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THE BYSTANDER.

JUNE, 1890.

IN the struggle for Provincial office, which is going on with its usual vivacity, the general opinion seems to be that the "ins" will stay in and that the "outs" will stay out. The "ins" have had eighteen years wherein to entrench themselves behind the ramparts of patronage and influence, nor have they failed to make the best use of their opportunities. Moreover, in the eyes of the people, who naturally look first to their material interests, the "ins" have greatly the advantage in administrative reputation. Mr. Meredith is allowed by everyone to be a man of at least equal ability to any member of the Government; he is allowed by everyone except party journalists or preëminent Christians to be a high-minded and honourable gentleman. That the Province should be prevented from availing itself of his administrative ability and integrity because he belongs to the minority in questions which have nothing to do with administration, is a strong example of the irrationality of the party system. That he is lacking in malignant energy as leader of a faction is not the worst of faults in our eyes. But he stands alone: his party can supply him with no lieutenants who are at all equal to himself or have any hold on the confidence of the people. Mr. Meredith, moreover, though he has made a gallant effort to shake off Ottawa, has not completely succeeded, and till he does shake off Ottawa he cannot possibly have a fair chance in Ontario. Victory in Ontario may be a sentimental object, but it is not of vital importance to Sir John Macdonald, so long as he can

keep in his hands the government of the Dominion, which he does by help of the Catholic vote. It is impossible that he should consent to any vigorous action against the pretensions of the Roman Catholic hierarchy on the part of his lieutenants here. His influence in the nominations, so far as can be discerned, has been practically exerted against the platform on which Mr. Meredith takes his stand.

But there are people to whom the question is not one of "ins" and "outs" or of Big-endians and Little-endians. There are people whose object it is, so far as they can amidst the complications of the party fray, to uphold one of the great organic principles of our New World civilization, that entire separation of the Church from the State on which the purity of the Church as well as the integrity of the State depends, and at the same time to rescue the government from ecclesiastical domination and the British Province from French encroachment. What are these people to do? The answer is that they must do in each constituency what they can. In whatever constituency they may happen to be they must, as circumstances permit, make their force felt, assert the claims of their principle to recognition on the part of the candidates, and discountenance those who are hostile to it or are likely to betray it. A few such exhibitions of strength as that made by the Equal Rights party in the Ottawa election would render it impossible for Mr. Mowat or any one in his place to pay the Roman Catholic hierarchy for the future the price of its political support. In estimating the result, whatever it may be, the fatal strength of party must be borne in mind. It elects Mr. Rykert. It is too certain to prevail with multitudes who at the same time are in favour of Equal Right and would undoubtedly vote for it if that issue were submitted to them by itself. In these circumstances any vote cast for the principle must be multiplied many times to denote its true significance and will be so multiplied, we may be sure, in the minds of observant politicians. Apostasies from the cause of principle under the lash of the party-whip there have been and will be: one

there has been most notable and most deplorable. But by these, the cause being known, no man ought to be shaken in his conviction or discouraged. Let waverers keep their eyes fixed upon those leading advocates of Equal Right whom they know to be free from the yoke of party and sinister influences of every kind. So long as these stand firm, there can be no excuse for leaving their side, apostatize who may. A strange Liberal he must be who is willing to be an accomplice in the barter of civil and religious equality for the patronage of a reactionary priesthood. The most miserable thing is to see young men on the threshold of their career learning to sacrifice their consciences to party tactics, and thus entering public life through the gate of chicanery and falsehood. Vainly they flatter themselves that when they have gained power by dishonest means they will use it like honest men.

The adherents of Equal Rights ought by this time to be pretty well steeled against the hypocritical charge of intolerance. Intolerant because, in a community of which religious equality is the law and the soul, they object to maintaining out of public taxes a set of schools which are manifestly and almost avowedly the engines of ecclesiastical domination! Intolerant because they refuse to put public education into the hands of Archbishop Cleary! Not a wish has been conceived, not a syllable has been uttered, by any leader or organ of the Equal Rights movement against the religious liberties or rights of Roman Catholics. Nor is any more respect due to the cant about peace than to the cant about toleration. Every measure of justice must be a disturbance of the peace of injustice; but in the long run justice is the only road to peace. Reform must come in the end, and the disturbance will not be less when the evil has grown greater. To say that if we did away with Separate Schools by constitutional means, and no others have ever been proposed, we should be false to our God is the very delirium of the platform. Why is this, of all communities, for ever to "lie in cold obstruction," to be debarred from legal

self-improvement and shackled to the end of time by a compact made with the Bourbon past ?

Special interest will attach to the contest in Toronto, where owing to the ingenuous attempt of the Grits in the last gerrymander to give themselves by Act of Parliament one of the seats for the city, utter uncertainty and perplexity reign. We are not without hope that a respectable vote, at all events, will be cast against the Machines. In Mr. E. Douglas Armour not only have the friends of Equal Rights a thoroughly good representative of their principle, but all independent citizens have a candidate by supporting whom they may enter a telling protest against Machine domination and all that it brings in its train.

—The cost of the Parliament buildings, of which the Opposition makes a strong point, will very likely be three times the estimate. This is the universal story, told by the unfinished piles of Albany and Philadelphia, with their ever-growing builders' bills, as well as by their humbler counterpart in the Queen's Park. Democracy, whatever else it may be, in its present phase is not economical. Wastefulness never overthrows a democratic Government, and it is not likely that the expenditure on the Parliament buildings will prove fatal to Mr. Mowat. What might righteously prove fatal to him, so far as Toronto votes are concerned, is the paltry policy of the budget-maker, who, to boast of a petty saving, destroys a park which is essential to the enjoyment, the health and the morality of the people of Toronto. Why had Toronto no Hampden when this was done ? Unhappily, for some reason which perhaps Dr. Bourinot and other profound students of our institutions can explain, our political soil is more fruitful of oratory and some other good things than it is of Hampdens.

—In this as in other general elections questions of administration and questions of principle, matters of the most various

kinds such as those of Separate Schools, text-books, expenditure on Parliament Buildings, and liquor licences, are thrown in a confused heap before the people, and in each constituency are further complicated with local and personal influences, so that it is seldom possible to obtain a distinct verdict on any issue. This is a very weak point in our parliamentary institutions. Long ago we called attention to the Swiss system of the *Referendum*, under which legislative questions, especially those relating to changes of the Constitution are submitted separately and directly to the popular vote, so that a clear verdict is obtained. The system seems to work well in Switzerland, and though, in appearance ultra-democratic, to be in its practical tendency conservative. Individual legislators can be corrupted, or, as they are apt to be in the case of Woman's Suffrage, cajoled, but the people at large cannot. Something of the kind is already practised in the United States where amendments in State Constitutions are submitted to the popular vote. It is in effect a transfer of the veto from the monarch who has lost the power of exercising it to the sovereign people in whom the supreme power now resides. Such a body as the Legislature of Ontario, with its single chamber, ought not to be permitted to alter the Constitution at its pleasure without popular assent.

Another Swiss institution to which we formerly called attention is the Standing Council of State elected by the Legislative Assembly for the term of its own existence, irrespective of any changes in the legislative balance of the Assembly. This separates the Executive from the Legislative, gives the country a stable executive independent of the fluctuations of party, and enables it to make use of administrative ability without regard to irrelevant differences of legislative opinion. It seems in fact that the members of the minority are not infrequently elected to the Council on the ground of their executive capacity. If the system prevailed here Mr. Mowat and Mr. Meredith might both give us the benefit of their administrative capacities whatever their opinion might be upon Equal

Rights or Prohibition. There is an approach to it in the American Cabinet outside Congress; but the Swiss arrangement under which the members of the Council have seats in the Assembly but are independent of legislative party is the better plan. In the marked consideration now paid to the *Referendum* and the Standing Council of State, a gleam of hope for our emancipation from the accursed system of party government with all its corruption, its evil passions, and its civil wars of intrigue and calumny, begins to dawn.

—The Session which has just closed has been marked, as the last was, in the case of the Jesuits, by occasional flirtations between the parties or their leaders which have curiously alternated with the normal prosecution of the party war. Mr. Mulock's Resolution united all the members except two in a loyal and fraternal embrace. Mr. Mulock himself has since been falling on the neck of Sir John Macdonald while Mr. Blake grasps the hand successively of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice. The meaning of this is that all of them are alarmed by the growth of an independent sentiment, especially on the range of questions embraced in the Equal Rights movement, which threatens to spoil the whole game. We might see with pleasure the suspension of animosity between political rivals if only it were love not hatred of a common enemy that inspired it. For the rest, we have had the usual spectacle of a mechanical majority. The Opposition not only has no real leader, but, to increase its tribulation, it has an ex-leader on its flank. Turks and bees are wise in their treatment of supernumerary claimants to the throne. Sir Richard Cartwright, however, has shown his usual force as well as his usual combativeness, and his speeches by their breadth and simplicity of treatment as well as by the weight of their facts and arguments impress the popular mind and prepare it for the great issue between Restriction and a free Continental market, which, if events hold their present course, is destined before

long to be submitted to its vote. The Session closed with the customary grants of railway subsidies, pushed through as usual when it was too late for consideration, though the Government must have known its own intentions at a much earlier day. What was by no means customary was the patriotic protest entered by a Conservative Senator against an expenditure which has reached scandalous proportions and which he truly describes as a "gigantic system of bribery." Senator McCallum demands an earlier submission of the grants in order that the Senate, which he describes as a body independent of local interests and claims, may be enabled to do its duty to the country by deliberate inquiry and discussion. Such undoubtedly is the Senate's duty, but Mr McCallum forgets that three-fourths of the members are the nominees of a single man. His protest was of course voted down, and the "bribes," as every one knew them to be, passed.

—When there is a surplus it is the plain duty of the Government to reduce the burdens of the people. Instead of this the Government of Sir John Macdonald piles on new taxes, not in the commercial interest of the community at large, which there is hardly a pretence of considering, but for the purpose of buying certain political interests, and thus securing its own tenure of power. At the same time a similar measure is passed with the same motive by the party in power in the United States, which is itself under the control of the Protectionist Lobby. Thus not only the burdens of both communities are increased, but the Chinese wall between them is for the sinister objects of intriguing politicians raised higher than ever, and the people on both sides are more than ever debarred from the free interchange of their products and from reaping the natural fruits of their industry. For a time things have come to a worse pass than ever. But we are not without hope that the darkness of monopoly which seems so thick may be the darkness which precedes the dawn. Decidedly in the

United States there is a growing movement, especially among the artisans, in favour of free trade, and there is a corresponding state of alarm and of nervous uncertainty in the camp of Protection. The Presidential election was not won; it was bought: the manufacturers put up the money to purchase New York, Indiana, and Connecticut; some of them avow it with cynical frankness. They are now desperately striving by the McKinley Bill to make the farmer, upon whose dull eyes the light is slowly dawning, believe that he has an interest in Protection. Like those who practice to deceive, those who practice to plunder the community under the guise of Protection have a tangled web to weave. In that vast and diversified area of production rivalries are springing up among the protected interests themselves; what is or what is fancied to be Protection to one is ruin to another; and the monopolists in Congress are at their wits' end to devise a tariff which shall suit all. The duty on hides was put on and taken off again half a dozen times, not because legislators had changed their minds about fiscal policy, but because New England and the West were pulling against each other. The position of New England as a centre of protected manufactures and a focus of Protectionist opinion is being greatly affected by the rise of competing manufactures in different parts of the Union; it is not unlikely even that the large contingent of force which she sends to the Protectionist camp will presently be withdrawn. When "native" industries thus fall out, honest industry has a chance of coming by its own. We should not be surprised to see the whole edifice of folly and iniquity, with its lobbies, Red Parlours, and the whole apparatus of fraud and corruption, fall to the ground. It is in fact merely the fear of a sudden crash that prevents a great number of Americans from declaring at once for Free Trade. It would be curious to trace the growth of the system from the time when Protection was sought for infant industries just to enable them to grow, with an assurance that when grown they would resign it, to the present time when having grown to giant bulk they demand Protection in

increased measure, and to grasp it corrupt whole States and Provinces, and swell the American Pension List to eighty-seven millions a year.

Mr. Gladstone confesses and bewails the backsliding of the world from Free Trade towards Protection. Partly it is a real backsliding of opinion, the consequence, as we have said before, largely of an extension of the suffrage which has thrown the Government of the world for the time into less intelligent hands, and brought back upon us the ignorant cupidity and the commercial fallacies of the days before Adam Smith. But in large measure it is not a movement of opinion at all: it is the work of sheer corruption practiced by great monopolist interests upon venal constituencies and the governments which are dependent on their vote. The monopolists in the United States would not put up their money if they felt sure that opinion was on their side.

Meantime it will be observed that Mr. Hitt continues to offer his Resolution, which now stands in this form, in which it will probably be brought before the next Congress:

Resolved: "That whenever it shall be duly certified to the President of the United States that the Government of the Dominion of Canada has declared a desire to establish Commercial Union with the United States, having a uniform revenue system, like internal taxes to be collected, and like import duties to be imposed on articles brought into either country from other nations, with no duties upon trade between the United States and Canada, he shall appoint three commissioners to meet those who may be likewise designated to represent the Government of Canada, to prepare a plan for the assimilation of the import duties and internal revenue taxes of the two countries, and an equitable division of receipts in a Commercial Union; the said commissioners shall report to the President, who shall lay the report before Congress."

While we have no wish to inspire Commercial Unionists with false hopes, we beg them to understand that a futile resolution would not be pressed by a man of the standing and sagacity of Mr. Hitt; that there is every reason to believe that the commercial world is in favour of the measure, and no ground

whatever for despair. The Mulock Resolution has done little or no harm. The sympathetic insight of American politicians has taught them that Canadian politicians have loyalty, as they have themselves sympathy with Ireland, always on tap, and that the frothy liquid is brewed of much the same ingredients in both cases. Changes of this kind are not brought about in a day, especially where commercial interests are crossed by political tactics. The advocates of nature's rights have nature's mill grinding slowly, but grinding small, upon their side. We have to lament the departure of Mr. Buterworth from public life. But at all events he ends nobly with a protest, not less masterly than it is eloquent, against the excesses of Protectionism and in favour of a liberal policy toward Canada. His words have left their mark.

—The Ontario Mining Report is full of instruction, no small share of our gratitude for which, as well as for much economical instruction of other kinds respecting our Province, is due to the secretary of the Commission, Mr. Blue. Evidence was taken at 37 places, from Ottawa to Rat Portage, and 164 witnesses representing all the mining interests were examined. The report also comprehends full information on mining laws and on metallurgy, with maps and plans. Let all read it who maintain that Ontario does not want a better market, or that the quarter in which she must look for it is not on her own Continent. The area richest in minerals is that lying between Sudbury district, in the neighbourhood of Lake Nipissing, west to Port Arthur, at the head of Lake Superior, and on to the Lake of the Woods. Within this region are gold, silver, copper, nickel, iron, galena, plumbago, and zinc ores, mica and apatite, besides large deposits of granite, marble and freestone. Many of the central and eastern counties are also rich in most of the metals named, and also in phosphates and other mineral fertilizers. In the Western peninsula are salt, petroleum, gypsum, materials for building, including large deposits of

clays for terra cotta and pressed brick. In fine, as the Report testifies, the Province contains almost all of the economic minerals, in workable quantities, except coal. Yet, as the Commission states, "the tolls upon trade and the want of facilities for cheap transportation are a hindrance so serious to the employment of capital that a number of the most promising of known mineral properties are either lying idle or are being worked in the face of great odds." Another drawback is the state of the mining laws, which put obstacles in the way. American prospectors and explorers seem to suffer, to the great loss of the Province, for more than one-half of the capital now invested in the mines of Ontario is said to be American, "in spite of the repellent conditions imposed by trade policies upon both sides of the line." The restrictions imposed by these trade policies fatally repress mining enterprises in the country, and the commissioners call attention to them in the hope that they may be removed. The Report cites the fact that by long odds the United States, in spite of the tariff imposts, is our principal customer for the products of the mine. Says the report: "The value of the mineral exports of Ontario alone to the United States for the twenty fiscal years 1869 to 1888 was \$14,329,330 and to all the rest of the world it was \$3,342,894. These figures present in a striking light the natural commercial affinity which exists between the two great Anglo-Saxon divisions of the Continent, and open a field of speculative inquiry as to what might have been the volume of the business if trade restrictions had not clogged its movement." To clinch what it has to say on this point the Report adds that "everywhere among men interested in mining operations, with the exception of those engaged in producing and refining petroleum, the Commissioners have met with expressions of an earnest desire to see the American markets opened to the admission of Canadian minerals free of duty upon terms equally fair to both countries." Such is the voice of nature regarding our commercial relations. How long will it be stifled by the politicians in the interest of their ambition?

—The Governor-General promises a speedy settlement of the Behring's Sea question: he does not promise a speedy settlement of the Fisheries question. Now we shall again hear reproaches launched at the mother country for not settling these questions with ironclads. The mother country is in daily peril both of a Russian and a French war: she is besides weakened internally by Irish sedition, which Canadian Legislatures have done their best to foster by hypocritical resolutions of sympathy with disunion, passed for the purpose of capturing the Irish vote. She will do all that her diplomacy, now thoroughly well represented at Washington, as well as at Westminster, can do; but it is idle to expect of her anything more. We contribute nothing to her armaments, nor do we allow her any privileges of trade. Sir Charles Dilke is in the right; if Canada wants to be a power and to have her rights enforced by arms she must set up an army and a navy of her own. The Fisheries question with France is more angry and dangerous than that with the United States. France seems to cherish it as a pretext for quarrel: there is no saying to what it may lead; and we should take it on our hands if we incorporated Newfoundland.

—British ignorance of Canada is inveterate. It appears even in the standard geography books, in which we are told that the St. Lawrence between Lake Ontario and Montreal is called "the Iroquois," and that its navigation is impeded "by waterfalls in its course and by its mouth being frozen up for three months in the year." When the ignorance is coupled, as indeed it usually is, with the complaisant assumption of superior knowledge, it is sometimes very amusing. A writer in the *London Quarterly Review* undertakes with supreme confidence to enlighten his readers about everything in Canada, and particularly about the state of opinion. From him we learn that "when the host is elevated in the Metropolitan basilica (at Quebec) it is to the thunder of artillery of the Colonial

forces," and that the Canadian Pacific "runs from start to finish over British ground." This last mistake, which we see continually repeated in British journals, is the more wonderful because the British own most of the stock of the road and have imbibed the notion that they have a deep interest in it as an Imperial and military line. It seems however hopeless to drive into their minds the fact that the road runs through Maine and that they can make no military use of it whatever, but would have to go round by the old Intercolonial. It is rather remarkable, by the way, that a writer in an English Tory Review would be found suggesting, in effect, to the Americans that it is their true policy to leave Canada in the hands of England, because to England the possession is a source of weakness and pledges her never to assume a bold and independent attitude towards the power at whose mercy it lies.

—Manitoba cannot help being aware of the fact that what she wants is population. But what sort of population she wants and how it is to be got, are points on which her mind does not seem to be so clear. The sort of population which she wants, we venture to submit, is the floating population of this continent, used to the climate, used to or capable of generally adapting itself to the farming, and also used to or capable of quickly adapting itself to the institutions. She wants the material for building up a strong and healthy community as well as the hands to till her soil. To get population of this kind no emigration grant or emigration agents are needed. Take away the Chinese wall and it will come of its own accord. Of emigration grants a large portion goes to the agencies, and the rest is apt to be spent in bringing over people by no means of the best kind. It might be invidious to point to the confirmations of this in Manitoba. Take away, we repeat, the Chinese wall and throw Manitoba open to the Continent. Then people as well as capital and enterprise will come in. Then Manitoba will flourish as she ought; while the wall stands she never can.

Manitoba seems to be taking up again the scheme of the Hudson's Bay Railway. She understands her own interest and her own business better than we do: The most authentic information which we can get is that the passage can hardly ever be said to be entirely free from ice. In that case there seems to be little prospect of success. Of the line of seven hundred miles, over which the road is to be carried, very little can be remunerative, so that the port must be all in all. Since the abolition of C. P. R. monopoly and the opening of railway connection with the South, the special reason for a desperate effort to find an outlet at the North has ceased to exist. However, we repeat, Manitoba knows her own business best.

—The re-election of Mr. Rykert with the brand of Parliamentary infamy fresh upon him, and the letters, worthy of Jonathan Wild, in which he depicts his own character still under the public eye, may be a blessing to us though it comes in the ugliest disguise. It may, and if anything can it will, spur us to reform. This infamy, astounding as it is, is the natural fruit of the system of Government by debauching the people with their own money, which has now been carried on for many years, and which has profoundly corrupted the political character of a community originally as worthy as any community could be of free institutions. The county of Lincoln richly deserves to be disfranchised, and in a sound state of public sentiment disfranchised it would assuredly be. No constituency can have a right to pollute the council of the nation. But to how many other counties would justice have to mete the same measure? The politics of the Maritime Provinces, as Dominion elections show, are mere corruption, fed by government works and grants. That corruption reigns in Quebec we did not need the McGreevy scandal to tell us. Corruption tampers with the representation of Manitoba and turns it into an instrument for defeating the claims of the Province. The character of Mr. Rykert is not a sudden revelation. It

was well known to the head of his party when he twice tried to get him made Deputy Speaker and when he was on the point of making him a Senator. Mr. Rykert's plea to his constituents was that though he was infamous others were infamous also; and his plea unhappily was true. We now know our own condition, and if we have any sense of public morality or regard for national honour left in us, now it will be shown. Soon the demoralization will be past cure.

We have had a lesson on the blessings of government by faction as well as on those of government by corruption. Bad as the conduct of the party which re-elected Mr. Rykert has been, the conduct of its rival has been little better. Had the local leaders of the Liberals possessed a particle of patriotism, they would have refrained for this turn from nominating a candidate and allowed the Conservatives, to whom the seat belonged, the chance of purging their own honour and that of the country. But when did faction care for the honour of the country or for anything but its own selfish ends? Government by party, we are told, is the best and not only the best but the only possible system, though its logical outcome is the re-election of Mr. Charles Rykert; while the most upright and the ablest of men, if he were not the slave of a party and cared only for the good of the whole people, would not poll twenty votes in any constituency in Canada. Other reflections crowd on our minds. Is this, the sceptic will ask, the outcome of our monarchical forms and our orders of knighthood, which are supposed to do so much for the elevation of our political character above that of our democratic neighbours? Is this the outcome of all the churches and all the apparatus of religion with which we suppose Lincoln is as well provided as other counties? What could Yankees or heathens do worse?

Not only is Mr. Rykert re-elected, but he goes off with seventy-four thousand dollars obtained out of the public property by "discreditable, corrupt and scandalous means." Once more we say, let us have a law, with adequate penalties against political corruption, or let us open the prison doors of

malefactors who were far less sorely tempted than the member for Lincoln, and have betrayed far less sacred trusts. The sophistry of the advocate argues that Mr. Rykert's delinquency was private and therefore beyond the cognizance of Parliament. It is nothing of the kind. How can the dealings of a member of Parliament with the public departments respecting public property be otherwise than public? But supposing it were, is private roguery no disqualification for a public trust?

—To name the case of General Middleton in the same breath with that of Mr. Rykert would be preposterous. Nobody, we apprehend, doubts the General's honour or imagines that he would wilfully do anything unbecoming a soldier and a gentleman. His unselfishness he showed by risking his military reputation to spare the blood of our citizens, for no one apparently doubts that had he been reckless of blood he might at once have carried Batoche. In the heat and confusion of war he assented to what was certainly a wrong suggestion as to the disposal of property believed to belong to a rebel and practically derelict, so that it would have been almost certainly looted in any case. He never received the furs or inquired after them. If he had received them, it is reasonable as well as charitable to believe that he would have been well advised and have disposed of them rightly. Of any other furs which have been in his possession he seems to be able and willing to give a satisfactory account. After the lapse of five years he may well have forgotten, as he says he had, an order which had never taken effect. The horse which he took for the public service he handed over at the end of the campaign to be sold at auction for the Government. We may safely say that this was a scrupulosity exceeding any that he had seen exhibited at the storm of Lucknow. Perhaps the wild scenes through which he went in the great Mutiny may have somewhat impaired his ideas of strict legality in a war with rebels. As soon as he knew that his

character was impugned he himself insisted on investigation. The desire of having a Canadian instead of an Englishman to command our forces had been manifested with extreme intensity in certain quarters, and it has been allowed, we fear, by those who cherish it to influence their judgment on the merits of General Middleton's case. The two questions at least have been blended together by the General's enemies in the press. Of the excessive bitterness with which the conqueror of Riel has been assailed in the House of Commons by the defenders of Riel the motive is only too apparent. Is there to be no end to the dishonour to which that alliance brings the Liberals and their leaders? The man who allowed himself to be seduced into it in the hope of recovering power by the aid of the Rielite vote, and this in face of the recent, public and solemn protest of his own conscience, ought to know that in ruthlessly immolating the character of an old soldier to the vindictive passions of his political associates, he brings another stain and a dark one on his own. If a British soldier of rank is to be tried for his honour it ought to be before some other tribunal than an assembly of politicians bent on their own game.

—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach lays down as an axiom that the dissolution of Parliament is not to be justified on constitutional principles unless Ministers have been defeated in the House of Commons, or unless the House becomes impotent to carry through its business, or unless it is paralysed by the approach of its statutory demise. The *London Times*, which is good authority at all events for political practice, endorses Sir Michael's view. This is what we have ourselves constantly maintained and continue to maintain, Sir Charles Dilke's dictum notwithstanding. Sir Charles's rule that a Parliament after four years continues to sit merely during the pleasure of the Prime Minister is to be found, we submit, in no constitutional writer, nor anywhere but in his own brain. It will at all events not fit Canada, where the term is not the same that

it is in England. Nor is Sir Charles Dilke sensible of the difference between the Old Country where the use of indefinite powers is limited in practice by traditional understandings and a colony in which no traditions or understandings exist and whatever power is conceded will be used without limit for party purposes. If Parliament had an axe hanging over its neck which the Prime Minister might at his pleasure let fall, its independence, which the caucus and corruption have already reduced to a minimum, would be gone, and there is no saying to what extent an unscrupulous Minister, by always dissolving when the chances happened to be in his favour, might establish himself in a morally usurped power. If any authority whatever is left to the Governor-General and he is not a mere *cochon à l'engrais* at \$120,000 a year he is bound, by refusing to dissolve without constitutional cause, to defend the independence of the legislature and the right of the people against the unscrupulous ambition and cupidity of the masters of the party machines.

—As the Royal Society of Canada is holding its ninth annual session, there has been time to show whether it earns its public grant. What is the harvest? In the literary field, we fear, next to none. A society for the promotion of literature is an anomaly. An Academy of Painters produces something tangible and by clubbing makes a show. A scientific association, like the Royal Society founded by Charles II., has also its *raison d'être*; it helps joint investigation, promotes the communication of ideas, and produces tangible results. But there can be no *raison d'être* for a society for the promotion of literature, the essence of which is taste, which no royal or gubernatorial patronage can bestow. The utmost that can be said even for the French Academy is that it may possibly serve to keep out of literature that provinciality against which Matthew Arnold inveighed, a function which cannot possibly be performed by the body that meets at Ottawa. Anyone

who consults the volumes of Transactions already published will, we think, agree with us. In the region of science the Royal Society of Canada has achieved a measure of success. The results of the researches of such men as the Dawsons, Selwyns, Sterry-Hunts, Murrays, Matthews, Whiteaves, and others in the geology, mineralogy and palæontology of Canada, have been discussed and made public. Sir Daniel Wilson's investigations also, on the Huron-Iroquois, on the Pre-Aryan American man, and other anthropological subjects (all within the domain of science) could hardly have found a fitter medium for dissemination. The same may be said, in some degree, for the quasi-scientific contributions of Mr. John Reade. But as for Section I, that devoted to "French literature, history, and allied subjects," the tables of contents make one smile. The "allied subjects" embrace fugitive recollections of a visit to the Colonial Exposition, some scenes from an unpublished comedy, a poem in five hundred and odd lines on "La Cloche," and so forth. We say this without any disparagement of the native literature of French Canada, of which, on the contrary, we heartily recognize the charms. The Canadian Society suffers in a comparison with its American counterpart for the Advancement of Science. It is a close corporation, it is not migratory, it offers no fund for the prosecution of individual research. Even its plaudits can have little effect, since their echoes do not pass beyond its portals. * Literature is a plant which to thrive must be self-sown. Forced culture will produce only a sickly hybrid. Canada is ambitious of having a native literature; let her wait, and if she has the gift it will come. She will one day awake and find herself famous in the world of letters. It is not to be forgotten that the country is paying for the Royal Society \$5,000 a year, a sum for which a good deal in the way of useful research and encouragement might be done.

—Mr. Blaine's grand Pan-American Congress has failed. Commercially it has come absolutely to nothing, while the

philosophic provisions for international arbitration which have been nominally embraced are little likely to restrain the passions of imperfectly civilized communities, headed by Presidential dictators who sometimes are not far removed from brigands. It does not seem by any means clear, in spite of all the dinners and ovations, that even an increase of good-feeling has resulted from this dead-lift effort to inaugurate an eternal friendship. Mr. Blaine's eyes have been turned in the wrong direction. It is not among the communities of the South, Indian with a sprinkling of Latins on the top, that the Anglo-Saxon of the United States will find congenial partners, but among his own kinsmen at the North; and thither it is that self-government, imperilled in the United States by the foreign influence, must look for true reinforcement. Law and respect for law are the great heritage of the Anglo-Saxon race, and of the races which have come under its influence, and the character of which has been recast in its mould. They are in a less degree characteristic of the Latin races, and not characteristic at all of the other races of South America. The Viceroy of India reigns in all a conqueror's power and state over the two hundred and fifty millions of Hindostan. Yet he cannot without due process of law take a grain of rice from the lowliest Hindoo. The Roman was a famous law-giver, and in his way and degree a great propagator of legality; but he never equalled the Anglo-Saxon. To extend the reign of law is the great mission of our race, and it is for this purpose that politically we ought to unite, not for that of domineering in common over the world.

—The commerce of the United States and consequently that of Canada is threatened with disturbance by the influence of the Silver Ring. If that gang succeeds in imposing its policy on Congress, a result of the same kind will follow which would follow in the case of a large issue of debased coin, or of inconvertible paper currency. The good money, that is to

say the gold, will fly, as it always does, before the bad, and general derangement will ensue. It is probable that though political economy is not as a rule the strong point of American politicians, most of them have the sense to see this and that in yielding to the pressure of the silver gang they will be sinning against light. Their weakness once more points the moral that with party government any compact and thoroughly selfish interest, by taking advantage of the balance of parties, may control legislation and gain its nefarious ends. Where is the optimist who will maintain that the world can be forever governed in this way ?

—The chances of immediate legislation at Washington in any direction may be lessened however by the recurrence of a deadlock. The Republican majority has admitted Wyoming and Idaho as States, without a sufficient population, for the sake of the two Senatorships which each, being Republican, will give the party, while by a fraudulent decision, in which men who carry their heads morally so high as Senators Hoar and Evarts did not scruple to take part, they have stolen the two Senatorships of Montana. They have thus in all probability secured a majority in the Senate for some years to come. But it is generally conceded that the Fall Elections will go in favour of the Democrats, who will thus capture the House. The Senate will then be in the hands of one party, the House in that of the other ; and to get any measure through both will be almost impossible. Here is the infirmity of the double-chamber system combined with party government. If a Democratic President is elected next time, the Executive will once more be opposed to the Senate and a diplomatic as well as a legislative paralysis may again ensue.

—The British Parliament seems to be labouring almost hopelessly with obstruction. The truth will be forced upon

the minds of British statesmen in time that no nation, much less an empire, can be governed by a mob. To call the House of Commons a deliberative assembly is farcical: what goes on there is not deliberation but a Parliamentary civil war. The government at the moment of our writing is at bay on the question of giving compensation to publicans whose licenses are withdrawn. The "Temperance" party are not satisfied unless they can ruin men whose trade, by the very fact of their holding a license, is shown not to be criminal but sanctioned by the State. Compensation was given to the slave-owners; why should it be withheld from the publicans? If we were to define fanaticism, we should say that it was the enthusiasm which tramples on justice. Mr. Gladstone has gone round on this question as he has on most others, his object being the Temperance vote. He is said by those who sit opposite him every night to show signs of physical failing. The Gladstonians will have no leader when he is gone, and without a leader the "masses" are nothing.

—Over the spirit of the Imperial Federationists' dream, at least as it is dreamed by Lord Rosebery, the one British politician of any mark who has countenanced the movement, a singular change appears to have come. Lord Rosebery proclaims that in the Confederation, which is to give the law of peace and war to the world, are to be included not only Great Britain with her Colonies and dependencies, but the United States. He cannot possibly mean that the political union between Great Britain and the United States is to be renewed and that we are thus, in face of experience, to run the risk of another American Revolution. He must intend a moral reunion of the whole English-speaking race. In other words, he ceases to be an Imperial Federationist at all and becomes, so far as the English-speaking race on this continent is concerned, if not an Annexationist, at least a partaker of sympathies which Imperial Federationists denounce as disloyal. Any Canadian

Jingo who was present must have been stricken to the heart. He must have longed to be on horseback, sword in hand.

—Australian Federation has apparently come to the birth. We shall presently see whether there is strength to bring forth. It is curious that the Australians seem to be, like Sir Charles Dilke and other English observers, or rather non-observers, of Canada in a fool's paradise about the success of Canadian Confederation and to imagine that they have only to follow where Canada has led the way. Has it never occurred to them to send an independent inquirer to this country and enjoin him to extend his political interrogations beyond Ottawa or the Governor-General's residence at Quebec? They do not even seem aware that the establishment of a Federal Government will entail, as it has entailed here, an enormous development not only of expenditure but of faction, demagogism and corruption. Two difficulties they will have peculiar to themselves, that of agreeing on a capital and that of reconciling fiscal systems, Victoria being wedded to Protection while New South Wales is equally wedded to Free Trade. We shall be rather surprised if after all the scheme takes effect. The belief prevails, not only that Federation is the political panacea, but that it is perfectly easy of accomplishment, though history says that it has been hitherto brought about only under strong pressure from without, such as that of the Spanish power on the insurgent Netherlands or that of England on the American colonies, and even then with the greatest difficulty. As soon as the subject of union is practically approached all the centrifugal forces are at once called into action, and if Australia succeeds in controlling them she will deserve to be called the mother of statesmen.

—The Ides of May passed without any event fatal or even menacing to European society and civilization. That the forces of order were organized, while those of disorder

were unorganized is true, but it will always be true so long as the army and the police are sound. There seems to have been no great manifestation of socialism in the proper sense of the word. There was an epidemic of strikes with all their disastrous consequences to trade; but strikers do not aim at the subversion of the existing order of society; they aim only at higher wages and shorter hours. However, it would be idle to deny that the antagonism between employer and employed, which these conflicts sharpen and intensify, is fraught with danger as well as with bitterness. Bismarck in an interview with a correspondent of the *New York Herald*, the report of which bears the stamp of genuineness, is made to say with cynical bluntness that this industrial war between the two classes is natural, and must go on forever; but history hardly bears him out: in the medieval guilds there was fellowship, not antagonism, between master and man. An international combination of workmen against the rest of society, such as this First of May demonstration seemed to threaten, is not much to be feared. Its magnitude would break it down. The French or German "toiler," dearly as he loves the British toiler, does not yet love him well enough not to take his gains from him if he can.

—The picture of Australian Democracy given by Sir Charles Dilke has taken the fancy of those who look for a great increase of wealth and happiness, from an extension of the functions of the State. Socialists we will not call them, because any extension of the powers of the State to matters cognate to those already within its sphere, whether wise or unwise, is not Socialism. Mr. Wiman has been led to put forth a lively little brochure, entitled, "A Paradise for Workmen," in which he comprehends with the Australian experiment the social policy of the German Emperor. If Sir Charles Dilke's account of Australia is half as optimistic and as open to criticism as his account of Canada, we had better wait to hear from Australia

before we announce a Paradise. For our own part we no more worship individual liberty than we worship State interference. We are willing to have our lives guided aright by any system or power that can do it. We are ready to give ourselves into the hands of the State, that is of the government, provided we can be assured that the government is perfectly wise and good. But so long as the government consists of ordinary men, not to say of leaders of faction and demagogues, we shall prefer to confine its duties to those matters with which it alone can deal. The reason, as it seems to us, why society at present does not come to ruin is that power is largely in the hands, not of the politicians, but of chiefs of commerce and industry, of wielders of social influence and moulders of opinion. To construct a perfect government is the first task of the Socialist, though it is one to which he never turns his attention. He rails at all existing governments and proposes to put unlimited power into their hands. After all, erect what government you will and put what you will into its hands, we doubt whether the workman will make any great advance towards Paradise otherwise than by steady industry, integrity, frugality and temperance,—modes of improving his condition which no labour journalists preach.

—Europe continues to watch with anxious eyes the eccentric movements of the German Emperor. That the Emperor's nature is not noble appears too plainly from his failure publicly to acknowledge at parting, by a single word of gratitude, the immense services of the great man who has placed the Imperial crown upon his head, and by whose heroic daring Germany has been made a nation. He seems to think that Bismarcks are secondary accidents and the wearer of the crown is all in all. Had his majesty's grandfather thought the same his majesty would be king of Prussia. He proclaims peace and increases his army. Very likely he does desire peace, but the mighty hand which could impose peace on Europe is gone.

The prevailing theory seems to be that the dismissal of Bismarck was caused by friction between him and the Emperor. We cannot help fearing, however, that there is also something in the theory that royalty and family feeling have contrived to revenge themselves for the overthrow of petty monarchies, especially that of Hanover. To those whose trade it is to be kings the greatest of all offences are those which affect the trade.

—Mr. Hurlbert, an American ex-journalist of mark, after carefully studying France, comes to the conclusion that the French people want a Monarchy instead of a Republic. The French people want neither Monarchy nor Republic: the prestige of both has long been worn out, and as to the traditions or monuments of the monarchical past they are no more to the French peasant than Stonehenge is to Hodge, or Luxor to the Fellaheen. What the French people want is strong, stable, and trustworthy government; and the question is how to found such a government on the shifting sand of a Chamber made up of a dozen factions always caballing against each other, always conspiring against the administration, and filled with restlessness by personal vanity, as well as by party passion. For a moment there is an apparent increase of strength and stability; but how long will it last?

—Mr. Gladstone's comparison of the killing of a single rioter at Mitchellstown to the Siberian atrocities is worthy of Mr. Gladstone though it will be echoed by American Anglophobists who exulted over the slaughter of more than a thousand Irish in the Draft riots. But surely there can be no use in irritating the Czar when we cannot control him. Our protests are all taken as expressions of sympathy with Nihilism, the professed object of which is not to reform Russian Government, but to destroy the community, the moral law,

religion, marriage and the family, while its instrument is murder. Nothing is so cruel as fear : no fear is so maddening as the fear of assassination ; and the more the Czar is threatened by the dynamite of Nihilism the more savage his measures of repression will be. He may be goaded into war. We believe that as to the Russian prison system the sober truth is, as a trustworthy inquirer told us some time ago, that it is barbarous in proportion to other things in Russia, compared with more advanced nations, but not more.

—We are not surprised at the rejection of the Copyright Bill by Congress. The wonder is that anyone should think it worth his while to roll up the Congressional hill this stone of Sisyphus, which always rolls down again. Strike for free trade in books, and when you have got it produce your literary wares as you produce other wares, in such a shape and at such a price as will suit and command the market, instead of clinging to conventional forms and asking a guinea for that which is not worth half-a-crown. That is the true policy. Meantime, Canada, ill-starred, is left between the upper millstone of British Copyright and the lower millstone of American piracy. If our Bill is vetoed it will be hard upon us and not less hard upon the English author.

—In a recent issue of *The Week*, Prof. J. Clarke Murray, of McGill University, enters a timely protest against the pestilent fashion of book-hawking, which not only degrades literature and is unfair to the legitimate book-trade, but is a means of gulling and often of swindling the public. For one good book put in circulation through its agency, perhaps fifty indifferent if not bad ones, are palmed off. In the case even of the good book, the buyer is often made to pay twice its fair price. Some day, surely, the system will be upset, and we shall see England throwing over the artificial and privileged library system,

and this continent rejecting book-publishing by subscription. In this matter we would do well, as Matthew Arnold did, to look to France. The intrusion of the book-canvasser has become well-nigh intolerable: this, our publishers may as well acknowledge.

—The Exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists is about the best we have had and promises well for the future. The work of a few artists will usually stand out from that of the rest, but on the present occasion the average merit is high. Nor is there what we have previously noted, a marked contrast in the success attained by the workers in water-colours and oils. This year the more difficult department is equally well represented. At its head, in figure subjects, stands Mr. G. A. Reid, with "Mortgaging the Homestead" and "The Other Side of the Question." In the latter there is perhaps too high a colour, but both are clever and show increasing power and facility. "A Study"—a profile face in shadow, with a well managed light effect falling on the neck, from the same brush, deserves praise. Mr. Forster's "The Rival Ladies' Schools" is a very amusing, clever and skilful handling of a very amusing subject, while it surmounts great technical difficulties. Miss Tully's portrait of a young girl (No. 215) shows fine treatment. The high merit of Mr. Pinhey's "Christian Martyr" suffers by being hung above the line. From the same artist we have a native historical subject (No. 156) which is vigorously treated. The figures of the Indians shooting their arrows at the passing canoes are examples of intensity of action. Mr. Forbes shows well in the likeness of "The Late Mr. Bendelari," and Miss McConnell in a strong figure (No. 229) seated in an arm-chair. Mr. W. A. Sherwood has a fine subject, cleverly treated, in the Rev. Dr. Scadding. Mr. Cutts is also well represented in the portrait No. 239. In landscapes, perhaps the best in the gallery is Mr. Bell-Smith's "Dulse Gatherers in the Bay of Fundy." The fog effect is capitally rendered,

and the foreground is a very careful bit of work. Mr. Homer Watson has this year no large canvases, but the small landscapes he sends are characteristically good. In oils, among the other subjects that deserve mention, are Mrs. G. A. Reid's Flowers, Mr. Forbes' Peaches, and two studies of dogs—"A Scotch Terrier," and "A Pug"—by Mr. Sherwood.

In water-colours the chief honours belong to Mr. M. Matthews and Mr. Bell-Smith, though throughout this department there is much positive excellence. Mr. O'Brien is not strongly represented this season. Appeals to the public for support will avail little if the head of the Canadian Academy appears comparatively to slight the exhibition. What Mr. O'Brien sends, however, is good, particularly his "Clovelly," a sea-coast piece in Devon. Another Old World scene he sends us is "A Norman Stairway," which is excellent in its line of art. An old and ever-welcome exhibitor is Mr. J. A. Fraser, who shows some charming sketches which may well serve as models for our younger artists. It is pleasant to see that Mr. Fraser, though settled at a distance, is loyal in his attachment to Canadian art. The chief field of Messrs. Matthews and Bell-Smith's successes is that of the Rockies. Specially good are Mr. Bell-Smith's examples (Nos. 47, 59 and 67) of rolling clouds and tree tops on the mountains. No. 112, by the same artist, representing a canyon on the Illecillewaet, is bold and effective. Mr. Matthews is a strong exhibitor, also, in his mountain sketches. Very admirable are No. 7, "In Fraser Canyon," No. 11, "The Hermit Range of the Selkirks," and No. 122, "Head of the Illecillewaet." No. 36, "The River's Birth," we deem a masterpiece. In this last the artist has succeeded in giving us a splendid vista. Mr. Matthews' whole work is of a high order. Cool and rich is Mr. Revell's "On the Humber" (No. 56). A Cumberland scene, from the same brush, is an effective and painstaking bit of work. No. 101, a harbour scene, by Mr. Knowles, is commendable. Exceedingly good also is all of Mr. Bruenech's work, particularly No. 46, "North Cape in a Storm," and No. 262, "Elizabeth Island, Jersey." Mr. Gagen

has some excellent qualities as a studier of character. His Nassau sketches are both picturesque and pleasing. In Sculpture, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Frith, and Mr. McCarthy, as usual, make a good showing. On the whole, as we have said, the exhibition is a success.

Professor Ashley, in his paper on the "Canadian Sugar Combine," noticed in our last issue, said: "So it is with competition. It gave England forty years ago cheap cloth and cheap cotton. It gave it also a huge, miserable and discontented working population that brought it to the verge of a social revolution." This we took to refer to Free Trade, which was introduced rather more than forty years ago, and which gave England cheap cloth and cheap cotton. In the same paragraph, Prof. Ashley had twice treated free trade and free competition apparently as convertible terms. It seems, however, from a letter received from him, that in this passage he did not mean free trade, but free competition generally; that he distinguishes the one from the other; and that he means to speak of "Competition," and not of "Free Trade." We must beg leave therefore to correct what we said. We should, however, be prepared to deny that anything in the way of commercial or industrial legislation, done forty years ago, had produced a "miserable and discontented population." There has been, we submit, from that time not only a vast growth of national wealth, but a growth almost equally vast of the area of comfortable living. The inverted commas in our paragraph were misplaced: they ought to have been after not before "free trade."

If there has been delay on our part in dealing with the case of Messrs. Macdonald and Tupper the blame rests partly on those gentlemen. They chose, or perhaps one of them chose, instead of addressing a remonstrance to the editor of this journal who might at once have attended to it, to send

a grossly insulting and libellous letter to a writer who happened not to be in the country and publish it in their party organ. After the publication of that letter we might perhaps have been warranted in leaving the matter where it stood. Special notice was hardly due to a volley of personal abuse, discharged moreover against the wrong object. The statements of the *Globe*, to which we referred, were perfectly explicit and circumstantial, and were supported by documentary evidence produced in a public law suit. Nor were the facts on which our remarks were based denied at the time of the occurrence, either by the party organ, which could do little more than cry *tu quoque*, or by the Prime Minister, when the charge of "trading on and speculating in their influence with the administration" was brought against the firm in Parliament by Mr. Malcolm Cameron. The Prime Minister touched only two or three transactions, leaving the general case untouched. However, we have caused inquiry to be made at Winnipeg, as we said we would. Some of the sources of information which were open to the *Globe* at the time are now closed against us. Still we have what we consider abundant evidence, documentary and of other kinds, before us. We never said or meant to imply that any department of Government had been corrupted or approached with improper language. It is not alleged that even Mr. Rykert ever bribed an official, or introduced himself formally as a member of Parliament demanding of Government the price of his support. Nor did we in simply recording the denials of Messrs. Macdonald and Tupper in the Rykert case mean to imply any doubt of their veracity, but, on the contrary, to accept their disclaimer without question. But subject to these remarks we are prepared to maintain that the statement of the case in the *Globe* was substantially true and that in partly reproducing it we did no wrong. We say this without the slightest misgiving. "I think," says a former member of the firm in reply to a legal interrogatory, "the (timber) limits were gotten from the position Macdonald and Tupper (held) apart from their being lawyers."

What position did they or could they hold apart from this connection with the Ministers? What else could have led to the employment of these two young men, out of all the lawyers in Winnipeg, in a long series of transactions of this kind? What but their personal connection with Government could have led to their success, above all their local compeers, and their extraordinary gains? "It has been very generally understood here," says a most trustworthy informant, "that about the only means of getting anything done in the Interior Department at Ottawa, out of the regular routine course, was to obtain the services of some Conservative lawyer or agent, and from their intimate relations with the two principal members of the Government the firm of Macdonald & Tupper have almost monopolized this business." By what miracle is it that this not very eminent firm has flourished while disappointment and even despondency have reigned around? Of the marvellous list of agencies, to which they have pointed as the source of their apparently inordinate gains, did all come to them in the ordinary way? The Winnipeg Bar seems to have thought not. What made them Land Solicitors to the C. P. R.? When they, without professional claims to the honour, are made Q. C.'s and the Attorney-General of the Province is passed over, this is surely notice to suitors of the channel through which favourable access to Ottawa is most likely to be found. With regard to the general opinion at Winnipeg, both at the time and now, on this subject there can be no doubt. Even the Manitoban journalist who now supports Messrs. Macdonald & Tupper and seconds their calumnious attack on a writer in this journal, formerly himself denounced their practices, amidst roaring applause, in language which it would be almost libellous to repeat. We are of opinion that in an ideal state of official practice and public sentiment the sons of Ministers would not be habitually engaged in promoting claims of any kind in the departments of Government. If this sounds like suspiciousness, perhaps at the present juncture it will be thought that suspiciousness is not, of all faults, injurious to the Commonwealth.

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TORONTO.

UNITED STATES PATENTS.

A NEW FIRM OF PATENT LAWYERS.

FROM THE *Toronto Globe*, Jan. 21, 1890.

"There can be no more emphatic comment on the unsatisfactory nature of public life in the United States than the voluntary retirement of so many public men to private life and to business or professional pursuits. A noticeable case of this kind is presented by the recent announcement of a new law firm having special reference to patent law, which has opened offices in Washington and Chicago, under the style of Butterworth, Hall, Brown & Smith.

"The senior member of the firm is well known to our readers as the Congressman who has championed the cause of Commercial Union with Canada. By a peculiar coincidence both Messrs. Butterworth and Hall have been Commissioners of Patents as well as Congressmen, Mr. Butterworth serving as Commissioner under the Republican Administration of the late President Arthur and Mr. Hall under the Democratic Administration of President Cleveland. Mr. Hall stands high as a lawyer in his native State of Iowa and throughout the country. He refused the nomination as Governor of his State last summer in order to devote himself to the new firm, though, as it turned out, the nomination would have been equivalent to an election.

Mr. Butterworth is still in Congress shaping legislation designed to mutually benefit Canada and the United States. By virtue of his position as Chairman of the Committee on Patents of the House of Representatives, he is also putting his impress upon the patent laws of the United States, and it is believed that from his efforts and influence will result the long-desired establishment of a special Court of Appeals for patent cases, certain needed modifications of the laws affecting foreign inventors, and a more liberal policy toward the United States Patent Office, a bureau that has accumulated a surplus of \$3,000,000, to which it is adding at the rate of more than \$200,000 a year. The appended letter from Mr. Erastus Wiman, which has fallen into our hands, will show the rank which the new firm will take in the profession.—

Messrs. Butterworth, Hall, Brown & Smith, No. 606 Eleventh street, Washington, D. C.:

GENTLEMEN, I have just received a card announcing the formation of your new law firm, and I hasten to acknowledge the same, and congratulate you on the strong and well-balanced array of talent presented thereby.

"The association of two ex-Commissioners of the Patent Office, men of varied legal learning and prominence in public life, with two energetic young lawyers, former examiners in the Patent Office, and possessing with ripe legal experience the engineering and scientific knowledge so necessary in the branch of patent litigation and soliciting of which you intend making a speciality, renders your firm the best equipped one of the kind within my knowledge, and my interests in patent rights and acquaintance with members of your profession, in this country and abroad, are varied and extensive.

"As I have for some years past entrusted all the patent business which I control to members of your firm while practising individually, I shall take great pleasure in continuing it in the hands of the firm as now organized.

"Inasmuch as the Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, the senior member of your firm, is so well and widely known in Canada, I would suggest that you properly announce its formation there, so that my friends who are frequently asking me to recommend to them some one who can attend to patent law business in this country may know that he is now in a position to render them service of this kind.—Faithfully yours,

"314 Broadway, New York, Dec. 16, 1890."

ERASTUS WIMAN.