.' Next comes the value set upon dress. The importance of the gown question can hardly be imagined by the European mind. A French heroine is of course bien mise, and her chaussure is probably insisted on; the petites mules or the bas bien tirés. An English girl must be picturesque in her attire and her clothes must be becoming; but to say that her gowns came from Paris would not enhance her charms in the eyes of the readers, who would probably consider her very absurd for her pains.

A list of Miss Lydia Blood's gowns, as given by so clever a man as Mr. Howells, might be drawn up for the advantage of milliners. Miss Daisy Miller's flounces and the many buttons of her gloves are among the chief points of her portrait by Mr. James." "Dress becomes a nightmare, until at last it is evident that a new commandment has been added to the heroine's decalogue: Thou shalt have thy gowns from Paris."

Of the three new books which are said to be agitating society and literary circles in London-Mr. Froude's "Carlisle," Lord Malmesbury's "Memoirs," and Miss Devey's "Autobiography of Lady Lytton"-the latter, has caused the most painful interest. Nothing since Mrs. Beecher Stowe's Macmillan paper has created so great a sensation. Briefly, the raison d'être of the book is as follows: Lady Lytton, who died two and a-half years ago in her eigthieth year, never forgave her husband for the brutal outrage he inflicted on her fifty years before. She nursed her wrath till her dying day, and put in the hands of a friend, Miss Louisa Devey, the most damning evidence of her husband's evil nature, to be used at the most suitable time " in vindication of her memory." The publication of the life of Lord Lytton by his son has furnished the faithful and remorseless executrix the opportunity for which she was lying in wait. The letters published in the volume she has issued furnish a lamentable exhibition of folly, passion, and crime which makes humanity blush. Miss Wheeler, when Mr. Bulwer began to court her, was a great beauty, and he seems to have sacrificed himself, soul, body and intellect, at her shrine. He invented a "little language" in which he wrote disgusting love letters to her. He addressed her as " My adored poodle," and signed himself "Oo own puppo." In one letter he wrote :

Me is so happy, me is wagging my tail and putting my ears down. Me is to meet oo to-morrow. . The best plan about the carriage will be for you to get in When you are once in pat down ye blinds. 0 street, so that you will enter it alo out of my skin for joy.
In another letter he says:
Did oo not look too pretty, and did not all the puppy dogs run after oo and tell 00 what a darling oo was? Ah, me sends oo nine million kisses, to be distributed as fol-ows- 500,000 for 00 beautiful mouth, 250,000 to oo right eye, 250,000 to oo left eye, 1,000,000 to 00 dear neck, and the rest to be divided equally between 00 arms and
hands. After six years of unhappy married life a final quarrel came. Lord Lytton objected to his wife going to a christening accompanied by Lady Stepney, saying, as Lady Lytton writes, " My mother calls her that ugly old woman." Lady Lytton did not reply. The scene took place at dinner. The servants had been ordered out of the room. He cursed his wife's soul. He seized a carving knife, and running at her said, "'ll have you to know that whenever I do you the honour of addressing you it requires an answer." He dropped the knife on his wife's remonstrance, but, as Lady Lytton proceeds, "springing on me he made his great teeth meet in my cheek and the blood spurted over me. The agony was so that my screams brought the servants back." Lady Lyiton's story is carefully buttressed by corroborative evidence, including the affidavit of her maid, Mrs. Rosetta Benson, who speaks of an occasion at Naples in which "in one of his brutal rages he kicked and banged her ladyship against the stone floor at the Hotel Vittoria till she was black and blue." All this time Mr. Bulwer's greatest ambition, as his letters reveal, was to get a baronetage as a step to the peerage.

A usually well-informed correspondent says that a new biography of Dickens will probably be in the hands of the public before the winter is over. "The writer," it is said, " was intimately associated with Dickens during many years of his life previous to its sudden close at Gad's Hill, and will be able to enter very minutely into some phases of his life which have not hitherto been dealt with in literature." It is so long since anything personal relating to the great novelist was given on a scale commensurate with the importance of the subject that the news will be welcomed by all students and lovers of "Pickwick."

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the enterprising American who has written a couple of fairly successful books and established a "syndicate" of papers in England, has been interviewed with interesting results. His newspaper undertaking, it may be well to premise, is of a semi-political character, and by it he confidently hopes to convince Englishmen how much more pleasant a dwelling-place their country would be if the political and social tenets of Mr. Carnegie were made the law and the gospel of Britain. He holds that the affection Englishmen are supposed to entertain for their existing institutions is a sham. He believes that if a ballot were now taken throughout the United Kingdom, and every respectable citizen of twentyone were allowed a vote, a majority would be found in favor of electing the chief magistrate at the death of the Queen. He recommends a British Republic as the most promising means of reconciling Irish antipathy to Great Britain, and under those circumstances he thinks England may still have a part in the world's history.

Had the printer of Junius' letters been a man of no stricter integrity than the compositor who the other day betrayed a Government secret, what an amount of learned discussion the world had lost! It is delightfully refreshing in view of the indignities daily put upon the "fourth estate" by those to whom its honour is entrusted, to remember that William Woodfall, printer of the Public Advertizer, went down to his grave holding the key of an enigma which thousands of his contemporaries were burning to solve. The good people of Chelsea are proposing to erect a memorial to Woodfall, the promoters alleging with some show of reason that the man deserves to live in the recollection of posterity who, by a single imprudent word could have let loose upon the head of his mysterious contributor the wrath of an insulted king and embarrassed ministers, and probably have pointed a dozen rapiers at his breast ; but who, under every kind of temptation to utter it in self-defence, and exposed to every species of risk by letting it fall incautiously, nevertheless lived and died with that word unspoken.

Nowadays we are nothing if not scientific. The latest evolution of social science is the therry that the human frame ought to be clothed in animal tissues and materials. Cotton, linen, and the other fibres so extensively used in the manufacture of clothing absorb poisonous emanations from animals, whilst wool and other animal coverings are intended by nature to assist the evaporation of deleterious matters from the body, and when incorporated in human clothing still subserve the same ends. The revolution of apparel entailed by the new system is complete, extending to all the under garments, and to the linings of the dress. Dr. Jaeger is the founder of the new faith, which is known as a " new Gospel from Germany for the physical regeneration of mankind." It has, we are told, been extensively reduced to practice in Germany and Russia. Dr. Jaeger is not content with caring for our health in the office and the public streets, but pursues us into our bedrooms, where he insists upon ibanishing linen or cotton sheets, and even covers our mattresses and our pillows with wool or cashmere. Like all enthusiasts, he is an out-and-out believer in his own doctrines, and leaves us not a rag or a thread of vegetable matter to bless ourselves with. But the shock thus given to our habits and prejudices is not to be without its reward. The action of the skin is to be so stimulated that the bad humours will all be purged from the body, corpulence will be reduced, the flesh will become firm and hardened, and the nervous system strengthened. Were Dr. Jaeger the inventor of a new pill or a new ointment he could hardly promise us a more complete emancipation from all fleshy ills than he offers to those who adopt his new sanitary clothing.

The outline of the English parliamentary autumn session becomes rapidly filled in with parliamentary work of all kinds. It seems to be inevitable that the expenditure for the Egyptian campaign, which is estimated at the exaggerated amount of $\$ 750,000$ weekly, should be provided for, and that long discussions should arise over the financial and political situation in Egypt. The Irish members promise to bring their own budget of grievances, and to make the House of Commons ring with their denunciations of Lord Spencer's administration. And it is blandly
suggested that the Premier will propose the vote of a grant for the separate establishment required by Prince Edward of Wales. The latter item of news is not credible. The Premier would need a Ways and Means Bill to provide the funds for such a grant, and it is impossible, one would suppose, that such urgency can exist as would necessitate throwing such an additional burden upon the few weeks to, which an autumn session can extend.

## CONFEDERATION OR DISMEMBERMENT?

The conference recently held in London to promote Imperial Confederation affirmed the desirability of a closer political union of the Empire, prudently leaving the means of attaining that object for future consideration. The great journals of England seem unanimously to have endorsed the views and action of the conference, which have since been advocated on the platform by Lord Rosebery and other prominent speakers. A proposed clause, to the effect that a closer union is essential to prevent total dismemberment, was struck out of the resolutions at the desire, it is said, of a prominent Canadian. If this erased clause conveyed a truth, as $I$ believe it did, it is a truth which should not have been suppressed. An early and constant recognition of it would surely help to bring the present agitation to some practical conclusion. Separation is too serious a crisis to drift upon blindly and phlegmatically.

It is likely that England herself would shake off, sooner or later, colonies which accept the protection of her army, navy, and diplomatic service without contributing one dollar to their support, and which refuse to grant her commercial reciprocity. Some of the North American colonies cut adrift from the Mother Country because she taxed them; possibly the Mother Country may cut adrift from the others because they, indirectly, tax her.

But for the larger colonies also, whether it involve their independence or honourable union with neighbouring colonies or states, the dismemberment of the Empire seems preferable to their being subordinate dependencies for ever. If grown-up sons cannot co-operate serviceably in business with each other and their parents, giving and taking a fair quid pro quo, better for them to set up for themselves than keep the family together by continuing in infantile dependence on their father. Such important regions as Australia and Canada should be full members in any imperial or republican union. They should politely decline back seats without the privilege of speaking.

At present the issues Canadian statesmen have to deal with are too restricted. They have no school for diplomacy, no foreign policy to frame, no navy, and only a Lilliputian army to manage. The qualities needed to conduct these departments languish in this country and may eventually die out from disuse. In his memorable book, "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," Professor Drummond gives striking instances of the degeneracy attending the non-exercise of certain faculties in various animals. The hermit-crab, for example, having long ago adopted the cheap expedient of occupying vacant shells, "has ceased to exercise itself upon questions of safety and dwells in its little shell as proudly and securely as if its second-hand house were a fortress erected especially for its private use.
"Wherein, then, has the hermit suffered for this cheap but real solution of a practical difficulty? Whether its laziness costs it any moral qualms, or whether its cleverness becomes to it a source of congratulation, we do not know; but judged from the appearance the animal makes under the searching eye of the zoologist, its expedient is certainly not one to be commended. To the eye of science its sin is written in the plainest characters on its very organization. It has suffered in its own anatomical structure just by as much as it has borrowed from an external source. Instead of being a perfect crustacean it has allowed certain important parts of its body to deteriorate, and several vital organs are wholly atrophied.
"As an important item in the day's work, namely, the securing of shelter and safety, was now guaranteed to it, one of the chief inducements to a life of high and vigilant effort was at the same time withdrawn. A number of functions in fact struck work.
"Every normal crustacean has the abdominal region of the body covered by a thick chitinous shell. In the hermits this is represented only by a thin and delicate membrane-of which the sorry figure the creature cuts when drawn from its foreign hiding-place is sufficient evidence. Any one who now examines further this half-naked and woebegone object will perceive, also, that the fourth and fifth pairs of limbs are either so small and wasted as to be quite useless or altogether rudimentary; and, although certainly the additional development of the
extremity of the tail into an organ for holding on to its extemporized retreat may be regarded as a slight compensation, it is clear from the whole structure of the animal that it has allowed itself to undergo severe degeneration."

This analogy was intended by Professor Drummond to explain the decay of the spiritual faculties due to sheltering oneself inertly in dogmas without practising virtues or combating doubts. But we may use it to foreshadow the decline of healthy political activity, and the consequent impairment of mental virility, in a country that elects to remain in leading strings. And are not the beginnings of such a decline visible to-day? How petty are our interests, how small most of our public questions, how narrow our sympathies! How much more do Canadians generally speculate upon the prospects of a local election than on the prospects of a great war in which the Empire may be involved, but in the cost of which they have no immediate interest! Can we in this country be expected to feel the same pride as Scotchmen or loyal Irishmen in the exploits of an army or navy which they help to pay for but we do not. An Englishman feels a sense of ownership, as well as of security, when he sees a British ironclad at anchor in a foreign port ; but a Canadian can experience the latter feeling only. A Vermonter can "enthuse" over a diplomatic success achieved by a Marylander, or fume over some foreign outrage to a Californian, with an excitement that no public event outside Provincial or Dominion politics can arouse in the semi-enfranchised Canadian, who has nothing to do, directly or indirectly, with the cost or conduct of the Imperial army, navy, legislature, or diplomatic service. Yet some Canadian statesmen say, Sir Francis Hincks is quoted as saying, that we don't want any voice in the distant councils of the Empire. If so, in the name of our self-respect, let us form or let us join some sovereign body politic in which we shall want and shall claim a hearing. For the degeneracy that arises from letting qualities lie fallow is less excusable in a nation than in a hermit-crab. The life of an individual pagurus ends with the individual; the life of a nation continues from one generation to another. Could each particular pagurus reason, it might reason plausibly that, in its " jife of nothings nothing worth," it pays to secure its private comfort at the expense of racial degeneration ; but law-makers, who profess to legislate for a nation and not themselves, cannot dare to formulate distinctly any such argument.

The probability of increased taxation is the most potent argument against Imperial Confederation, Annexation, and Independence. But it is not a conclusive argument, at all events against the first two of these schemes. A certain increase in taxation might be a cheap price for the increased self-reliance and enterprise, and the larger patriotism to be expected from enlarging our public needs and interests-even if the growth of these qualities should not somewhat reduce the cost of administering existing departments of our Government. Canadian patriotism at present displays itself mainly in the merit-barring ory of "Canada for the Canadians," "Manitoba for the Manitobans," "Qucbec for the Quebeckers," each county for its own peoplo, each town for its own townsmen. A takeall and give-nought disposition is being fostered by our semi-parasitic status. Such a disposition deters immigrants, and in the long run impoverishes a State. Had not the "Know-nothing" party been decisively defeated in the Presidential election of 1856 , the subsequent immigration would, no doubt, have been smaller and the growth of the country seriously retarded.

To escap 0 political degenoration (involving to some extent mental, moral, and material degeneration also), we must have co-ordinate, not subordinate, membership in a British Imperial Confederation, or in the United States, or we must havo Independence. The fact that the first of these alternatives is at once pronounced impracticable by most of our socalled politicians only shows the cramping and numbing effect of our hermit-crab condition on our mental energies, and our growing inability or reluctance to grapple with large issues. If the greater colonies accept the principle of a co-ordinate union, in which Oanada, Australia, Ireland, Scotland, England, shall be politically the peers of one another, legislating and taxed for imperial objects proportionally to their resources, then the method will be arranged afterwards.

The yearning of the dependencies of the Roman Empire was for full civitas, the right of voting and holding imperial offices. And the pride of full citizenship in a confederated British Empire would be better grounded than even the pride of full citizenship in the Empire of Rome. Such a confederation could dare any European combination. With the alliance of its sister Anglo-Saxon power, the United States, it could smile at the jealousy of other great nations and their somewhat tardy longings for colonial empire. "Why," we might then complacently ask, with the selfrightcousness of our race, "do the heathen so furiously rage together, and
why do the people imagine a vain thing! Why do the kings of the earth stand up and the rulers take counsel together to break our bonds asunder? Know they not that we are given the heathen for our inheritance and the utmost parts of the earth for our possession?"

Francis Blake Crofton.

## THE ANGLICAN CHURCH CONGRESS.

The Church Congress, after having established itself as a useful and almost necessary institution in the Old Country, has found its way to the New World, and has already secured considerable popularity in the United States, and made a very good beginning in the Dominion of Canada.

It was remarked the other day by a thoughtful and well informed writer in the Mail that there was a need for the Church Congress in England, which can hardly be said to exist in this country. This was eminently the case at the time when the first Congress was held in England between twenty and thirty years ago. At that time the only consultative bodies belonging to the Church of England were the not very interesting and influential Convocations of Canterbury and York, which not only had the disadvantage of meeting for only three or four weeks in the whole year, but which were, and still are, composed exclusively of clergymen.

It is impossible to over-estimate the importance and influence of the Congress meetings on the English Church. They proved, for one thing, that Churchmen, holding opinions the most diverse, could meet together and discuss questions the most burning without any serious amount of excited feeling, especially when the presiding Bishop happened to be a man of more than average firmness and tact. There can be no doubt that these meetings contributed largely to the movement for the holding of diocesan conferences or synods throughout the whole Church; so that we believe there are only two or three dioceses in England, if so many, in which these gatherings are not now held.

It might have been thought that, in such an improved state of things, the necessity for congresses would have past away; but such has not been found to be the case, and for obvious reasons. Meetings of particular dioceses will never take the place of assemblies in which the whole Church is represented ; and even if a National Synod should assomble in England, containing representatives, lay and clerical, from all the dioceses, which is greatly to be wished, the Congress would still be useful. An assembly which possesses something like legislative power, and in which resolutions and amendments are proposed and carried or rejected, must always have a certain restraint placed upon the liberty of discussion which is possessed by an assembly which is purely deliberative.

For this and other reasons there is, at the present moment, even greater need for Congresses in Canada than in England. It is not merely that our Synods, useful as they are, are overdone with mere routine business which has very little interest for many of those who are present, nor is it merely that the business transacted in these is carried on almost entirely by way of resolution; but further, the kind of subjects which find their proper place in the discussions of a Church Congress would, to a great extent, be inappropriate in a diocesan synod. The proceedings of the Congress just closed must satisfy almost all that took part in them that much may be taught and learned at such gatherings which could have no place in the legislative assemblies of the Church.

There can be no doubt that the Toronto Congress was, on the whole, a very successful one. Complaints have been made that sufficient publicity was not given beforehand to the proposed proceedings. These fault-finders can hardly know the serious expense of getting up and carrying through a Church Congress, and the impossibility of expending further large sums in advertising. [n England a great deal is done in this way, but then the charge for admission is nearly two dollars, and a considerable guarantee fund is raised by Churchmen belonging to the locality in which the Congress is held.

On some other points we think that suggestions have been made which are worthy of consideration. It is an excellent idea to have members of the Congress Committee chosen for the various dioceses of the Dominion; but the local element should be larger, there should be a considerable number of local clergymen and laymen on the committee, and there should be a separation of the "Subjects" Committee from the Business Committee, and perhaps some other sub-committees for the making of the necessary arrangements. Then there should be, as in England and in the United States, a local secretary for convening the meetings of the committees and otherwise superintending the preparations for the Congress. Churchmen are under great obligations to Dr. Mockridge for his valuable services. It is to him that we are indebted for giving a practical form to
the desire for these congresses ; and it is quite necessary that there should still be a general secretary to see that arrangements are made for the next meeting of the Congress; but a local secretary is also indispensable.

With a chairman at once so gentle and so firm as the Bishop of Toronto, the proceedings could hardly go otherwise than smoothly; but congresses are not always so highly favoured, and it would be well that some understanding should be arrived at, that the time allotted to the readers and speakers should be adhered to. At the Detroit Congress, held the week before that of Toronto, the Bishop of Michigan was relentless. On the whole it is the best way. There are some disadvantages, but they are more than counterbalanced by the gains. If, however, as may sometimes be the case, it is thought desirable to allow a paper or a speech to be completed, there should be some limit assigned to the liberty conceded. Another thing should be mentioned. Church congresses and all such gatherings are often afflicted with bores who insist upon speaking upon almost every subject that comes up. English congresses have been greatly tried in this way, and there are not wanting signs that the species indicated flourishes in Canada. It is quite right, as a general rule, that the speakers should be summoned to the platform in the order in which they send in their cards, but the presiding Bishop should certainly feel at liberty to exercise some discretion on this point.

With regard to the discussions at the recent Congress, it seems to us that the subjects were well chosen, and that the proceedings were creditable to the intelligence and the good feeling of Canadian Churchmen. The tone adopted by every one of the readers, as, far as we have heard, was calm, thoughtful, earnest and tolerant. Men were able to hold and assert their Own opinions firmly without refusing to others the liberty which they claimed for themselves. As regards the interest of the respective meetings, as far as we have been able to learn, the discussion on the "Church and Modern Thought" was one of the most attractive. The subject is of deep importance. The number present was far larger than at any other meeting, and both of the American Bishops present at the Congress took part in the proceedings, so that they could hardly fail to interest. It is a matter of congratulation that such questions should be discussed with - perfect freedom and with competent knowledge, and that it should be made so clear that Churchmen can hold firmly their own creed without the slightest apprehension of the effects of scientific inquiry, or the slightest desire to interfere with the man of science in his investigations.

Another very interesting discussion was that which was devoted to the question of attaching the people to the Church. Without expressing approval of all that was then proposed, we are able to say that all the speakers showed themselves keenly alive to the importance of the question and thoroughly practical in their mode of dealing with it. The paper of Mr. Jenkins, although a large part of it did not bear directly upon the subject, was a very able one, and fit to be read before any assembly of English Churchmen. .The remarks of Mr. McClure were admirable, not only in the strong common sense which they manifested, but from the proof which they gave that the speaker was no mere theorist.

A good discussion was the one on "Missions," and although we quite share in the antipathy expressed by one gentleman to the prominent place given to the money question, yet we fear that Missions are so far like other human agencies that they cannot be carried on without the sinews of war. It must not be supposed, from our passing over the greater number of the discussions, that we are undervaluing either the importance of the subjects discussed, or the ability of those who took part in the discussion. We have no hesitation in saying that, in the common sense shown in the selection of the subjects and in the character of the papers and speeches, the Toronto Congress will bear comparison with congresses held in England and in the United States.
C.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

notices to correspondents.
Qaniliar with the facts of the case.

## To the Editor of The Week:

## annexation.

Sir,-Is not " $R$ " somewhat " too previous" when he says "every man who Observes closely" must acknowledge that " Union with the Repablic" is "the ultimate destiny of Canada?" I am not quite sure about this "must." This "ultimate desting" recedes with time. Canada is daily drifting farther away from annexation. It Would not tax one's powers of "observation" very severely to produce ten solid reasons Why Canada should not link her destinies with those of the nation south of us, for the one which " $R$ " can furnish why we should. Doubtless "real prosperity" is " the aim of government," and "the coveted destiny of a nation "" but we must first decide as to what constitutes real prosperity. If this is to be measured by material standards only, annexation may be the best thing for Canada. But, if moral and political con-
siderations be given due place, blind indeed must he be who cannot see that we are immeasurably better off as we are.
"A Southerner" stated a pregnant fact (if it is a fact) when he pictured "America" as "the most corrupt and perhaps the least cultured of all civilized nations." She is not a growth from the lower deeps of humanity, like many other nations, rising "on stepping stones of her dead self" to higher things. She did not slowly emerge from Savagery or Barbarism. She started on a level with the best. And now, one American asks, "Are we $\Omega$ nation of rascals?" in viow of State repudiations; and anothor brands her as " most corrupt" and " least cultured!"
"Bystander," as a literary prince, has no more ardent an admirer than myself; but, if he thinks Canada would do a wise thing in casting in her lot with the Repablic, I cannot agree. And this, not from any rabbishy sentiment of loyalty alone. One century is no test of the great Republican experiment. The Tariff and slave questions have already slit her in twain, and the gash is hardly yet cicatrised. The negro question is a wedge whose edge is fast entering. Mormonism will spread till the wide West is impregnated with its unholy lusts. Every four years the huge political cauldron boils furiously over, casting up its slime, and poisoning the very air with the malodor. ousness of politics. Worse still, in that country the prospective law-breaker elects his own judge; and, of courso, justice largely hinges on gratitude, revenge, influence or monoy. But, were all of this black record wiped out to-morrow, there remains one grand objection against union, the laxity of the laws of marriage. If marriage is an institution, divine, most sacred, and most salutary; if it is the very foundation-stone of the social fabric, without which this earth would be a pandemonium; the growing contempt for its sanctities over yonder, the flimsiness of its bonds, and the danger of their ultimate disappearance altogether, furnish Canada only too valid a reason to shrink from the mesalliance.

Semi-republican as we are, Canada knows no such extreme republicans as does England or the Continent. We will do as we are till old onongh to keep house. We have a great wido country, and we want it for ourselves. In our case the best of English liberty is blended with the best of American, without the tyrannies of class on the one hand or mob on the other. What lack we of good that annexation would bestow upon us? I shall be pointed to some mighty impetus of a purely material character which Canada would receive from alliance with the States. Well, what of that? Shall man "live by bread alone?" Is gold the only God? Were our calm, quiet, slow-moving, life-onjoying communities crowded with Vanderbilt's, and the land studded with palaces, would the sum of our felicity be one whit increased?
S. McSlogan.

To the Editor of the Weck:
Sir,-While riding in a railroad car between Clayton and Utica, New York Stato, I read in Tur Wres of the 2nd inst. an article by " $R$," in which a comparison was mado between the prices of provisions and groceries in Emorson, Manitoba, and in Pembina, Dakota, showing that they were dearer in the former place than in the latter. Somewhat oddly, in the very same hour that I read the article, I was in conversation with a lady who, without any allusion having been made to the prices in the West, in. formed me that many persons on the American side of the St. Lawrence crossed over to the cities in Canada to purchase dry-goods, because most of these can be bought cheaper in Canada than in New York State. If this difference in the prices of drygoods prevails in the West, it is something of an offset to the higher prices of groceries and provisions in Manitoba.

Yours, eto.,
P.

Ottawa, Oct. 18, 1884.

## THE GREAT QUESTION.

Vexed spirit, fold thy wings: why ever pine
In aspirations infinite as old,
Whose loving discontent still seeks the shrine
Paved with Faith's interwoven squares of gold?
Still yearning after good-backsliding still
Into the senseless follies of an hour-
Till man must hold that his most boasted will O'er small temptations has no touch of power-
I know not why I suffer or rejoice, Or why my heart-strings sound to varied chords;
I can but feel the great mysterious voice
Which stirs all harmonies in one-the Lord's.
For ever and for ever, it would seem,
Onward the mighty Music's numbers roll ;
And, spite of sense, my puny self I deem
Some fitting part of that majestic whole.
I feel that worthily to fill that part
I must renounce Self's too unworthy side,
And kill the weeds that choke both mind and heart, With noxious growth sweet flowers to over-ride.
Wherefore must good and ill upon the earth In a disordered order blended reign? And out of every love and joy give birth To some wild shape of evil and of pain?
The very things that save may turn to harm, The happiest instincts work unhappiness; The very blessing with most power to charm Awake the question, what it is to bless.

Thou paradox supreme-thou riddle met
At every turning o'er and o'er again,
Till every mortal creature half forget
That he but shares it with other all men-

## That ever since Being to being sprang

And Life her all-embracing flag unfurled,
Like some huge millstone round our necks doth hang
The great perplexity we call the World.
Oh, give us rest ! oh, hush the yearning cry Of souls, for souls they are, that to all light
Round and about them yet prefer the Why,
Which strains to solve the mysteries of Night !
Through whatsoever labyrinths we go,
Whate'er highroads or byways we have trod,
Oh, grant us all alike at last to know
The one solution of the problem-God!
Teach us to feel, that were Earth pleasure all,
No $\sin$ or sorrow to obscure the scene,
Immortal hopes on mortal thoughts might pall ;
Were this world Heaven, then Heaven could nothing mean.

- Spectator.

Herman C. Merivale.

## A FRAXINELLA.

[Translated from the German for Tere Weri.]

## A rainy day in venioe.

I fancy there are few things so utterly depressing as a rainy day in Venice. No doubt such days are more or less so all the world over; but in Venice they mean despair! In the mountains one finds a certain charm in watching the white vapours alternately embracing and repulsing the lofty rocks. In the valleys the flowers look but fairies, smiling through their tears of dew. But in Venice the dripping walls of the mouldering old palaces, the ceaseless, sad, monotonous sound of the rain-drops falling on the stagnant water of the lagunes; no gondolas, no pigeons, in sightthose black and white pearls of Ocean's faded but still lovely queennothing but one dreary expanse of water, around, above, below them; indeed, it seems as if some malignant spirit had left us on some deserted isle where sunshine and laughter never came. On just such a dreary, disconsolate day a Genius and a Star sat opposite each other in a salon of the Palazzo Ginstiniani.

## a rainy day in life.

They sat in one of the arcade-like balconies of the palace, and the Star gazed dreamily out over the dreary lagunes to where San Giorgio rose in the distance. The Star was an animated, attractive-looking woman with brilliant dark eyes; her dark hair was worn high off the forehead, her gown was a simple one of white muslin, and a pale blue ribbon tied carelessly around the waist was the only bit of colour about her. In her mobile face, that of a Spaniard or Creole, was mirrored oach passing emotion, and her hand beat impatient time on the velvet cushion of the balustrade to the current of her thoughts. The Genius who sat opposite her was a man, young, of graceful figure, with fair hair, of a somewhat bleached appearance; round, rather languishing eyes, a pale face, $\mathfrak{a}$ thin but most carefully trimmed beard; and dressed in the newest, but also the stiffest of clothes, for he seemed to have very little room for sudden or rash movement. The first glimpse at this individual irresistibly reminded one of a monkey on a hurdy-gurdy. The tone of his voice was high and thin, which added to the impression of effeminacy and his manner of spcaking, was almost as depressing as the rain outside

The Star was Maria Malibran, and the Genius Vicenzo Bellini.
She was singing this season in the Venice theatre, and in her honour Bellini had himself directed the performance of his "Sonnambula" the previous evening.

He was in love with her-a fact which she had read only too easily in every tone and gesture; but until now he had been silent.

Now he had spoken ; and Maria had laughed! Could she have done otherwise? She; the vivacious, impulsive child of the South? More than once the knowledge that this man loved her had afforded her much secret amusement, which detracted nothing, however, from the inimitable humour of his present declaration-his vows of an eternal, unconquerable passion, couched in such correct and well-arranged phrases, and accompanied by such frequent and most melodramatic sighs.

With a swift, pretty gesture Maria lifted a small hand-glass that lay on a table beside her and held it before the disturbed features of Bellini. "Ah! cher Bellini," she cried, in a tone half of remonstrance, half of anger, "do look at yourself!"

She thought thus to find an excuse for her laughter. Bellini was disconcerted and slightly changed colour ; he looked nevertheless, but what he saw was merely carefully arranged hair, a heart-shaped mouth, eyes as blue as forget-me-nots, and a blameless cravat.
"Eh, bien!" he exclaimed somewhat anxiously, as if to imply, "Am I not a distinctly beautiful specimen of humanity?"

Maria grew embarrassed. After all she could scarcely tell him that she despised, not his ugliness, but his effeminacy. She could not say to
him, "Look at your girlish face and mincing ways, and then at me, the wayward Southern nature with heart of fire!" She could only stammer:
"Dear Bellini, can you not understand that all this is absurd?"
"Absurd! that I should love you!" he cried, much offended.
"Naturally!"
"But why?"
"Why? O because !" she exclaimed in despair, turning to gaze out again over the lagunes as if seeking for comfort ; but it seemed as if the rain were falling into her heart as well-drop by drop.
"Absurd or not," he cried, "it is my fate, and I have loved you from the first, Maria. It came to me like the dawning of a new life. Have you not felt that every note I ever wrote was inspired by you? And now, alas! you laugh at me, and my heart is broken?"

So pitiably he spoke, at the same time gently stroking the hair from his forehead, and rolling his languishing eyes in such a melancholy fashion that Maria hardly knew whether she felt most inclined to laugh or to cry. She rose, lay both her little hands on his shoulder, and with a gravity of countenance and depth of voice befitting a grandfather, she said:
"Bellini, dear friend, I am not laughing at your confession, but at the idea that you and I should ever be man and wife. I do not pretend not to find that amusing. I am your friend ; but more than friendship I cannot give you-it is impossible."
"You cannot mean that you do not know what it is to love?"
"It may be, dear Bellini! At all events I have never tried to know. Listen, mon ami. Papa Manvel married me to Malibran when I was but a child; I feared him, and cried for joy when I became free again. Per haps it sounds heartless; but at least I am truthful. You say you have written 'Sonnambula' and 'Norma' for me; and yet not exactly for me, but for Pasta ; however, I owe almost all I am to these two roles. Your music is so dear to me, so dear, so sympathetic, it seems to spring straight from by own heart-an echo of every emotion. Therefore I well believe that in art our souls are affinities. I love and honour you with deepest gratitude as my master and my friend ; but art is not the whole of life, although it makes so great a part of mine. So let us remain as we are, all in all to each other-in art."
"And nothi $y$ in life? Reflect again, Maria!" pleaded Bellini.
In the earnesi eess of the moment something of real manliness spoke in every tone.
"Consider well what you are saying. You are giving me unbearable pain."

She smiled, and rising, crossed to the mantel-shelf on which stood a vase containing a single beautiful flower. Taking it from the vase she held it towards Bellini, saying: "Look well at this fraxinella; it is a most lovely plant. When in full bloom, in May and June, an aromatic, inflammable gas forms around each flower, at night enclosing it in a circle of fire. And if you bring it too near the light (Malibran struck a match and held it close to the fraxinella) the gas becomes instantly ignited, but without injury to the flower."

And in reality the burning circle went out after a moment or so, leaving it as fresh, as beautiful as before.
"And thus, cher ami, is the love of a man, therefore your's also. The heart of a man also has its season of bud and blossom, its May and June and glorious summer-time. Then it gives out a marvellous, quickly, ignited fragrance-that is love's longing. And if it approaches too near the light, that is too near a living, impulsive human heart, it takes fire, longing is consumed in its own flames, and one says, 'He loves.' But when the gas is burned away the flower blooms on as before in the natural, quiet light of every day existence."

Malibran ended with a laugh, and with a playful gesture shook the flower in Bellini's face. But he only sighed, and answered sadly:
"We are not plants, Maria. If fragrance be the soul of a flower, it may well come and go without harm to the plant. The soul of a flower is mortal. But man's is immortal, and immortal, too, his noblest emotions, for they are born in the soul. Love is the fragrance of the human heart, and though a man may die of love, love cannot depart from him and leave peace behind."
"Ah, no, Bellini, one does not die of love, and neither will you!"
"Possibly! At least as long as you do not love any one else," he answered sharply, almost angrily, and again his effeminacy came unpleasantly to the fore. "Should you ever love another it would be my ruin. And, by Heaven! you shall feel how I can hate should you marry and are happy!"

Maria grew pale, and there swept over her a feeling of unaccountable dread. For an instant she looked at Bellini with apprehension; the next she had shaken off the unwelcome emotion.
"The rain is to blame for all this!" she cried merrily; "such weather is very depressing to the nerves, is it not?"

Our Star and Genius sat for a moment in silence, then suddenly Maria opened the piano and commenced to sing-a Spanish song-one of her father's, sunny as her home, bright as the summer skies over the roses of the Alhambra.

## beneath the gods.

The next day sunshine came again over the lagunes. The heavens smiled, and many human hearts smiled also. Madame Malibran walked on the piazzetta surrounded by a crowd of admirers. Following a sudden impulse she entered the Ohurch of St. Mark. She shivered coming out of the warm sunshine into the cold shadows of the aisles. Her mind grew pensive and lost itself in musings. She looked up to the immortal mosaic of the cupola, where she saw the colossal St. Mark, borne aloft on the crescent as in a boat, so life-like that the eye almost saw him noving through the heavens.
"So must love carry one to heaven," she murmured ; "the love that Bellini spoke of yesterday."

She looked again at the mosaic and saw the chosen ones of God, in white raiment and riding on white steeds, lose themselves in the rays of the crown that hung from the centre of the cupola, like swans in the fiery rays of the sun-rise. "So must happiness carry one to heaven," she murmured again. Strange thoughts were in the heart of our little Maria. Had her soul reached its meridian? Is its fragrance ready to lighten at a touch. Above her she saw two angels flying towards each other; one in the green robe of hope, the other in the blue robe of faith;
beside her she saw the handsome, proud face of a man whose eyes were fixed upon her with an expression at once penetrating and imperious. Lay in these eyes the flame that was to fire her loving heart? He was introduced to her as Monsieur de Beriot, the renowned violinist.

## flames.

At last love had entered the trembling, childish heart of our little Maria: love for the handsome, proud, overbearing man-an artist like herself-De Beriot. He did not woo, he won her; and she gave into his keeping her glowing southern soul and became his wife.

Bellini had borne his love in sentimental, melancholy fashion as long as she had remained devoted to her art, but from the moment of her marriage he became the prey of a most intense jealousy, grew irritable and impatient of all society. Whenever he met Maria there was at once menace, reproach and despair in his look. And Maria laughed no more; for now she knew what love was; its bitter and its sweet. She trembled beneath Bellini's gaze, in his presence, as at a wrong ; and, full of presentiment of coming eyil, she avoided him. And strange to say this reproachful gaze, this foreboding seemed to creep into his music. When she heard it hor heart was seized with nameless fears, with emotions painful in the extreme; and she sang his operas no more. She sang exclusively the music of Rossini ; the parts of Rosina, Desdemona, Ninetta; also Fidalma in Cimarosa's "Maltrimonio Segreto"-in fact in anything rather than "Norma," "Sonnumbula," "Romeo"-Romeo with his heart-rending plaints of love. If her audience insisted upon hearing that of "Romeo" she sang that of Vaccay.

This was a death-blow to Bellini. He found it bitter indeed that she should have proved untrue to him, but that she should prove untrue to his genius, to his music! That indeed was more than bitter, it was unbearable. He heard of it first in Paris. Late one summer evening some one handed him a programme proclaiming the desertion of his old friend. He sat at the piano. Twilight drew near and folded in its dark and tender embrace the wearied man and a faded laurel-wreath that lay beside him. Only over his head there played for a moment one last long gleam of sunlightthe day's farewell, the Alpine-glow of genius, the first ray from the dawn of heaven!

## inextinguishable.

Bellini was dead. But before he died he sent a last message to Maria. With trembling hand he had written: "Man is not a fraxinella, for both his love and his pain are immortal!"

Yes, his pain also. Maria now knew that this was true since she too loved in vain. When she married the man she loved she woke to find that her fame and her fortune were her only attractions in De Beriot's eyes. He had sat at the feet of Sontag-implored her to he his wife, and when she rejected him had then vowed: "Bien, if not Sontag, then it shall be Malibran!"

Just a year later, on the same day, at the same hour, Maria Malibran died in Manchester. The fragrance of her soul had killed the flower. The day of her death was "cold, and dark, and dreary;" a dense fog brooded over all things, and the rain fell sadly and monotonously in the empty streets. But far away in Spain the sun's beams shone brightly on the fraxenella blossoms, and the birds sang their blithest and sweetest songs. Such is love!

Ren.

## THE SORAP BOOK.

## americans judged from their novels.

The most interesting point in American stories is their lllustration of the position and education of women, at this moment one of the important questions of the world. In what direction ought it to be developed $\}$ Is the American model a success-a lead which it is desirable to follow out ? Do the results of the independence-the almost absolute choice allowed them, of where they will go, and what they shall do and say -tend to the happiness or the best development of the species?

Take the question of marriage for instance; many of the stories might have been written to show how much there is to say for the old world habit of allowing the parents a large voice in the choice of a husband. No French mariage de convenance, indeed, could have done worse than the young ladies do for themselves in "Washington Square," in Howells' "A Modern Instance," and in the " Portrait of a Lady," etc. At least it would be thought that their prominent position in America would have saved women from the vice of husband-hunting; but the manner in which Miss Victoria Dare in " Democracy" pursues and captures Lord Dunbeg, in which Marcia in "A Modern Instance" forces that "poor cheap sort of creature "Hubbard to marry her, is not exactly maidenly.

With regard to the older women, the type is given with curious sameness, of the matrons, aunts, mothers, elderly cousins. Limp, flaccid, nerveless, with all the aptitudes of a polypus for adhering to anything and anybody, and sucking out all the help and sustenance they require-this
is repeated so often that it must be a common character. The mother in " Daisy Miller" and "A Foregone Conclusion," the aunt in "Washington Square," etc., may be classed as "fool, fooler, foolest"-but it is only a question of degree. They go abroad with their daughters and nieoes, utterly ignorant of art, of history, without interest in scenery and even in people. To see "the convent in which Byron studied the Armenian language preparatory to writing his great poem in it," is given as the solitary bit of literature which Mrs. Vervain starts with on her travels in Italy,

Why they travel no mortal can explain, as they enjoy nothing, and would apparently be happier in watering-places and hotels at home. Mothers and daughters unattached alike thrust themselves into positions where, according to the received customs of Europe (which, whether wrong or right, are no sealed books to the heroines who always study English and French novels), they are misconstrued and ill-looked upon; as, for example, in the French pension where the Frenchmen of Mr. James suppose that they are made love to by the American heroine.

Is it a proof of the wisdom brought about by the independent attitude of the American girl that she feels herself capable of resolving every problem, and deciding on every action, from the slender stock of her own experience? The girls are depicted as ignorant and uninterested in everything on earth and in heaven; and although in the "Confessions of a Frivolous Girl" she is said to have "learnt English, French, German, Italian, physics, Latin, botany, art (?), geology, astronomy, and metaphysics," it is evident that she was (perhaps fortunately) able to leave school without having imbibed the smallest particle of information concerning any of them. She observes casually about a lecture on Spenser,
" not Mr . Herbert Spencer, as I always thought" " not Mr. Herbert Spencer, as I always thought."

Upon such stocks of vacuity they undertake to do everything, and to decide all questions with an aplomb of ignorance utterly startling. In "A Foregone Conclusion" the young lady takes lessons from a young Italian priest, much addicted to mechanical pursuits; she comes to the conclusion that he is not sufficiently "pious" for a priest, and forthwith decides, offhand, that he ought to leave the Catholic Church; after which step she and her mother (the usual fool whom the American mother is held to be) promise to take him with them to America, and launch him in a new life! He accepts the offer with joy, and they are just about to start when ${ }^{\text {ashe }}$ discovers that the man is in love with her, and that he hopes on giving up his career to be free to marry ; upon which she flings him over immediately, shows her horror of the very idea, and leaves him with scarcely a word of self-reproach. The donnée is a very difficult one, and the picture of the gentle, pure-minded, unworldly, inexperienced, child-like man is extremely touching and delicately done. He is friendless and hopeless; his uncle, an old Canonico, gets hold once more of him ; in his bitter misery he returns to his Catholic allegiance, and dies in a very short time of misery (and fever). Miss Florida is apparently troubled with no remorse for what she has done, and indeed when she returns to Venice, married to a most odious Yankee, she is made to observe, "I know that I was not to blame!" She has thrust her ignorant hasty finger into the most sacred regions of a man's heart, his religion and his love, and having brought havoc and death there, is quite unconscious of the cruelty and cool impertinence of undertaking such a task, or of the miserable poverty of her own knowledge for the purpose. The elements of deep tragedy are in the situation, if either the girl had become conscious of her sin, or the writer had been conscious of it for her, and had marked the contrast between her shallow self-sufficient conduct occupied only with herself and her own interests, and the deep feeling she was trifling with in this airy fashion; but Mr. Howells rather seems to applaud her.-Americans Painted by Themselves, in the Contem. porary Review.

## advantages of england.

No one denies that England is wealthy, but people are apt to forget that wealth does not mean only a big balance at the bankers, and a huge rent roll. Much more is included in national wealth, and as so much, forcibly reminding one of the "Groans of the Britons" when they petitioned Rome to help them against the Picts and Scots, has been said about our perils and infirmities, it may be well to call attention to some of our advantages. Though the revenue of the country no longer increases by leaps and bounds, it does grow steadily and by no means slowly. The productive power of the people shows always an increasing ratio per inhabitant, and in this respect we move faster than other European nations. In the middle of the last century we were fighting for leave to navigate the ocean freely. Now, we appear to be absorbing the whole carrying trade of the world, chiefly because by the skill and good management of our seamen fewer men do the same work. Not far from sixty per cent. of the water carriage of the world is performed by ships sailing under the British flag, and of these between seventy-five and eighty per cent. are steamers. Population is growing at the rate of about one million in three years, and the people eat more than twice as much meat per head as is the average for European nations. Anxiety is sometimes shown as to the meat supply in case of war, but we actually produce enough in Great Britain to supply all the needs of the people if calculated on the scale of consumption in France or Germany. We import only the excess which the beef-fed Brison insists on consuming. The average net income per inhabitant is sixteen per cent. higher than in the United States, and more than double the European average. The number of paupers gradually but surely declines; the saving banks show a rapid increase in the hoarded capital of the working classes even in Ireland. Compared with the earning of the country taxation is much lower than the European average, and, if account could be taken of the blood tax paid in person by continental nations, with its influence on progress, the result would be startling. The birth-rate is increasing, the death-rate diminishing. The national debt is
being paid off by degrees, though municipal and local debts representing the expenditure on health and education are increasing. And, if this be a comfort to anybody, we are perpetually adding annexation to annexation. Above all, our people have the civil liberty which permits the most emphatic denunciation of political opponents, and the religious liberty which holds all doctrines from pantheism and atheism in almost equal respect, allows one man to prove that we are but highly developed apes, and another to preach the Gospel according to the Salvation Army.Fortnightly Review.

## vegetarianism.

People eat too much meat nowadays; and, neglecting vegetables, do not learn the many ways in which these can be cooked so as to provide a diet cheaper than meat, and as agreeable for a change. Therefore the vegetarians who have been banqueting to show what may be done with vegetables have rendered a service. But it is a pity that some of them should create prejudice against themselves and their dishes by nonsensical talk about the killing of animals for food. Have they not heard that according to certain scientists the vegetable feels and perhaps thinks? It may be demonstrated to future generations that the blushing carrot is susceptible of tender emotions, and that the retiring ways of the truffle are due to a well-reasoned aversion to the wickedness which is to be witnessed above ground. But again every vegetable contains animalculæ, and we never condemn a potato to boiling without dooming to death thousands of little creatures who may be as interesting in their ways as the lobster in his. The truth is, all nature lives, and the man who would eat without destroying life will find his task a difficult one if he set about it honestly with the help of a microscope. However, we may borrow dishes from experienced vegetarians without taking their opinions. Meat we must have to some extent, because nature has made us carnivorous; but being graminivorous also we find ourselves the better for letting vegetables play a greater part in our interior economy than they do at present.-Graphic.

## the life of an engine driver.

What a graphic picture of the life of an engine-driver is that which the Times published the other morning from the pen of one who has driven an express train for twenty-one years! "During that period," says this typical spokesman of a hitherto inarticulate class, "I have twice had my ongine run off the rails and down an embankment, one collision the result of bad sigualling, eight crank axles have broken under me, in all cases the engine came off the rails, and plenty of smaller things which I will not trouble you with." Adventures by rail are as exciting as adventures at sea, but as all who cross the ocean must share the risks of storm and tempest, with the sailors the latter are much more generally appreciated than the perils which the engine-driver and his fireman have to face alone. But what a suggestion it is that directors should qualify for their posts by doing journeys on the footplate! If we accept that principle we shadl soon be compelling the Home Secretary to pass a night on a canal boat, or the Secretary for War to camp out with Tommy Atkins on the road to Kartoum, We are hardly ripe for that-as least not yet.-Pall Mall Budget.

The Week, of Toronto, is rapidly making a place and a reputation, taking high rank among the members of the Canadian press.-Boston Courier.

The Scott Act was in operation in Halton in 1883. The number of persons committed to prison there during the year was ninety-seven. The Scott Act is not the law in Huron, yet during the year there were but fifty-eight committals. There are 21,000 people in Halton; there are 76,000 in Huron. Enough said.-Huron News Record.

Socialistic theories have taken such fast hold of the Irish people that any assertion of landlord rights provokes their resistance. They know very well the immorality of their doctrines; they are stern asserters of their own property rights against one another or in defiance of the labourers' demands; but agitation and crime having secured them a quarter of the old rent, they indulge in the hope that more agitation and more crime will eventually obtain the rest.-London Telegraph.

Ottawa, despised and sneered at by her western contemporaries, can to-day claim that her ratio of growth is greater than that of any leading city in Canada. Let us compare her record for the past year with that of Toronto. Toronto's population according to the assessment for the year just closing was 99,131 , her present population is 104,276, an increase of 5,145 . Ottawa's last assessment showed a population of 27,645 , and her new assessment a population of 30,791 , showing an increase of 3,146 . Though the percentage of increase during the past year for Toronto is 5.19 , yet that for Ottawa is 11.34, or more than double that of the Queen City. Ottawa Free Press.

The seventeen years of Nova Scotia's experience of Confederation has but deepened the feelings of repugnance which the people of this Province always entertained towards the union. The objections taken by the opponents of the schemes in 1867 have proved sound to the letter. The predictions and prophecies of its advocates have proved as foundationless as the structure of a dream. Those who are old enough to remember the bright pictures of future greatness and prosperity drawn by union orators and writers when presenting the scheme to the people, who contrast them with the sad realities of our present position, experience a feeling of amazement that men could be so completely hallucinated as the union advocates were.-Halifax Morning Chronicle.

The British cavalry has proved on many a battlefield what can be accomplished by courage, order, and discipline. When it has failed it has been due to faults more pardonable in that arm than in others-to reckless leading against overwhelming odds, to the ardour of pursuit, or to the contempt of tactics. It yields to no other in the proud record of its achievements. Well disciplined, well trained, and well mounted, perfect in personnel and material, imbued with the best spirit, it cannot be denied that, owing to the paucity of its numbers and consequent weakness of its component parts, and to the absence of reserves, it is, for a European campaign, perfectly inefficient.-Fortnightly Review.

Facing the situation frankly, the opponents of Mr. Blaine and the supporters of Gov. Cleveland find in the Ohio result only the incentive to redoubled effort in behalf of the vindication of integrity in public government against corrupt purposes and selfish gain. The situation remains as it has been from the beginning of the canvass-that the East is the right wing of the democratic position, and here their battle will be the most hopeful and the fiercest. They have 153 electoral votes in the South, Missouri, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland. They must have New York and New Jersey and some other State. The real fight will come in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana. With Indiana and New York the Democrats will win.-Springfield Republican.

Lord Salisbury, after calling attention to the crowds he had addressed at Manchester, and the equally numerous gathering at Nostell Priory, went on to ridicule mass meetings as indicative of the bent of public sympathy. This was a very convenient argument. There have been some hundreds of demonstrations since the rising of Parliament, and the Conservatives can only point to two or three convened by themselves which attained to any particular magnitude. They had the same facilities as their opponents; they threw open their parks, organized grand pienics, and secured special trains at cheap fares; but they flagrantly failed to attract the masses. Whereupon Lord Salisbury turns round and declares to his audience at Glasgow that numbers mean just nothing at all. -Liverpool Mercury.

Side by side with all the agencies for good which surround our children and serve to keep them, if not from all the vices and follies of youth, at least from many of the worst of them, there has grown up a great power for evil in the shape of corrupt literature. The sentiment against this generally exhausts itself in tirades against " dime novels," as though no printed wickedness were sold for more than ten cents. The goody-goody tales of young persons depicted as impossible saints are also deplorably inefficient as moral pabulum for misbelieving youth. Such books as "Tom Sawyer" and "Peck's Bad Boy" may show the cleverness of their authors, and they may also show the peculiar tendencies of the uncivilized boythe boy with some good impulses and an occasional flash of humanity in an unexpected place-but their teachings are essentially vicious. The best that can be said for such books is that it is a pity they were ever written. -Philadelphia Record.

Paradoxical as it seems, one great reason why business men are afraid of James G. Blaine as a President is that he is so much of a business man himself. It is a fact not generally remembered, that nobody has yet been elected President, or even seriously thought of, whose chief pursuit in life had been money-making. The more one considers Blaine's career and surroundings, the more satisfied one becomes that if he were elected the executive office would be for the first time administered as a business by a firm, of which Blain would be the head, and no "dead-head" either, and that the annual net profits would probably be greater than any ever made by a single concern, not excepting the Rothschilds. Its great value would be in the fact that, unlike the Little Rock Railroad and the Hocking Valley Mines, no capital would be needed, and the returns would be so steady and sure that the profits might be divided at the beginning instead of at the end of the year.-N.Y. Nation.

Spmlina Reform, as much as can be said for it, does not advance with headlong rapidity. In a few periodicals we find tho, giv, and flosofy; but, at the present rate of advance, it may be feared that new anomalies will arise faster than old ones are done away; in other words, that the reforming scholars, so far from reconstructing the orthography, will hardly be able to keep it in repair. And, furthermore, it is said that the reformers themselves do not use the new spelling. Of course, the writer of an article for publication would give the old orthography, because of the "hardness of heart" of his readers; and one might fear, even in a private letter, to write the address Missiz Soozan Joans. But it is more than suspected that even in his private note-book, which is to come only under his own eye, and in which he can spell according to the dictates of his own conscience, the average reformer uses the very orthography which, in public, he denounces. $-N$. Y. Independent.

One little gleam of light is thrown by Lord Salisbury's speech upon the true meaning of the condition attached by the Lords to the passing of the Franchise Bill. They refused to pass it without a Redistribution Bill, and it was open to suppose that by that they required the Redistribution Bill to be actually passed by the Commons before they would condescend to look at the Franchise Bill. They will be ready to deal with the first bill so soon as the second bill is introduced. If this was their original intention, it certainly throws into more striking prominence the utter imbecility of the counsels by which they have been guided. For in the mere draft of the Bill they have little more security for the ultimate shape which the Bill will take than they had in the pledge given by Mr. Gladstone months ago. We cannot aillow ourselves to call by its right name the idle pretence of Lord Salisbury that he will be ready to pass the Franchise Bill upon the mere appearance of the draft Redistribution Bill -Manchester Weekly Times.

## BOOK NOTICES.

Shlegtions from the Poetical Works of A. C. Swinburne. Edited by R. H. Stoddard. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Co.

Mr. Swinburne has many sins to answer for, but the one which has possibly had the most disastrous effects upon society at large is his habit of using extraordinary language to express far-fetched and morbid ideas. Like all other crazes this one has myriads of imitators who, without Swinburne's genius, attempt to clothe inane gushings in Swinburnian phrase with a result only too well known. Mr. Stoddard, in editing this collection, very wisely disclaims any idea of calling Swinburne a "great" poet. No man could be that who deliberately chooses to exalt sensuousness before purity, and to proclaim his unblushing "worship of folly." A striking testimony to the lack of moral worth in Swinburne's work is to be found in the courageous avowal of Mr. Stoddard in his preface, that, though the poet has published a dozen volumes or more, he "has written no line that lingers in the memory, and has uttered nothing that resembles a thought. . . . No man can be a great poet who is not a wise and solid thinker and whose language is not large and direct." Such words, coming from so competent a source-from a gentlemen avowedly disposed to see Swinburne at his best-are indeed severe, but will be endorsed by the average reader. Mr. Stoddard is to be complimented upon his judicious selection in the first large collection of poems by this author yet published, having expurgated-as far as was possible without making the volume a characterless one-the poems most redolent of offences against common decency. The extracts from "Laus Veneris" (suppressed soon after it was written) are the best portions of that unhealthy production. "Mary Stuart" is naturally given in extenso, that poem being, it is thought, one of the ablest and worthiest poems by the erratic prototype of Marlowe. "Atlanta in Calydon," "Erectheus," "Chastelard," and "Bothwell," are also included. The volume is handsomely printed and bound, and has a portrait of the poet for a frontispiece.

## The Fate of Mansfield Humphreys.

A Country Doctor.

## In the Tennessee Mountains.

Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin and Co., of Boston, are the publishers of these three novels, the first by Richard Grant White, the second by Sarah Orne Jewett, and the last by Egbert Craddock. The latter gentleman's book has gone into a fourth edition, a fact not difficult to understand, since his style is quaint and original and his narratives of Southern life are in the nature of a revelation. Mr. Grant's book is already well known in America-better known than liked in some quarters. The plot is neither novel nor elaborate, but running through the whole there is a curious ondeavour to prove that our neighbours are not such exceeding Philistines after all-a position recalling, qui s'excuse. As the novel is prefaced by an apology to Lord Lytton and followed by an extended and somewhat involved apology to Americans for its existence, Mr. White's first book of fiction is on the whole a curious and interesting production. "A Country Doctor," during the past summer, has thorougly established itself as a favourite in the States, and will probably attain a much wider popularity. If Miss Jewett has a fault, it is that she is so very much in earnest in teaching a "higher life" that her book becomes almost a pamphlet.

## In Partnership.

Stories by American Autiors. Vol. vi.
Queer Stories for Boys and Girls.
Three books of story from the house of Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, and to be had from William Briggs, Toronto. The first-named is the joint production of Brander Matthews and H. C. Bunner-in itself a sufficient guarantee for the interest of the collection. Vol. VI. of "Stories of American Authors"-a series in imitation of the plan of "Tales from Blackwood," but drawn from a larger field-has six first-class novelettes. Mr. Eggleston's "Queer Stories" is a collection of fairy tales told in a happy vein, and calculated to entertain without enervating the youthful mind.
Life and Labour in the Far West. By Henry Barneby. London, Paris and New York: Cassell and Company.
"Being notes of a tour in the Western States, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the North-West Territory. With specially prepared map showing the author's route." Mr. Barneby thinks the future prosperity of British Columbia must be dorived from its mineral resources, though he says in another place that the climate is excellent in its way, and speaks of it as "the place of all others to which a small British farmer should emigrate." He passed rapidly through the North-West, and doss not speak in glowing terms of what he saw. In his opinion some steps should be taken to insist upon tree planting, and though he saw plenty of fertile soil he was evidently unfavourably impressed by the exceeding length of the winter. Mu. Barneby's book gives a large amount of information in an unpretentious style.

Congested Prices.
Labour Value Fallacy. By M. L. Scudder, Jr. Chicago: Janson, McClurg and Co.
The Alqonquin Legends of New England. By Charles G. Leland. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co.

## CHESS.

IEAll communications intended for this department should be adaressed "Chess Editor," office of The Wees, Toronto.


ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
D. J. W., Brantford.-Please look at that position again. Think you are mistnken as to he king.

GAME No. 26.
Played a short timo since at the Mauhattan Chess Club, betweon Capt. Mackonzio and an amateur, at the odds of Kt .

From the Brooklyn Chess Chronicle.


NOTES.
(a) B takes $B$ would have been bettor.
(b) Tho very move White could have wished for.

GAME No. 27.
Played between the Iate Prof. Andersson and Horr Hillol, of Breslau. (From the Brooklyn Chess Chroniole.)

| White. <br> Anderssen. |
| :---: |
| 1. PK4 |
| 2. Kt K B 3 |
| 3. PQB3 |
| 4. $\mathrm{B} Q \mathrm{Kt} 5$ |
| 5. Kt trkes K $\mathrm{P}^{2}$ |
| c. Xt tikes B |
| 7. Castles |
| 9. PK B 3 |
| 9. K R 1 |
| 10. PQ4 |



(a) Q Q 4 is the proper defence.
(b) Black plays part of this sparkling little game ingeniously enough, but, unfortunately for him he collapses just at the oritical moment.
(c) Bofore attacking the Bishop Black ought to have brought out his K Kt. That he did not do so, however, is not to be regretted, as he furnishes the professor with nn opportunity for getting in one of his startling and brilliunt endings.
(d) A little gom by Paul Morphy against the Duke of Brunswick and Count Casabancia has a somewhat similar ending.

## chess items.

Toronto has challenged Hamilton for Thanksging day.
A мator-Smokers v. Non-Smokers-is to be played to-night, at the Toronto Chess Club.
The chess editor of the Buffalo Sunday Times announces his first Problem Tourney for two-move problems. Probiems to be addressed, 500 Prospect Avenue, and mailed beforo the st of December.
M. Rosenthal is to visit Liondon this month.

The Brooklyn Chess Chroniela comes to hand for October flled with the usually wollselected news, games and problems.

New Onheans Chass, Checker and Whist Club's Ammual Tournament is drawing to a close -Messrs. Seguin and Willcox are leading.
A new chess columa edited by Mr. Rohrer has appeared in the St. Paul, Minn., Globe. Welcome.

A New Chess and Whist Club has been established at Wilmington, Del.
The Chicago Mirror of American Sports announces its second Problem and Solution Tourney. The Tourney will be open to the worla. No competitor to enter more than five problems, each of which shall be a mate in two or three moves. Sealed envelopes not necessary. Problems to be mailed to K. D. Paterson, P.O. Box 332, Milwaukee, Wis., in time to reach him before February 18t, 1885. There are fourteen prizes in the Problem Tourney aggregating $\$ 54$.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

Prof. Huxley, it is said, has been ordered by his physician to take absolute rest from all literary labours for several months.

Mark Twain can be serious when he will, and the appearance of the name of S. L. Clemens, of Hartford, among the signatures to the anti-Blain address to Connecticut Republicans will interest many people.

Emily Faithfull states that her new book, "Three Visits to America," is intended to give the results of her observations in the United States regarding the changed position of women in the nineteenth century.

We understand that a book entitled "The Life and Times of Hon. Oliver Mowat " will be published by Hunter, Rose and Co., of Toronto, before Christmas. The work is the joint authorship of two well-known writers.

A new book, entitled "The Hundred Greatest Men," is announced. It will contain special introductions by Matthew Arnold, Paine, Max Müller, Renan, N. Porter, Helmholtz, Froude, Professor Fiske, and the late Dean Stanley, with a general introduction by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Some erroneous statements having appeared as to Lord Tennyson's forthcoming volume, we are authorized to state that it will consist of a single dramatic poem, of considerable length, on the subject of Becket.Athencuum.

The latest addition to independent journalism is The Critic, " a literary and commercial weekly journal," published in Halifax, N.S., and "devoted to the interests of the Maritime Provinces." The new venture, which takes the shape of four large neatly printed pages, can scarcely be said, by the initial number, to establish its claim either to literary excellence or political independence.

A Lady one day came upon the poet Fontenelle as he stood absorbed in contemplation before a flock of sheep, and said to him: "Now, Monsieur Fontenelle, I feel sure that from the sight of these innocent sheep you are gathering inspiration for some gallant pastoral $\}$ " "Oh, dear no!" replied the poet; "I was only thinking that out of so many sheep there would perhaps be only one leg of mutton done to a turn!"

Complaint is properly made against the exhibition of obscene pictures by some newsdealers, the demoralizing effect being noted in crowds they attract; but the same crowd will stand and study almost any window picture, whether it has a bad or a good motive. This is an indication, in a small way, of the value a free public art gallery would be to a community as an educating agency.-Chicago Current.

Millions of dollars are sacrificed annually through a defective system of butter-making in the Dominion, and until the creamery plan supersedes that of the dairy Canada will be counted as a mere unit in competing for the trans-Atlantic trade. It is a sorry spectacle to witness, that, when England wants first-class goods, Canada, as a rule, has only second-class and poor qualities to give her.-Quebec Chronicle.

We maintain that instead of political parties assailing one another because this or that government has encouraged emigration to Canada, or out of hundreds of thousands of emigrants has brought in a few hundreds who might have been left behind, they should recognize the fact that there is no portion of our public expenditure that brings such ample returns as that which is devoted to swelling our population from the Mother Land.Montreal Gazette.

Maurice Thompson, one of the closest thinkers and most graceful essayists of the day, contributes to The Current of October 18th a paper entitled "Novels and Novels." He takes the ground that all the good stories have not been told, and that out of the regions remote from the great literary centres ought to come " many precious notes of originality and power." The Current has secured a series of papers on "The Land of the Lotus," by Col. David B. Sickels, late representative of the United States Government at the Court of Siam. Their publication will be begun shortly, and they will be found most interesting for abundant information regarding that country.

The London Times says:-"There was never a time when a first-rate English novelist was more wanted than now. We have Wilkie Collins for plots. We have Mr. Black for sunsets. We have Mrs. Oliphant, whose variety is inexhaustible and whose industry is beyond all praise. We have Ouida, who would thrill us with sympathetic emotion, if we could for a moment forget the lime-light and the spangles. We have Mr. Henry James and Mr. Howells, unrivalled painters in miniature. We have Miss Broughton, whose characters, as Anthony Trollope has said, 'stand upright on the ground,' but whose world is a singularly unpleasant one. And we have a general want of breadth and finish in our modern English fiction."

While Verdi was putting the finishing touches upon "Il Trovatore" he was visited in his studio by a privileged friend, who was one of the ablest living musicians and critics. The latter was permitted to glance over the score and try the "Anvil Chorus" on the pianoforte. "What do you think of that?" asked the master. "Trash!" said the connoisseur. Verdi rubbed his hands and chuckled. "Now look at this, and this, and this," he said. "Rubbish!" The composer rose and embraced his friend with a burst of joy. "What do you mean by such strange conduct?" asked the critical one. "My dear friend," responded the master, "I have been composing a 'popular' opera; in it I resolved to please everybody except the great judges and classicists like you. Had I pleased you, I should have pleased no one else ; what you say assures me of success. In three months 'Il Trovatore' will be sung, and roared, and whistled, and barrel-organed all over Italy." And so it was!

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE,

With an introductory account of the Origin and Growth of Parliamentary Institutions in the Dominion of Canade. By John George Bourinot, Clerk of the House of Commons. One Vol., 8vo., cloth, 802 p.p. Price $\$ 6$.

All persons interested in the proceedings of public bodies, all Members of Legislatures or Civic Corporations, all Lawyers who are concerned in private bill practice are respectfully requested to read the following:-
From the Speakers of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec.
We have had the privilege of perusing the advance sheats of your work, about to appear give our testimony as to the value that this remarkable work must have for the public men of Canada. We believe it is but right we should offer you conjointly our hearty congrafu lutions. In addition to the useful information contained in the book on the political history aud parlimentary usages of Cunada, it displays throughout a methodical arrangement which must be much appreciated by all those engaged in parliamentary life; Its lucidity is a qualiay practice and usuges in England. Besides, the precedents that you cite are especially valuable since they are drawn to a great extent from our own parliamentary records. We are convinced by the British constitution, and will do honour to yourself as well as to the Dominion. Accept therefore, our sincere congratulations, etc.
(Signed) Bodcher de la Bruere,
Speaker of the Legislative Council, Quebeo.
J. S. C. Wurtele

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Quebeo
From the British Quarterly, Fuly, 1884.
Mr. Bourinot has supplied a distinct want by furnishing an olaborate and exhaustive acount of the parilamentary ingtitutions of Canada. These institutions, originally derived freat many precedents have arisen, the divergencies thus caused calling for a work like the present. That the book will be of the greatest value to the Cansdian lawyer and Parlis. mentarian is certain. It will very probably occupy the position of the standard text-book for
some time to come. Mr. Bourinot is to be congratulated on the successful issue of whet mut some time to come. Mr. Bourinot is to be congrat
have been an immense amount of patient labour.

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