

content to settle it as proposed; and if England had kept the Marquis of Ripon and his colleagues at home, handed over the whole matter to Sir T. A. Macdonald with *carte blanche* to treat it as he thought proper, our Fenian claims would have balanced those of the Alabama, and the Empire would not be bullied, dishonored, and outwitted.

As for taking Canada by way of reprisal, that operation might eventuate in the same manner as the redoubtable hero that went to take the Tartar, but could not get away as the Tartar took him. Jonathan tried that before, and got so well thrashed in the operation that he kept the peace to all Britishers for sixty years; if he tries it again the lesson may serve his descendants for six hundred. Will the people of England never learn what a boaster he is, and dishonest withal.

An article from the *Chicago Tribune* which will be found in another column takes a far more liberal and just view of the position of the Dominion of Canada on this continent and its future relation to the United States than is generally admitted by the people of that country.

While fully endorsing the idea that mutual free Trade, unrestricted by Legislative Treaties or absurd Custom House regulations, would be for the direct and immediate benefit of all parties, and appreciating the political foresight and perspicuity which enables the *Tribune* to foresee the impossibility of any future political relations between Canada and the United States, we are not prepared to admit that the "Independence" pointed out would be desirable for this country or Great Britain, or that it could, under any circumstances, be the result of strategy in view of threatened hostilities with the United States.

As a dependency of the Empire in the supposed conflict, Canada would play a very important part indeed, by compelling her antagonist to expend his whole force in defensive precautions, having to protect his Littoral and Lacustrine frontiers; in other words, it reduces the action of the United States during the contest to that of defence and totally precludes the possibility of offensive operations.

If English Statesmen are ever so far afflicted with stupidity as to sever the connection, it will then be possible for the United States to assume offensive operations against her, and the first campaign would in all probability extinguish her power in the West Indies.

At present Canada has her hand on the throat of the States in a Military point of view, and we are too astute a people to forego the advantage it would give us, while we have reason to believe it is both understood and appreciated in London.

As long, therefore, as England maintains the present connection Canadians will not sever it; her quarrels are ours, and we are quite as well prepared to morrow to fight in

her cause as we would be if it were our own; if a change is forced in us our neighbors may rest assured it will not result in the election of a *four years' mob puppet* to govern us; our people are monarchists to a man, and there are Princes enough of Queen Victoria's family to spare us one as King or Emperor of British North America.

The *United States Army and Navy Journal* whose leading article will be found in another column, takes comfort for the total failure of the monitors in the fact, that although they were constructed in defiance of all natural laws governing naval architecture, "they established principles all their own" which was forced on every nation in Europe. Examples are thus given of the English, Russian, and French turreted monitors, but we confess to reading the lesson in an entirely different way.

Our lively neighbors have talked themselves into the position of authorities in mechanical science and construction, and in this case of ironclad vessels, after breaking two commandments of the moral law; by stealing poor Captain Cole's invention and then adulterating it, they produced a class of vessels whose chief recommendation appears to have been (for they are things of the past) an aptitude to seek the bottom of the ocean rather than labor over its surface, and any that would float were more dangerous to friends than foes.

The result is the old heap of scrap iron at League Island; as far as the United States are concerned. In England matters are very little better, and we expect to hear of Mr. Goschen any day putting up his turreted monitors as going, going, gone, for what they may fetch; the utter failure of the French fleet is notorious, and that good friend of the model Republic, the Czar of all the Russias, has been done for with an impartiality which would be admirable if it was disinterested; in fact, the monitors are a total failure, and as great humbugs as wooden nutmegs or basswood hams.

If Captain Ericsson has totally failed in providing the United States with a proper ironclad navy, he fully appreciates the fact of her defenceless condition, and is quite right in saying that any English ironclad sea-going vessel could pass up to the wharfs at New York despite what Yankee invention might do to prevent it. In fact their safest defence is the well grounded hope in the imbecility of English politicians and this quality has befriended them more than once.

The whole question of those floating batteries, for they are nothing more, is proved by experience to involve a series of scientific and practical paradoxes which no skill can overcome, they are too heavy, unable to keep the sea, and cannot venture into rough water; seamanship cannot save them, and their efficiency for the very purpose for which they were intended is more than doubtful, they have never been tried.

In fact that fight with the *Merrimack* in Hampton road turned the heads of the people of England, and they are paying pretty dearly for an experiment based on an indecisive action between two unmanageable floating batteries.

REVIEWS.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *New Dominica Monthly*, for March, it is as usual replete with instructive articles.

The *Phrenological Journal* for March contains a vast amount of useful knowledge.

Wood's Household Magazine for March is a splendid number, and contains two historical notices of some value, it is published at Newburg, State of New York. Subscription, one dollar per annum.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *Edinburgh Review* for January, it is as usual, full of valuable articles, with all the reviews and periodicals, it is published by the Leonard Scott Company, 140, Fulton Street, New York.

The disastrous explosion which took place at Messrs. Prentice's gun-cotton works, at Stowmarket, England, in August last, led to the appointment, by the British Secretary of State for War, of a committee to investigate certain points connected with the manufacture and employment of gun-cotton; and this committee has just issued a brief preliminary report in which they state first that the various reports of the Royal Engineers on the use of gun-cotton, and the evidence afforded by officers who were examined, were conclusive as to the suitability of the material to be employed as an explosive agent for military purposes, such as for mines, torpedoes, etc., and second that gun-cotton manufactured by Professor Abel's process can be far more thoroughly purified from the free acids than gun-cotton made from long staple cotton and produced in the form of ropes or skeins; while evidence has been afforded that gun-cotton in this latter form has been stored for long periods, in some cases long as nine years, and under varying conditions as to exposure etc., without alteration. Considerable quantities of gun-cotton, have been sent out during the past three years to hot and damp climates, and on voyages to India and Australia without, so far as the committee can learn, any accident ensuing; while gun-cotton supplied from Stowmarket in 1870, and subsequently forwarded to Calcutta, has been stored at the latter place for some months without, according to the last received reports, showing any signs of change. With regard to the manufacture the committee speak very briefly; their conclusions, however, being that as the gun-cotton in all the stages of manufacture, up to drying, contains large percentages of water and is perfectly unflammable, all the preparing processes, with the exception of the drying can be conducted in any locality without danger. In conclusion the committee state that they "feel no hesitation in recording their opinion that there is no reason why the War Department should relinquish the manufacture of compressed gun-cotton."—*Broad Arrow*,