

The Red and White

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EDITORIAL

RECIPROCITY.

For treatment of this subject we refer our readers to the article of Mr. W. E. Cameron, which regrettably we are unable to insert in full in this issue. It will be found peculiarly instructive not alone because it deals with a living issue in Canadian politics but because it is written from a purely economic point of view.

Editorially we shall not discuss Reciprocity. Our grasp of economic theories is as weak and our knowledge of economic conditions as inconsequential as those of the average editor; and with this assurance we hesitate to instruct the public upon the probable

consequence of the proposed agreement. Our ignorance can do little harm if kept to ourselves, but if dressed in close disguise it might pass for wisdom.



ANNEXATION.

The anti-reciprocity cause can be furthered little in Canada by encouraging a fear of Annexation. The self-sufficient national spirit which we are led to believe is abundant in this Dominion is poor soil for such a growth. We are not told bluntly however that we are about to be absorbed against our will, a way of putting it which might prove repugnant to eight millions of people rapidly growing in wealth and numbers; but we are assured that the exigencies of trade will inevitably induce us to take our gaze off the Star of Empire to fix it on the Stars and Stripes---that our national virility will, so to speak, imperceptibly leak over the border with our potatoes and fish,---and this despite the fact that Uncle Sam has absolute control over his own tariff and can let Canadian products into his country free of duty if he wants to. If the people of the United States really desire a United North America they have apparently overlooked a simple expedient to bring it about.

All this is doubtfully flattering to the intelligence as well as to the patriotism of the Canadian people. Reciprocity may be economic folly but if so there are more logical arguments to be employed against it. The fact is, Canada has many patriots for-revenue-only who keep at hand a plentiful supply of eloquence (or type) with which to libel the truer patriotism of those who wave the flag less but respect it more. Annexation will take place if ever Canada and the United States at once desire it. Such a desire may have lodgment in the breast of Uncle Sam at this moment, as no doubt it has, but like a sensible man he will await the pleasure of his good Northern Neighbor. At present our affinity is in another direction as it is likely to be.

DISPATCHES.

This is not a collection of dreams from our special correspondent but a short commentary on correspondents generally. Our research has been superficial but we have found two well developed species: one which Oliver Wendell Holmes would probably term the "scarabeus mendax" abroad, and one at home. The latter handles Catholic news items sparingly but is sometimes truthful, the former lets us have them in cablefuls and of assorted shades to suit the caprice and avidity of the market. We have not been able to examine an individual of this species at close range, and it is therefore only by a kind of comparative analysis of its products that we can get any idea at all of what kind of brute it is. By their fruits ye shall know them.



We all remember the underground horrors that the correspondent of a London paper found beneath a Jesuit College in Portugal a few months ago. The story exploded in a week but it captivated the world while it lasted,---it was so probable in Portugal, and so Jesuistical. A few days ago two priests in the same country had occasion to wait on some of the civil authorities. They were accompanied by a delegation most probably composed of their parishoners. The press correspondent, "on the spot" as usual, assures us that this was a "mob" and that the priests were very properly arrested. The wires are laden every day with such stuff and much of it gets to Charlotte-town. We are not disposed to blame our newspapers for printing such "news," for they too are to some extent at the mercy of the news agencies, but a slight training in the logic of probabilities would certainly enable them to detect the character of many of the falsehoods that pass for news.

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

It is rumored that the Report of the Education Commission, now considerably more than a year old, is not at present to receive attention---that nothing in fact is to be done about it till the people themselves see fit to deal with the situation. It may be asked if we have already reached the stage of human progress where it is necessary only to discover the weakness of a system to have the remedy applied. Our law-makers evidently entertain a very democratic notion of the functions of government.

The Commission was composed of three gentlemen who went to some trouble to frame suggestions for the improvement of our schools, and there are few indeed who do not consider them in need of some improvement. They did the duty assigned them no doubt conscientiously and, if we are to judge by the length of the report, they did it thoroughly. The fact that the teaching profession was not represented on the Commission was surely the unkindest cut of all, but let that pass. The result of such an expensive investigation should receive more courteous attention than was paid to the claims of the teachers to participate in it.

Our common schools are not even passibly efficient and it would be a strange thing indeed if it were otherwise. Such an assertion we know involves some risk of contradiction, for the person making it can scarcely hope to avoid that stupendous list of "Successful Islanders Abroad." We can only say that if the schools which produced such men were no better than three-fourths of those we have at present they had a narrow escape. We should have a list of our "failures abroad" for the edification of all advocates of the laissez faire policy in our school affairs. These are the product of our school system rather than the few who have achieved glory or have had it thrust upon them---and the list is a formidable one.



Rev. B. J. Gillis D. D. was removed from us early in January to take up parish duties at East Point. His

departure was a source of general regret within the College and if he is again appointed to a position on the Staff his return will be heartily welcomed. Father Gillis' interest in the students was genuine, his ability as a teacher excellent and his musical talent rare. These qualities, each of which is of especial value in an institution of this kind, are not often found in such happy combination. "Will he ne'er come back again?"



Rev. Patrick J. Higgins of Little Rock, Arkansas, has sent us a very much appreciated contribution to our funds and we hasten to recommend his good example to others who may not be aware that we have use for the things of this world. Father Higgins is one of our graduates of '07. While he was an eminent jurist and presided with much judicial dignity and a fine flow of Latin maxims, at the celebrated trial of Rex vs Goudreau. Thanks. Next!



Fair laughs the morn, and soft the zephyr blows,
While proudly riding o'r the azure realm,
In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes,
Youth on the prow, and Pleasure at the helm;
Regardless of the sweeping whirlwind's sway,
That, hushed in grim repose, expects his evening prey.

Gray.



Tall men, like tall houses, are usually ill-furnished
in the upper story.---Lord Bacon.