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REVIEW

THE BYSTANDER

OF
CURRENT EVENTS,
CANADIAN AND GENERAL.

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THE BYSTANDER.

JULY, 1890.

THE Ontario Election went as we said it would go and, we believe, for the reasons which we gave. Mr. Meredith had not at his side a single man possessed as an administrator of public confidence. His right and left bower had been tried in the last session and had failed. He took up Equal Rights too late and as the people thought too obviously with a view to the election. At the same time he incurred in full measure the hostility of the Roman Catholic clergy and gave his opponents the full benefit of their influence. He had no other cry, the Mowat Government not having laid itself open to any special charge. Ottawa knifed him, yet he had to move under the restraint and to carry the odium of the connection as well as to drag the weight of its local organ. The position which he undertook to storm had been fortified by the assiduous exercise of patronage, including the sinister licensing power, by gerrymandering, and all the other influences which a party in office commands, for eighteen years. If we add that he is himself rather too open-minded and too amiable for party leadership, we shall be saying what from our point of view is not disparagement but praise.

Mr. Meredith has now to choose his course. He can hardly doubt that there is an end of the old donkey-engine which he was set to work in Ontario in the interest of a party at Ottawa, and indirectly in the interest of Quebec, by whose support the party at Ottawa is kept in power. His task has in fact been to hold Ontario down while Quebec plucked her, and this can

be done no more. The tie between Dominion and Provincial party has been finally broken. An Opposition here to have a chance of success must be a Provincial Opposition. In that character it may work its way to victory. Nothing can be weaker than the moral position of Mr. Mowat, a professing Liberal and an old opponent of Separate Schools, purchasing the support of a reactionary priesthood by a flagrant sacrifice of Liberal principle. Old stagers may be content to remain in such a ship, but the younger men will be repelled. Hope will come to the Opposition and bring strength with it. The men whom it so much needs will be called out, and they will not, as soon as they show ability, be drafted off to Ottawa. To govern us while he keeps himself in power by the Roman Catholic vote is what the Grit leader undertakes. There are surely men enough in Ontario resolved not to be so governed to make a decent following for his opponent.

It is pleasant when you have said what seemed paradoxical to be proved right. Many of our readers must have thought that we were guilty of paradox in saying that Mr. Mowat was the Sir John Macdonald of Ontario, that the real affinity was between the positions of those two men, and that Sir John never very heartily desired that "Mowat should go," but was well content with an arrangement under which he and Mr. Mowat used the Catholic vote by turns, while all was kept quiet in the British and Protestant Province. But our diagnosis has proved true. Not only did Ottawa knife Mr. Meredith. *Le Monde*, Sir Hector Langevin's recognised organ, openly hailed the success of Mr. Mowat as a victory for Sir John Macdonald's Government. And now Sir John himself, with Archbishop Cleary at his side, exults over the renewal by the people of Ontario of their confidence in Mr. Mowat. What says Ontario Toryism; what say the managers of its organ, who for months past have been furiously abusing Mr. Mowat and holding him up as totally unworthy of public confidence? What, we may also ask, say the Liberals who have voted for Mr. Mowat and Archbishop Cleary? Are not those Liberals,

who followed Liberal principle and not Party, abundantly justified in their course?

Mr. Mowat of course received the entire Roman Catholic vote. Not only did he receive the vote, but prayers were offered up for his success, as prayers would be offered up tomorrow for his discomfiture if he ceased to serve the interest and do the bidding of the Church. He may yet live to find as others have found who have played the same game that in politics the name of priest is perfidy. His party indeed need only live two years to become sensible of the fact. For at the Dominion election the sheep will all be driven into the other pen and the Grits, in requital for their surrender, will poll not a single Roman Catholic vote.

A portion of the Orange body did nobly for its own principles and for the cause of William of Orange. The "new party" persisted in going to the poll without the faintest chance of success, or even of polling a respectable vote, and did just enough to ensure the victory of the Machines, a result which its eminent and eloquent leader can hardly have desired.

How fared Equal Right? Far better than any movement of principle outside the Machines has ever fared before it. Its meetings up to the last were crowded and enthusiastic. It manifestly turned several elections. In Toronto its chief candidate did nobly on the platform and polled 4,500 votes, among which if the names could be known, would certainly be found no mean portion of what is best, most intelligent, and most independent in Toronto. This was done with hardly any organization and without an election fund. The strength of the Machines is tremendous; it was felt in the very core of the Equal Rights Association. The issue was confused and overlaid at the polls by other issues, general and local, as well as by blind allegiance to party. Had it been distinctly submitted to the people, there can be no doubt what the verdict would have been. There can be no doubt if the issue of Equal Right ever is submitted to the people what the verdict will be. But the men who have come forward as the champions of the prin-

ciple must persevere. They have taken the public conscience into their hands, and if they fail the people, the deadness to principle will be greater than ever, and our latter end will be worse than our first.

—Mr. Mercier triumphs in Quebec. He even, in the teeth of all prophecies, carries Montreal. So the Nationalist Tricolor still floats over that Province, the Pope reigns over it, and the revival of New France is more than ever its aspiration for the future. The appeals of the victorious party both to Nationalism and to Ultramontanism appear to have been as open and direct as they were successful. Good-night to French Conservatism, and at the same time to British influence, in the French Province! The only drawback to Mr. Mercier's triumph is that his treasury is empty. This gives rise to a rumour that he will "sell out" to Sir John Macdonald for a large subsidy. There is certainly no stern morality on either side to forbid the deal. If this did happen after the surrender of all Liberal principles by the Grits for the sake of the Mercier alliance it would be in its way one of the pleasantest little incidents in our political history. But it is more likely that Mr. Mercier will again have recourse to the strong-box of the British and heretic financiers of Montreal. A subsidy, however, may be extorted from the Dominion Government and to provide the means for it perhaps another ten per cent. will be laid on the farm implements of the settlers in the North-West. Meantime we would invite the attention of Imperial Federationists and all people who are inclined that way once more to New France and ask them how they propose to work it into their projected system. Mr. Mowat, we observe, has not congratulated Mr. Mercier.

—The judgment which was given by the Supreme Court of the United States the other day in the case of Nagle, the

United States officer who had shot Terry to save the life of Judge Field, and which affirmed the right of the Federal Government to protect its judges on circuit, had a significance beyond the special case or class of cases. It denoted an extension of the Federal and National power. The two Democratic members of the Court, the Chief Justice and Judge Lamar, asserted the principle of the State Right Party by a dissentient judgment accordingly. But nationalization will not stop here. The social and commercial fusion consequent on the extension of railways and of commercial enterprises and corporations has been silently removing the landmarks of State Right. To a corporation trading in half-a-dozen States it is most inconvenient to be under as many different commercial codes. The frightful diversity of divorce laws is also producing effects which are fast becoming intolerable. Unification both of commercial law and of the marriage law is in the air.

—The indications now are that the so-called McKinley Tariff Bill at Washington will become law without material change. The Republican leaders have felt the public pulse most anxiously and carefully, and believe that the Bill will give them votes and money enough to carry the autumn election for members of the House of Representatives, which is their almost openly avowed purpose in settling the details of the Bill. If they have grievously or even fatally injured some important interests, they have imparted at least a temporary stimulus to others, and as they have not scrupled to give the preference to interests from which they expect the most in a partisan sense, it is probable that the proximate results of the measure will tell politically in their favour. That the ultimate and not very distant effect of the Bill will be to hasten the movement towards freer trade can hardly be questioned. The McKinley tariff will further reduce the declining export trade of the United States, and, as the inevitable tendency of the protective system is to accumulate the

wealth of a country in the hands of a favoured minority, there must shortly be a hapless and discontented majority ready to strike so soon as the cause of distress is seen with the clearness of practical conviction. The McKinley Bill is the product of an era distinguished, beyond all precedent, for the corruption of the machinery of popular government by bribery on a scale of hugeness comports with the largeness of American ideas in general. It has a parallel, in this respect, in our Protective system. Nothing much better than the McKinley Bill could be devised as a means of practically testing the comparative merits of Free Trade and Protection over so wide an area as that of the United States. In that respect it is an important contribution to economic science. It will in the upshot, we have little doubt, prove to be also an important contribution to the progress of commercial and industrial liberty. There are parts of it which as Canadians we must deplore, and which will probably inflict upon us temporary loss and distress, yet in the end we may be glad to see it passed in its unmitigated deformity. Combined with the equally suicidal policy of our own Government, it may produce a revolt which will overturn the whole edifice of iniquity. Let it be noted that in England Mr. Gladstone, while he has changed on almost every other question, remains firm in his adherence to Free Trade and scouts the idea that Protectionism under the name of Fair Trade or of any other *alias* has a chance of success in Great Britain. Our Imperial Federationists therefore may lay aside any ideas of a Tariff Union or of discrimination in favour of the Colonies, not that our protected manufacturers desire anything of that kind, for to their loyal minds the exclusion of British goods is the first object of commercial legislation.

—So far we had written when there suddenly came Mr. Blaine's letter transmitted by the President to Congress and recommending that authority be given to the President to de-

clare the ports of the United States free to all the products of any nation of the American hemisphere upon which no export duties are imposed. This has fallen like a thunderbolt upon the McKinley Bill and its supporters. We had not been without reason to believe that something of the kind was brewing in that quarter, but we could not understand how the party would have pushed the McKinley Bill in Congress as it did, if it knew that its own leaders in the Administration were hostile to its policy. Generally the unity of party at Washington is strict enough, if not to prevent internal dissensions, to preclude their open exhibition. Mr. Blaine is a man of larger mind than most of his party, and as Secretary of State he stands on an eminence from which he commands a wider view than those who are struggling in the Congressional crowd. He no doubt scans the future and sees that in spite of the verdict apparently given by the nation at the last Presidential election, the tide of opinion is really turning, as this journal has maintained, against the follies and iniquities of the present system. The American nation would be in its dotage if it were not so. Mr. Blaine has championed the Protection policy both on the stump and very recently in literary debate with Mr. Gladstone. But he would probably say that his proposal being confined to the nations of the American hemisphere, and leaving the tariff-wall against European goods untouched, he is guilty of no treason to his principle. His proposal is in terms confined to the South American "nations" which sent delegates to his Pan-American convention. But Canada also is in the American hemisphere. For us, too, if Mr. Blaine's policy triumphs at Washington, the proposal of Continental Free Trade will change the scene.

—The sword of the Inter-State Commerce Act still hangs suspended over the two Canadian Railways and nobody seems to know whether it will fall. In the balanced state of parties in the United States almost every sectional interest has a veto on

the national policy. The veto of a sectional interest saved us from the national policy of retaliation. A similar veto which is certainly being interposed, may save the C.P.R. and the Grand Trunk. Yet it is scarcely probable that the Americans if they have any national feeling will allow the two foreign roads to retain a privilege against their own and against lines subsidized by their Government, especially when one of the foreign roads is being perpetually paraded by its injudicious friends as a great military work and the grand engine of a policy antagonistic to the United States. In Commercial Union lies the only sound and permanent solution of this as well as the Fisheries' question, the Behring Sea question, and all other commercial questions between us and our neighbours.

—The true object of the so-called Silver Bill at Washington is expressed in its title: "An Act directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of Treasury notes thereon." Firstly, and chiefly, the design of the Bill is to create an artificial price and demand for silver by compelling the Government of the United States to purchase vast quantities of it in excess of the normal wants of the Mint. The members of Congress most active in pushing this compulsion to extremity are, some of them, largely interested in silver mines, and are thus using their official positions for purposes of the most sordid character. They are supported by otherwise innocent colleagues, who believe that a debasement of the currency would benefit their respective localities, west and south, by inducing an inflation of enterprise and of values of land and products, and so increasing the capacity of their constituents to pay their debts. Men who live, or wish to live, by speculation, instead of by labour, are also for the Bill, hoping to find in the effects of a redundant currency, produced by issuing circulating notes upon the bullion to be purchased under compulsion of the Act, many opportunities for turning the "nimble sixpence" at the sole charge of somebody else.

Boundless as the capacity for economical delusion is, it seems incredible that many people can deliberately and sincerely convince themselves that there can be two standards of value, any more than there can be two standards of height, weight or quality, or that the Silver Bill means anything but an inflation of the currency by a vast coinage of bad money. The Bill is but one more manifestation of the struggle constantly going on between unscrupulousness and avarice on the one side, and thrift and industry on the other. Luckily the political necessities of President Harrison and his nearest partisans are likely to restrain him and them from permitting the Bill to go as far in the direction of mischief as otherwise it might. Capable management of the Treasury may still put off for a while the evil day when gold shall no longer be the standard of value for the American Union.

Canadian financiers, foreseeing the Silver Bill, have made their American contracts expressly in gold. But will the stipulation be respected? May not the Supreme Court, which, in the ill-omened case of the Legal Tender Act, held that paper when issued by the Government, though depreciated, must be taken at par, also hold that silver when issued by the Government must be taken as gold in the like manner? The disturbance of the faith of contracts cannot be more flagrant in the second case than it was in the first. The Supreme Court, when political considerations do not interfere, is a most respectable tribunal, but political considerations do sometimes interfere. We stoutly maintain, however, that in no case has Congress any legal power to break contracts, and that the Supreme Court in holding that Congress has that power gives an unrighteous judgment. Congress has no powers but those which are expressly given it by the Constitution, and the Constitution gives it no power of breaking contracts, while it expressly withholds that power from the State Legislature. If the excellent correspondent of the *New York Tribune* or anyone else has any answer to this argument we should like to see it.

—“Our Infant Woollens” is a tract, put forth we believe by one of the highest authorities in New England, showing in a striking instance how infant industries keep their promise that as soon as protection has given them a foothold they will dispense with it and stand alone. From the first protective tariff, that of 1789 and 1791, vaunted as the foundation stone of American prosperity, to the McKinley Bill, the protective duties on Woollens have advanced through successive stages from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 100 per cent. The people are now not only being robbed by the monopolists of the 100 per cent. duty on their clothes, but their earnings are being taken from them and squandered in pensions at the rate of a hundred millions a year to prevent the reduction of the tariff. Meantime the treasurer of the Arlington Woollen Mills reports to his stockholders: “I have been your treasurer for a consecutive period of twenty years. During this period the average earnings have been 20 8-10 per cent. upon the capital. . . The earnings last year were nearly three and a half times those of the year previous, and there is every indication that the current year will be the most profitable one in the Company’s history.” The artisan votes for protection because he is told that it keeps up wages. Have wages in the Arlington Mills been kept up to the level of the profits? The development on the largest scale of fertile lands, rich minerals and water-powers with a vast immigration, as the writer truly says, have stimulated production and have really created the prosperity which Protection falsely arrogates as its own work. Canada has now been consigned by Sir John Macdonald for his political purposes to “infants” of the same kind, and we shall have a similar succession of demands for further applications of the pap-boat, enforced as they are in the United States by the lavish use of corruption. Unfortunately, Canada if she has, like the United States fertile lands, rich minerals and water-power to make up for the drain of taxation, is by the same policy excluded from her natural market, whereas the United States are a vast market to themselves. However, we say once more

the night of Protectionism is now far spent. Mr. Butterworth's speech on the McKinley Bill which called forth a great burst of sympathy from the country is not unlikely to prove the first streak of dawn.

—The reports of our Banks and other financial institutions are on the whole favourable. The Bank of Montreal admits that it has had a pinch, but this appears to be largely owing to the withdrawal of Government deposits. It seems almost misanthropic to breath a misgiving as to the perfect trustworthiness of their indications. Yet we cannot help asking ourselves what is the basis of our commercial prosperity and the security for its continuance. Ontario is a farming country and its staples are wheat and barley. Our wheat market in England, if it is not closed, is greatly diminished and likely to be still further diminished by the influx of wheat from India and other quarters. Our barley market is reduced by the growing preference for the lighter kinds of ale, in which barley is less used, as well as threatened with destruction by the American tariff. The cattle trade with England is a failure; so is, and so must be, the horse trade, since horses sent to a distant market, if they do not take its fancy at once will consume a great part of their value in standing at livery. Minerals we have good store, but the fatal policy of the Government denies them a market, and at the same time forbids the importation of machinery and discourages the inflow of capital to work them. Farm land has gone down in value at least thirty per cent. over the Province; the exodus continues; and it is said that the area of land under grain has actually diminished. The growth of Toronto and the rise of real estate there, though vaunted as proofs of prosperity, are all at the expense of the smaller towns, from which the people are rushing, as they are in other countries, to the great city. When money is made here, it is to a serious extent carried over the water to be spent. Our debt to England is being augmented by the im-

portation of British capital for investment on a large scale. What then is it which pays the interest on all the capital of our Banks and Loan Societies, and what guarantee have we for the continuance of the power to pay in the future?

We cannot speak of our Banks without noticing the withdrawal of Mr. Henry W. Darling from the Presidency of the Bank of Commerce, which it has been his task to pilot over a somewhat dangerous sea. The breadth of his commercial view and his power of handling great commercial questions, with his general ability and energy, have been very valuable not only to the Board of Trade which signally recognized his services to it, but to the commercial community at large, and it is to be hoped that opportunities of rendering similar services will not be wanting to him in the future.

—On both sides of the Line we have been doing our best to “get rid of the timber,” which has been treated as if it cumbered the ground. What has not been used for building or for fuel has been burned where it stood, while the waste has been enormous. The result now is, not only a decline in the quality of marketable timber, but the prospect of a dearth in the near future; for timber, unlike grain, does not grow again in a year or even in a generation. In Canada, we have hitherto supposed that our forest-wealth was inexhaustible. The same mistake was made by the fur-traders in regard to the peltry trade. We have gone on for years selling, often far under value, or, with an easy morality, making grants to politicians of extensive timber limits, and we are to-day only awaking to the consequences of our folly. Even the railways which we have lavishly bonused have been active agents in denuding the land of its treasure. A protest addressed the other day by Mr. William Little to the Montreal Board of Trade contains some startling proofs of the waste. The annual conversion into sawn lumber of the forest areas of the United States has been so enormous that it appears that in

the once heavily-wooded districts of Maine and Michigan there is now left standing not more than a year or two's yield. Mr. Little states "that the forests of the vast territory extending from the confines of New Brunswick to the head waters of the Mississippi are almost on the verge of immediate exhaustion." What has been cut for shingles, added to the amount sawn into lumber, has made great inroads, chiefly on the rapidly disappearing stock of spruce and white pine. The same writer observes, that so frightful has been the forest slaughter that the 29 billion feet reported as standing ten years ago in Lower Michigan have dwindled to 3 billion feet, or one-tenth the amount standing in that year. The same reckless consumption has been going on in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; the spruce in the Adirondack region of New York, which was estimated ten years ago at 5 billion feet, with a limited amount in the mountain districts of Pennsylvania, has now, it appears, been pretty well harvested. "To-day," adds Mr. Little, "for every mill-owner who has five years' stock remaining, there are ten who have not one. The mills are being dismantled, burnt stump lands are being again cut over, all floatable timber of every kind is being taken to the mills to be converted into lumber, and mill-owners are now making onslaught on our Canadian pine to keep their otherwise useless saw mills in operation." The result of American recklessness is beginning to come home to our neighbours, and it will be well for us to profit by their experience. By forest destruction a hundred industries connected with lumber will suffer, as well as the lumber trade itself; railway and shipping interests will be affected; and even our climate will undergo, indeed it is already undergoing, a serious change.

—The demand of another half million for Schools in Toronto though since abated, has startled Toronto and made people ask whether this source of expenditure ought not to be brought under regular control. To exempt it from regular control was

fine sentiment but not economy. The system is an anomaly and in its primary aspect not equitable. Of those who use the public schools three-fourths are just as well able to pay for the schooling of their children as for their bread and clothing, while the natural obligation is precisely the same. There is no more equity in calling upon the man with one child to provide the six children of his perhaps less prudent neighbour with education than there would be in calling upon him to feed and clothe them. The compensation for the unfairness is the political and social security which the system is supposed to assure to us by educating a class which might otherwise through ignorance misuse political power and perhaps grow up criminal. But is the assurance fulfilled? Are the children of the lowest and most dangerous class found in the schools? Do not the returns of the Minister of Education give us reason to suspect that a large portion of those children at all events is allowed to escape? A law of compulsory attendance carried thoroughly into effect is the complement of the public school system without which the system itself cannot be just. It is strange that people should kick so resolutely against public relief for the destitute, as leading to demoralization, while they acquiesce in a school system which is nothing more nor less than a system of public relief on the largest scale for the class which takes advantage of the schools.

—The Official Report of the Committee on the Middleton case which is now before us fully bears out the opinion which we had formed. Let it be borne in mind that the charge against the General was systematic looting or connivance at looting. The appropriation of Bremner's furs, according to the indictment brought by Mr. Lister, was not an isolated transaction but part of a series comprising, besides the Bremner case, the appropriation of furs by the General, the appropriation by him of horses, and the appropriation by Mr. S. L. Bedson, with the General's connivance, of a pool-table and horses taken from

settlers at Batoche. Three of the four cases have fallen to the ground, the Batoche and Bedson cases being apparently abandoned, as nothing is said about them in the Report, while the appropriation of horses by the General is reduced to the taking, for the public service, of a single horse which was afterwards handed over to the Government auctioneer. The letter directing the confiscation and appropriation of the Bremner furs cannot be found: its contents have to be supplied from memory; the General did not look at it after it was written, and he positively denies having directed the insertion of any injunction to secrecy. Nor did he ever see the furs or inquire about them afterwards. Bremner now swears that he had nothing to do with the rebellion, the Indians having carried him off to their camp by force; but appearances were clearly against him at the time. Among other things, he had in his possession the rifle of a slain volunteer. A hasty order given five years ago turmoil of war and forgotten as soon as it was given, is in the the sum of the misconduct proved against General Middleton. The order was unquestionably wrong. The General's indiscretion in giving it is greatly to be lamented, and bitterly it has been rued. But when this has been said all has been said that reason and justice warrant, or that would have been said if influences and motives perfectly irrelevant to the merits of the case had not been allowed to interfere. A verdict ought to have been given on the charge preferred, which was that of systematic looting or connivance at looting, and given on that charge it must have been a verdict of acquittal.

—There are surely few events more deserving of oblivion than the Fenian Raids. It is difficult to see how anyone can desire to keep their memory alive unless he wants to fan the embers of international enmity. To us they were inglorious, to the Americans worse. Owing to bad combinations and a blunder on the field, our troops were put to flight by a horde of vagabond marauders. The American Government, on the

other hand, failed in the observance of international obligations and ought to have paid for its failure at Geneva. Its excuse was the moral support lent to the South by the Tory aristocracy of England and its partisans here. If American statesmen yielded, however ignominiously, to the Irish vote we, considering the action of our Legislatures, are hardly qualified to cast the first stone. Let us honour by all means the memory of all who died for the country, but let us not allow their sepulchre to be used by those who had no part in their sacrifice as the altar of an irrational and ignoble hatred. The Romans marked with a memorial stone the spot where the thunder-bolt had struck, but they did not annually bring to it votive wine and flowers.

The celebration of military anniversaries altogether perhaps belongs more clearly to the worshippers of Mars or of Woden than to believers in the Gospel. So long as separate nationalities exist, and there is no supreme tribunal to arbitrate between them in their quarrels, wars there will be, the qualities of the soldier will be justly prized, and deliverance in battle will be a cause for national thankfulness, perhaps a meet occasion for *Te Deums*. But the war over, the enmity between Christian nations ought to cease. Nor are those who desire to keep it alive and to trample year after year on the necks of the vanquished likely themselves to be heroes. The Duke of Wellington gathered round his board each year the survivors of Waterloo. But had it been proposed to crow over France and stir up her resentment annually by a national celebration, it is pretty certain that he would have rejected the proposal. Yet Waterloo was a glorious victory. Suppose the Duke had been asked to institute an annual celebration of his repulse before Burgos! If Federal and Confederate veterans can meet as brethren on the field of Gettysburg, and the North can applaud the unveiling of the statue of Lee, surely we may bury the evil memories of Ridgeway, much more those of a fratricidal war waged a century or three-quarters of a century ago between the two sections of our race.

Considering that this continent is the world of reason and industry, our militarism is curious. In England, an old war power, military distinction alone has never raised a man to high civil office. The Duke of Wellington was not a mere soldier; he was a great European statesman and the real political head of his party. But in the United States a whole series of mere soldiers has been elected to the Presidency or nominated for it. Civil services are neglected and an ex-President is turned out on the street, while pensions to the amount of a hundred millions a year are given to soldiers, a great many of whom were as mere mercenaries as ever sold their blood. The reception of the victors of Waterloo, of Sobraon, of Inkerman, was nothing to our reception of the victors of Fish Creek, Batoche, the march to Battleford, and its sequel, Cut Knife Hill. Evidently, democratic as we are, the old Adam of military feudalism is not quite dead in us. Yet it is surely time that we who flatter ourselves that we are not as those sabre-swayed and sabre-worshipping populations of the benighted Old World, should bring our practical standard of merit a little more into harmony with our ethical creed, and remember that equal honour is due to every man, be he a soldier, a physician, or a brakesman, who meets death in the path of duty. These remarks will not be out of place at a moment when a pulse of Jingoism seems to be again running through our veins, while the blatant voice of the "tail-twister" is again, though feebly, raised at Washington.

—The Women's Enfranchisement Association having sent a sisterly greeting to the Medical Association, one of the most philanthropic as well as one of the most experienced of Toronto physicians entered a caveat against fraternization on the ground that literature subversive of domestic morality had been mailed to his family. The ladies repudiate any connection with such propagandism and of course they speak the truth: though the disclaimer need not have been coupled with a re-

lection on the character of the male medical students. The physician however must have been right as to the fact. He was right too if he thought, that though there may be a total absence of complicity or even of conscious sympathy, there is a tacit connection among the different parts of the "Revolt of Woman." What people who feel inclined to join any part of the movement practically have to determine is, whether they desire a revolution not only in the political relations of the two sexes, but in their domestic relations and in the character and duties of women. A more momentous question humanity could not have to consider. That part of the movement which is in fact a revolt against maternity, and to which Dr. Richardson's protest applied, tends, though in a melancholy way, to repress itself. In the United States the native race, which is the seat of it, manifestly dwindles, while the foreign races to which it has not yet spread gain ground. The Bostonian author of "Looking Backward" tells women that they do all that can be expected of them if they "cultivate their own charms and graces." He apparently does not think it a part of their natural duty to preserve and perpetuate the race.

—Some recent editorials in the *Winnipeg Tribune* have the right ring, and if Manitoba can only be got to act in their spirit she may, with a good harvest, do well. She has allowed herself to be sacrificed to the game of old Eastern parties which were organized before she was born and in whose intrigues and rivalries she has no interest whatever. Her settlers have been plundered through the tariff for the purpose of buying support for the Ottawa Government by means of subsidies, grants to political railways, and bribery of all kinds in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, with which she practically has no more connection than she has with the British Colonies in any other part of the globe. Her connection with Ottawa has so far been nothing but a bane to her and to everything in her except the retainers of the Government or the C. P. R.

and a single pampered law firm. If her school legislation is vetoed, it will be, as she must know, not because such legislation is beyond her lawful power, any more than the Jesuit Act was beyond the lawful power of Quebec, but because the Government at the next election, its hold on Ontario having been loosened, will rely on the Quebec vote. She has been made a political washpot through the subserviency of her representation. "Be no longer Tories or Grits," says the *Tribune* to the public of the Province, "be Manitobans." It is the sound and the only hopeful counsel. The folly of trying to stand well with the Government by electing heelers to the Dominion Parliament must by this time be apparent enough. These men have systematically betrayed the interests with which they were entrusted. They connived at and morally supported the retention of Railway Monopoly; they vote for the iniquitous Tariff. It is difficult to find men of worth who will leave their business for Ottawa. It is also difficult to prevent needy and shortsighted electors from being captured at election time by the paltry bribes of the Government or by false promises, such as that which seated a supporter of Government for Winnipeg. But one strenuous effort will suffice. The present system once knocked down will never be set up again.

—The condition of the British Legislature and of British politics generally is, as Lord Russell said that of the army in the Crimea was, horrible and heart-rending. Parliamentary government cannot be carried on unless the minority will let the majority govern. But the present Opposition will not let the majority govern. Hurried on not only by the violence of faction but by the violence of the disaffection with which faction has allied itself, and led by a man who is burning to avenge his own defeat and make his way back to power at any expense to the nation and the national institutions, it blocks all legislation and has reduced the House of Commons to helplessness and confusion, while the dignity of what was once the first

political assembly in the world is disgraced night after night by low brawls which the Speaker is unable to control. The hope of the Opposition is that by stopping the wheels of legislation and government it will force on a dissolution which, guided by the rather deceptive evidence of the bye-elections, it has persuaded itself will go in its own favour. In the meantime it does its utmost to inflame the worst passions of the people and to stir up Provincial hatred, not in Ireland only, but in Scotland and Wales, against the Union. The very idea of Parliament as a deliberative assembly has ceased to exist. In fact this state of things may be described morally as a civil war; people are beginning to say in their despair that civil war itself would hardly be a greater evil; it would at all events make genuine force and courage, instead of mob oratory and cowardly incendiarism, the arbiters of the national destiny. It has long appeared to us indeed that the nation could hardly be delivered from its peril except by a man who was willing to brave extremities, though it is in the last degree unlikely that he would have to encounter them, since the Continental and Revolutionary party, unless it can get hold of the Government, has not a particle of military force. The Government ought by this time to be aware that there is little use in attempting legislation while the legislative machinery is totally out of gear. Measures must first be taken to re-organize the legislature and make it capable of performing its functions. Strong measures they will need to be and strong measures are always objectionable, but they cannot be avoided in extremity. Lord Salisbury is rather too much of a grandee to fill the present bill. What is needed is a patriotic leader unencumbered by acres or by buckram, who would be willing to take his political life in his hand and try, before it is too late, to save the nation from Dismemberment and Socialistic Revolution.

—The cession of Heligoland to Germany, to which it naturally belongs, will oblige the Imperial Federationists to revise

their Federal catalogue. The islet when first occupied by the British army was a useful station in the struggle with Napoleon, especially in the commercial war against his Continental system. The possession afterwards lost all its value while it retained all its invidiousness. Yet insensate Imperialism shrieks with rage at the cession. So it did at the cession of the Ionian Islands, the possession of which was of no use whatever, and in which England would have had to lock up a small army in case of war. We were then told that with the first relinquishment of territory the sun of England's glory and power would set. It is still somewhat above the horizon. Germany is evidently pleased with the cession and is disposed to requite it by amicable moderation in Africa. The friendship of Germany is not only the sheet-anchor of British diplomacy in Europe but it carries with it the good-will of the Germans of this Continent which in certain contingencies might be of the highest value. The German Press in the United States is not anti-British, nor does it pander to the Irish vote.

—The question of compensation to publicans whose licenses are to be taken away still rages in England. Cardinal Manning comes forward to play the demagogue, and in true demagogic style accuses the Government, because it fears to do injustice, of being a partner in the drinking trade. The Cardinal is a conspicuous instance of the incipient tendency which we have noted in the Roman priesthood, now that they have no longer any kings or kings' favourites with whom to intrigue, to intrigue with the multitude. He was, as is well known, originally an Anglican archdeacon, and was strongly pressed by his brother-in-law, Bishop Wilberforce, on the Court for nomination to a bishopric. The Court smelt mischief and refused. Archdeacon Manning went over to the Church of Rome. The Prince Consort then said to Wilberforce, "You see in what a scrape we should have been if we had taken your advice and made Manning a bishop." "Ah!" was the incautious reply,

“but if you had made him a bishop he would not have gone over to Rome.” The Prince turned on his heel. Such was the story current at the time. The “Apostle of the Genteel,” as from his special solicitude for the souls of persons of quality he was once called, now apparently aspires to the leadership of social and industrial agitation. He patronizes strikes, heads crusades against the liquor trade, and promulgates doctrines about property of a strongly socialistic hue. It is not at all unlikely that the priesthood of the Church of Rome, having lost its old monarchical supports, despairing of mastery over intellect or science, and being detached by celibacy from interest in social order, may try to regain its power by an alliance with social revolution. The revolution being atheistic, the end of such an alliance is certain; but in the meantime there may be a serious addition to the troubles of the world.

—We are told that a broad line is to be drawn between public and private character; rightly, if it is meant that private character should be respected in public discussion; rightly, if it is meant that certain private vices have not been found incompatible with public virtues and great services to the State. But it is idle to say that a man does not carry into public life the character which he has formed in private. Among the political biographies, of which a stream is being poured upon us, two of the latest are those of Fox and Lord Derby. Fox's character was formed at the gambling table, and in public life, with all his generous impulse and personal charm, he was the gambler still. His political career is *rouge et noir*. He begins as a headstrong advocate of prerogative, outrunning Lord North, then he lays his stakes on the other colour, furiously opposing the war with the Colonies, wearing the Revolutionary uniform, and exulting over the reverses of his country at Saratoga and Yorktown. He swears eternal enmity to North. The next moment he is trying to sweep away the stakes by a profligate coalition with the object of his denunciations. The

same recklessness marks his course to the end, and his unmeasured avowals of sympathy with the French Revolutionists can hardly have failed to inflame the panic and frustrate the efforts of Pitt to calm the passions of his party and keep out of war. Lord Derby's character was formed on the turf, so much so that his political nickname was the "Jockey." We have him in Greville's *Memoirs*, when he was leader of the Conservative, and not only of the Conservative, but of the Church, party at Newmarket "in the midst of a crowd of blacklegs, betting-men and loose characters of every description, in uproarious spirits, chaffing, roaring and shouting with laughter and joking." The "coarse merriment" of this highest of aristocrats draws a whole crowd round him. In public life he comes out first as a violent Reformer, getting on the table at Brookes's and threatening to send the King to Hanover if he will not pass the Reform Bill. Then he flies into extreme Toryism and rides that horse just as hard as he had ridden Reform. With the help of Disraeli, he jockeys Peel by a coalition with the Whigs against the third reading of the Coercion Bill when the party had voted in favour of the second reading. He jockeys Palmerston in the same way by a coalition with the Radicals against the third reading of the Conspiracy Bill after supporting the second reading. He carries a sweeping extension of the Franchise, against all Conservative principles, and, regardless of what may happen to the country, exults in having "dished the Whigs." To the recklessness of principle with which he handled the Conservative party or permitted it to be handled, and to its consequent degradation, is largely due the dangerous condition in which the country now finds itself. Let us not say then that in choosing public leaders private character is of no account. Brilliancy, facility, versatility, almost miraculous, Lord Derby undoubtedly possessed: he may have graced society and adorned debate, but to the State no greater disaster has happened in modern times than that which befell it when Derby supplanted Peel.

—At last we have a glimpse into the long expected Memoirs of Talleyrand. Mr. Blowitz, the French correspondent of the *London Times*, has got access to the manuscript and carried away some passages. For our part we have always doubted whether the memoirs would prove so important as the world thought. Such a fox was not likely to be frank and truthful even in a posthumous biography. Nor have we ever felt sure that there was anything very momentous to be revealed. Talleyrand had the art of making everybody believe that he was at the bottom of everything; we are not so certain that he was. Mr. Blowitz tells us that his extracts are not the cream; if they were, the rest would be skimmed milk indeed. No Talleyrand from the grave was needed to tell us that Napoleon “had great intellectual power but was wanting in morality.” More testimony would be needed to assure us that Talleyrand himself “never conspired except with the majority of the French people and in the national interest.” It is to be presumed that he never took bribes or lied except for his country’s good.

—M. Chesnelong, a French Senator, has been delivering an eloquent oration on the observance of Sunday as a divine ordinance for the preservation of man’s spiritual nature, and therewith on the necessity of religion. “Where God is not acknowledged,” he says, “there the public power is paralysed, justice is irresponsible, right is unprotected, liberty has no guarantee, society is shaken to its foundations; it has neither stability nor progress.” It will, perhaps, be said by sceptics in reply that the Japanese and Chinese have no religion, none at least which influences their actions, yet society in Japan and China holds together, while in Japan there is not only stability but progress. But to that again it may be retorted that in China there is not only stability but stagnation, while progress in Japan is not a native movement but a European inoculation, and moreover is still on trial. Perhaps it may also be said,

that neither a Chinese nor a Japanese is a distinct Atheist, since in their mind political and social tradition has a sacredness, at the bottom of which is a vague belief in some divine authority. Imperial Rome was more definitely Atheistic; but then Imperial Rome fell and her fall was owing to the collapse of duty. Certain, however, it seems that no national sanction of morality, public or private, has yet been produced apart from belief in divine authority and in conscience as its organ. Let the moral law be the product of as long an evolution and the accumulation of as many generations of tribal experience as you please, let it be as conducive as you please to the well-being of the community, still the question remains why am I bound to sacrifice my individual profit or pleasure to the product of Evolution, to tribal experience, or even to the well-being of the community? The community, if I make myself a nuisance to it, may hang me. But suppose I choose to take the risk; suppose I can escape the police. Napoleon, the offspring of Revolutionary Atheism in France, living absolutely without God in the world and sacrificing his kind without limit or remorse to his own ambition and rapacity, did escape the police, and with a little more prudence, or even if the winter of 1812 had been less severe, might have ended his career in triumph. The pangs of his Evolutionary conscience we may be sure he never would have felt. Hæckel plainly avows that Evolution is not moral, and an American writer of some mark has reproduced in set terms the doctrine of the Sophist who said that morality was invented by the weak to prevent themselves from being devoured by the strong. Napoleon himself recognized the necessity of religion as the foundation of social order, and accordingly restored it in France. That thoroughgoing Agnostic, Mr. Cotter Morison, in his *Service of Man*, could only propose that the bad should be killed off, without telling us by what criterion we were to recognize the bad, how the dividing line was to be drawn, or to what hands the Evolutionary guillotine was to be entrusted. Neither Nero nor, so far as we know, Napoleon gave any special sign in his youth of

the wickedness that was to come. The necessity therefore on which Mr. Chesnelong eloquently dilates is apparent, and is likely to be still more manifested as Atheism or Agnosticism advances: for whether there is any real distinction between Atheism and Agnosticism or not, Agnosticism must be as much as Atheism the grave of practical religion. But it is not enough to show the social necessity of religion. DeMaistre shows that an infallible Pope would be very convenient, but we do not accept this as a demonstration that an infallible Pope exists. What is needed, and very urgently needed, is a demonstration of Theism such as should satisfy those, now numerous enough, and not in France alone, who have ceased to believe in Revelation. Attempts have been made to furnish such a demonstration, we know; but for the most part on metaphysical lines; and, with all due respect for metaphysics, it must be said that nothing metaphysical produces practical conviction. Let M. Chesnelong, if he be a great religious philosopher as well as a great religious orator, devote himself to that task.

—The *Contemporary* for June has a profound article on the Theology of Dante. We cannot help suspecting that in Dante, as in Browning, mystical interpreters see more than is there. Beyond doubt, however, he is a perfect representative of mediævalism, theological, philosophical and political. When you have read him, with a part of Thomas Aquinas, and the lives of two or three saints, and when you have seen the cathedrals and the castles, you know what the Middle Ages were. But we are irreverent enough to think that Dante, if he has fed the imagination with his terrible pictures of hell and purgatory, has done Christianity no small wrong by presenting God as the keeper of torture-houses which are to those of the most fiendish of Italian tyrants, such as Eccelino di Romano or a Bernabos Visconti, what eternity is to a day. The inscription over the gate of the Dantean hell, saying that it was erected by Eternal Love, seems to Carlyle—at least he says

that it seems to him—full of profound morality. To us it seems not only the extreme of paradox, but the depth of blasphemy.

—Presbyterianism seems inclined to revision. Revision, with criticism so actively at work on all sides and Scotch professors on their trial for heresy, will be found an arduous undertaking. Still more difficult will be what Dr. McCosh and others propose, the construction of a simple creed for all Christians. But there is one thing which the Presbyterians may do, without the slightest disturbance of their practical religion on their organization. They may simply strike out the chapter of the Westminster Confession of Faith on "God's Eternal Decree." No moral being can accept the third article of the chapter and believe that God is good, while no rational being can believe that God has foreordained everything and yet is not the author of that which he has foreordained. By tracing the history of these articles, and showing how, with the extreme doctrine of Justification by Faith, they had their origin in antagonism to the Papal doctrine which had led to Indulgences, you may clear the religious character of their framers; but now they are, like the damnatory clauses of the Athanasian Creed, a scandal in Christendom, and the scandal ought to be removed.

—Dr. Douglas, an eminent Methodist of Montreal, protests against the inclusion of archbishops and bishops in the table of precedence while the officers of other Churches are ignored. He is in the right: it is a relic of the State Church. Bishops under the State Church system were parts of the polity. Bishop Strachan was a part of our polity with a vengeance. The cask still retains the odour of the wine and State Churchism is not totally extinct. Every now and then we have a reminder that Protestants of the non-Episcopal Churches are

dissenters But the modest state of the Anglican bishop is Apostolic simplicity compared with the pageantry in which a Roman Catholic prelate stalks through the social world. The smartest blow ever given to Episcopal pretensions was dealt, unconsciously perhaps, by a certain Lieutenant-Governor who, finding himself embarrassed by a question of precedence between the Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops, both of whom he had to invite to a dinner party, solved it by inviting a Methodist bishop, who was senior to either, and giving him precedence over them both. The Methodists did not know what a social vantage ground they were resigning when they gave up Episcopacy for the sake of Union.

—At the Anglican Synod a voice was raised in favour of religious schools for the Church of England. Nothing can be more logical or just. If one church has the privilege, why not all? The answer which the Roman Catholic priesthood makes in its heart and which Archbishop Cleary almost makes with his lips is, “there is no real religion but ours; all the rest is mere heresy or heathenism. It is our religion alone therefore that the State is bound to recognize and foster.” To this the State in the Province of Ontario and by the mouth of its Premier virtually assents. We all know the argument in favour of the secular system. There is also perhaps not a little to be said in favour of the voluntary and parental system, of which the teaching of religion is a part. The system of religious teaching for a single church and secularism for the rest has no foundation in anything except the exclusive pretensions of the Church of Rome and the political necessities of the Grit party.

—In the matter of tests and of dogma generally, Methodism is more at its ease than the other Churches. It had the good-fortune of owing its birth, not like the Churches of the

Reformation to a dogmatic controversy, but to a Gospel movement against the irreligion, worldliness and licentiousness of the eighteenth century. Far from founding itself, like its predecessors, on dogmatic or ecclesiastical division, only with the greatest reluctance was it brought to assume the form of a secession. Its tests, a portion of the Articles of the Church from which it sprang and the general spirit of its founder's discourses, sit pretty lightly upon it; and, if we may trust our own observation, in a Methodist Church a dogmatic or doctrinal sermon is seldom heard. Methodism however appears, like the other Churches to have its thorn in a growing jealousy of the powers of the ministry which was somewhat brusquely expressed by a lay reformer, when at the Conference he declared that Methodism was more burdened by priestcraft than any other denomination. It is the nature of every clergy and of every order of men in authority to extend its power, and they all require watching in this respect for their own good as well as for that of the Church or community. But this reformer of Methodism, if he wishes to reform, not to destroy, must be wary in his innovations, for his hand, he may depend upon it, is laid on the very life of the organization. Wesley may claim a place among the foremost of ecclesiastical statesmen. If his statesmanship moved on the lines of circumstance, that is what all true statesmanship does. If we wish to measure his sagacity we have only to compare the fortunes of his work with those of the other new Churches founded about that time or since, from Moravianism down to the latest of the progeny, the 'Church of Robert Elsmere.' Some of his ordinances were of the time and embodied an enthusiasm which has since cooled down. But the combination of a strong ministry, as the uniting, animating, regulating and propelling force with a spiritual democracy of laymen called, each of them, to play an active part in Church work, was for all time, or at least for as many years as Methodism may be destined to endure. It is the grand secret of Wesley's statesmanship, and reformers who are dealing with it are dealing, we repeat, with

the vital part of the organization. After all, the authority of the Methodist minister, whatever it be, must rest upon a moral and popular basis. It is not like that of the Roman Catholic priest, sacramental or thaumaturgic; nor does it claim an origin and sanction above the heads of the Christian people, such as Apostolic Succession. It has no priestly confessional wherewith to keep the conscience in chains, no Episcopal excommunication wherewith to crush revolt, no *index expurgatorius* wherewith to paralyse opinion. Watching, we say again, it may require; but watching ought to be enough for it. A larger infusion of lay influence into the government may be needed, and it seems that measures of that kind are in progress. But speaking simply as onlookers, we would say before Methodists pull down Wesley's ministry they will do well to consider maturely how without it the Church of Wesley can continue to exist.

—Some people were rather startled by seeing that the Methodist Church was going to have Sisterhoods. The principle of Rowland Hill's saying that "the Devil ought not to be allowed to have all the best tunes" applies, we presume, to other powerful agencies as well as music. Nor does the abuse of a thing do away with its use. So, we presume, thought Dr. Johnson, who advocated the measure. Vows and asceticism would be foreign to the spirit of Methodism, or of any Protestant Church, though Methodism was cradled in something very like asceticism. But devotion to good work and sisterly coöperation in it cannot be foreign to the spirit of any Church. Associations and openings for beneficent activity of this kind may lend a new and happy interest to lives now lonely and vacant. As to the question of dress, which seemed to disturb some minds, it may be presumed that these ladies will have too much good sense to emulate the inverted vanity, which by a shroud-like costume parades self-mortification in the public eye, and is the counterpart of the Pharisee's habit of standing to pray in the

synagogues and at the corners of the streets. Church architecture, anthems, flowers, and now Sisterhoods! Methodism is evidently putting off its primitive austerity, and it is easy to understand that there may be searchings of heart among the more austere.

—The increasing number of books published in England about Canada is a gratifying sign of growing interest in the subject, but it is strange that the books should so often be written by men who do not know this country. Mr. Greswell, whose "History of the Dominion of Canada" has been brought out by the Oxford University press, is a good though a very dry writer on British colonization in America, on colonial subjects in general, on maritime discovery, and even on Indian ethnology, but with the Dominion of Canada he seems to have no special acquaintance. The political part of his history is almost a blank, less than a hundred pages out of two hundred and seventy-seven being given to the whole story since 1837. His early history is little more than a condensation of Parkman; his later history is little more than a condensation of MacMullen. He stops where MacMullen stops, so that we miss all the modern part of the story. This applies to the North-West and British Columbia as well as to Canada proper. As a matter of course, he uses only the political map, which represents Canada as a vast and unbrokenpanse, including the North Pole. A map marking the economical limitations would have presented a different aspect of the case.

—The chief attractions of the Exhibition of the Provincial Art School, recently held in the Education Office buildings, were those connected with industrial art. Particularly good were the pupils' exhibits in the practical branches of mechanical and ornamental designing, china painting, wood-carving, model

drawing, and modelling in clay. These departments of art, as they enter into trade and manufactures, our Provincial authorities do well to encourage. Useful also must be the help the schools afford in other practical branches, such as building construction, civil engineering, wood engraving, lithographic drawing, as well as in freehand drawing, crayon and charcoal drawing, and drawing from the antique. It is in the latter, we notice—for a very artistically designed plaque—that the gold medal of the year has been awarded. The recipient is a young lady of the Kingston Art School. One of the silver medals has also been deservedly won by a pupil of the Art School of Hamilton, for a tasteful design in tile decoration. The London Schools figure strongly in china painting, of which there are some pleasing examples. In water and oil colour drawing, some of the exhibits from the Ladies' Colleges in Whitby and St. Thomas, and particularly from Albert College, Belleville, are excellent, though, as a whole, the oil-colour work is amateurish and crude. In landscape painting, but one, or at most two, specimens seemed to be satisfactory. A few studies from the antique, of curios and bric-a-brac, with several canvases representing in one case an Indian rug, and in another a group of old quarto volumes in vellum binding, were good, both as to colour and drawing. Some few fruit pieces were also well done, one especially of a barrel of rosy apples tilted over on its side, the fruit rolling out on the ground. In a few other departments there was also much commendable work. *Apropos* of Art, we have to correct an error into which we were led, partly through delay in the issue of the catalogue, in speaking of the Exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists. Mr. R. L. O'Brien, it seems, did contribute several paintings, though two or three only were of importance.

VALEDICTORY.

It was intimated in the first number of this series of THE BYSTANDER that the object of reviv^{ing} for a time the little journal was to meet a special emergency, caused by a crisis in the Toronto Press, in relation to the question of Commercial Union. The crisis is now over, the emergency is at end, and the series of THE BYSTANDER will therefore not be carried beyond the next month, which closes our year. In endeavouring to serve a special object, we have had the pleasure of speaking on current subjects of general interest to a constituency including, we may safely say, no small proportion of those whom it is the greatest intellectual privilege to address. On the eve of parting we offer our readers our heartiest thanks.

Office of THE BYSTANDER.
July 23rd, 1890.

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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,

① "314 Broadway, New York, Dec. 15, 1889."

ERASTUS WIMAN.