

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Returns of Convictions—T. H. Bull.
Change—Jos. Hall.
Change—Wm. Atkinson.
Lost—Mrs. Reid.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Dec. 18, '84

THE READER QUESTION.

Once more the battle of the books is renewed, and once more we are to be treated to torrents of meaningless panegyric, and of equally meaningless abuse. The *Mail* has thrown down the gauntlet, and in a half-hearted way, the *Globe* has taken it up. From the former we need expect neither rhyme nor reason; if it can only score a point against Mowat, it will stop at no assertion, however outrageous, at no tricks, however contemptible. As for the *Globe*, it is too heavily handicapped to give a plain, unvarnished account of the matter, if, as is alleged, it be true that Mr. Thomas Nelson, of Edinburgh, who is the principal stockholder in the *Globe* Printing Co., has acquired a commanding interest in the new Readers.

As to the merits or demerits of those books, at present we have nothing to say; they are now engaging our attention, and in good time we purpose to acquaint our readers with the results of our examination. But on the position which certain publishing houses now hold to the government, we feel it our duty to make a few remarks.

How it has come to pass, we cannot tell, but certain it is that in some way there are in Toronto firms which demand as an undeniable right the privilege of supplying our schools with text-books. And, for reasons to us altogether inexplicable, the government feels bound, or at least sees fit, to hearken to these demands. The Tory press, indeed, is full of charges of interested ministers and interested satellites of ministers; the Grit press, on the other hand, teems with disclaimers of all motives except the good of the country. To all this rant and tustian, this screaming and scolding, we must turn a deaf ear, for we know that it is the outcome of a far from honest devotion to party. One of these days, doubtless, we shall hear a yell from injured greed and avarice; then will follow a law-suit, and thus the truth will force its way to the light.

To us the course of any government in this matter of Readers appears one of the simplest. Having come to the conclusion that a change of books was imperatively necessary, manuscripts should have been asked for; these submitted to competent judges, and a choice then made on their recommendation. Having paid a fair sum to the authors, the government would be in a position in which it could dictate terms to publishers. The latter would be on precisely the same footing as all others who tender for any particular work. As to the books selected, of course there would be dissatisfaction in some quarters, but if proper persons were appointed to decide, men whose scholarship, experience in teaching, and general honesty were undoubted, the government could meet the country with serene brow. Instead, however, of pursuing some such course, there has been presented to us confusion worse confounded. The whole business seems hopelessly involved. Half-promises appear to have been made to this one, inducements held out to that one, to none sufficient to satisfy, but enough to provoke the ill-will of all.

The rival publishing firms, moreover, have acted most shamefully. They have employed drummers to canvas schools and school-conventions. They have flooded the country with circulars in which their own works are extolled to the skies, and all others decry to the lowest. To snatch a favorable verdict, they have not hesitated to pack meetings. Teachers, boards of trustees, all have been approached, and a line of conduct, which should have been considered beneath rival fish-peddlers, has been openly followed.

How this wretched tangle will be undone, we neither know nor care. But with a Minister of Education who is first a politician, and then a politician, and last of all a politician, and with an opposition ready to wreck their Province if thereby power may be gained, with such ins and such outs, the prospect is indeed drear. This we can with safety promise: Vexation and expense to parents, the question of Readers

settled only until there is a change of Ministry, large profits to the publishers, and thousands of fools to endorse anything and everything that may be done by their own party.

THEN AND NOW.

Some years ago, Hon. Ed. Blake delivered a speech at Aurora. The effort, as all of the *facile princeps* of Canadian speakers, was most able, eloquent and well sustained. Among other things, he spoke of an Imperial Federation which should embrace Great Britain and all her Colonies. The scheme, as it presented itself to the great orator's mind, was at once patriotic and exalted. To him it meant that all British interests should be bound up together, that the mother country would cease to play the role of an ignoble, grasping parent, ready to sacrifice the rights of her children in order to further her own ends, and that the Colonies should cease to be a mere burden of expense and danger to the land of their fathers.

Now the proposal may have been good or bad; the object aimed at was certainly good. How was it received? With a storm of abuse, and ridicule. No treatment was too savage, no words too biting for this dreamer, this man in the clouds. So said the Tories, and Liberals, if they did not openly join in the hue and cry, sent forth but few and faint counter-cheers.

A few weeks ago, Sir John A. Macdonald, while in England, was entertained at the Beaconsfield Club in London. The guests were all Tories; Sir Stafford Northcote, Conservative leader in the British House of Commons, presided. In reply to a toast, Sir John spoke, and what did he say? Well, among other things, that every gentleman and scholar on coming to Canada joined the Conservative party—at which we can afford to smile;—but then he said—'Merciful powers!—that what we wanted was Imperial Federation. And what do his faithful henchmen, who raved and stormed at Hon. Edward Blake when he suggested it, say now? Why they say, of course, it is just the thing. And they are right. When one of the party of 'bull-pups and sluggers,' of 'tobacco-chewing, whiskey-drinking blackguards,' of 'semi-civilized barbarians,' when one of this party makes a proposal, gentlemen of family, of culture, free from sordid greed, with no spot on their fair fame, will at once reject it. Let, however, the proposal emanate from a great and good Christian, from one who numbers among his marshals Bunting, Wilkinson, Meek, &c., whose cabinet includes the saintly Langevin, the honest and straightforward Chapleau, the delectable man-mountain, Macpherson, the gentle, unselfish, unassuming lamb, Tupper—then—why then, it is another matter, worthy of instant acceptance and applause.

Don't despair of relief, if troubled with Chronic Dyspepsia or Constipation. These ailments as well as Biliousness, Kidney infirmities, and feminine troubles, are eradicated by Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery and Dyspeptic Cure, an alterative of long tried and clearly proven efficacy. It is a fine blood purifier, as well as corrective, and contains no ingredients which are not of the highest standard of purity.

H. B. DEWSBURY'S
FIRST-CLASS
HARNESS EMPORIUM,
YONGE STREET,
RICHMOND HILL,

Trunks, Satchels, Whips,
Ready Made Harness,
&c., always on hand.

All Harness guaranteed as represented. Light Harness a specialty. Repairs attended to on the shortest notice.

H. B. Dewsbury,
RICHMOND HILL.

LOST!

A BROOCH, made out of an American Dollar and bearing the initials "B. R." in open work was lost in August last, between Mrs. Clay's and Mrs. Reid's, Thornhill. The finder will please return the same to
MRS. REID, Thornhill.

SNEATH & GREENMAN, Richmond Hill.

Hard Times Made Easy AT THE CHEAP HOUSE! The Place for Bargains In Holiday Goods.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

CLOTHING!

IMMENSE BARGAINS IN
LADIES' MANTLES & USTERS,
DRESS GOODS, FLANNELS,
BLANKETS, YARNS, &c.,
ALL KINDS OF WOOL GOODS

Overcoats and Suits, Heavy Wool Shirts and Drawers,
Hats, Caps, Gloves, Ties, &c.

AT BOTTOM PRICES! A CALL SOLICITED.

Holiday Novelties!
AT THE
CONCRETE HOUSE!

Our stock is splendidly assorted with all the Novelties, and as we carry the

MOST COMPLETE!

Assortment in the County of York, all our friends may rely on getting a fine range of

STAPLE & FANCY
DRY GOODS, MILLINERY, MANTLES
—AND—
HOLIDAY GOODS

To choose from at prices never offered in this County before.

We have opened out beautiful lots of
TIES, HANDKERCHIEFS, COLLARS, FANCY WOOL
GOODS, CREMILLE GOODS,
Bought at low for cash, and suitable for Xmas Presents.

OUR XMAS

GROCERY AND CROCKERY STOCK!
Is unequalled in Richmond Hill & prices the lowest in town.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

W. ATKINSON.

A. WRIGHT & SON,
UNDERTAKERS,
YONGE ST., RICHMOND HILL,

Keeps on hand a large supply of Coffins, Caskets, and all kinds of FUNERAL FURNISHINGS. A First-Class Hearse furnished at reasonable terms.

A. WRIGHT & SON.

Prepare for Winter!

BY GOING TO

THE FIRE PROOF,
AND PURCHASING YOUR
FALL & WINTER SUPPLIES.

Every Department complete with New Goods at the Lowest Prices. Blankets, Flannels, and other Woollens at Wholesale Prices. A large stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, Crockery, Glassware, &c., at Lowest Rates.

Highest Price paid for Butter and Eggs.

ISAAC CROSBY.

XMAS AT THE PEOPLES' STORE

NEW DESIGNS OF XMAS & NEW YEAR'S CARDS.
STOCK OF PICTURE FRAMES CANNOT BE BEATEN.

SOME OF THE NEWEST SUBJECTS IN
PICTURES AND MOTTOES!
ALL AT REDUCED PRICES. STOCK OF

GROCERIES, NEW & FRESH CANNED GOODS

As cheap as any house in town. The largest stock of FURNITURE we ever had, all suitable for the season, at bottom prices. A large stock of Crockery and Glassware. Usual stock of other goods. Flour & Feed.

P. G. SAVAGE.