

Resignation The "Financial News" (London, Eng.) and that finds in the resignations of office, owing **Sort of Thing** to the outbreak of war in South Africa, an oddity which helps to make a light side to the gloomy and exciting business. The "News" says: "A foolish French Canadian member of the Dominion Parliament resigns as a protest against the enthusiastic loyalty of the Canadian volunteers. Then that marvellous person, Mr. Michael Davitt, thinks to embarrass in some way the hated Saxon Government by voluntarily relieving the House of Commons of his presence! And now we learn on the authority of the "South African News" that Mr. South, member of the Cape Legislative Council for Bechuanaland, has resigned his seat on the ground that there is nothing left for him to represent—by which we can only suppose Mr. South to mean that, in his view, Mr. Steyn's proclamation announcing the annexation to the Transvaal of Bechuanaland is an effective transfer of sovereignty."

Boer sympathizers residing within the country annexed by silly Mr. Steyn will do well not to listen to the delusive beguilement of Mr. South. They will find it safer to heed the warning of Colonel Kekewich, of Kimberley, assuring all whom it may concern that if any British subjects are found assisting Her Majesty's enemies by word or deed, in any manner whatsoever, such persons will be dealt with and punished summarily as base rebels.

In Great Britain, at any rate, the main effect of Mr. Steyn's proclamation has been to raise an amused smile at his colossal impudence. But there is much more than impudence in the act.

The motive is evidently allied to that which prompted Mr. Kruger to offer burgher rights to such Uitlanders as would fight for him—viz., to relieve them of the danger of subsequent arrest for high treason by the British authorities. It is Mr. Steyn's desperate endeavour to get some of the Afrikanders to rise and reinforce the Boers' none too numerous army; for Dr. Leyds' 100,000 fighting men exist, we imagine, only in that gentleman's lively imagination. Colonel Kekewich, however, has promptly put an effective spoke in that wheel. But the act will have to be remembered when the day of reckoning comes; as will also the infamous attempts to incite the Basutos to take arms against their British protectors. There is always a danger, among a generous people, of displaying too great magnanimity in the hour of victory; and it is certain that much magnanimity would be wasted on Mr. Steyn. Not unlikely, when the full history of the South African trouble comes to be known, it will be found that this man, even, perhaps, more than the diplomatic Leyds, has been the evil genius of the piece. It has not been a desperate struggle to defend the independence of his State (which was never threatened) that induced this ambitious schemer to embroil his Republic in the fray; and his prompt "annexation" of country outside his borders rather spoils the picture of a little

State in arms to protect itself against invasion. It will be a shocking mistake if Mr. Steyn be treated with in any way at the conclusion of hostilities; the only possible way to regard him is as a prescribed rebel, who had best make himself scarce with all the expedition he can.

THE EAGLE WATCHING THE BEAR.

American Trade Interests in China.

Those who are studying the trend of events in Europe for the purpose of forming an opinion on the possibility of a coalition of great powers against Great Britain will probably agree with Sir Charles Dilke's views as expressed in the "Review of the Week." He says:

There is no doubt that we are more generally disliked than at any time before. The United States is more friendly than at any previous time, but our unpopularity in France, Germany, Russia, Spain and Holland, taken together, was never so great. Austro-Hungarian opposition is on the whole against our cause in the present war, and the Italian public is less friendly than at any time since 1883. The elements of coalition against us seem at first sight to exist almost as plainly as they did when the coalition against us was formed, which brought us into the greatest straits at the time of the American revolutionary war. The Government's preparation of a fleet is evidently justified, and the concentration of the Italian fleet has not unnaturally followed."

However, it is evident that the pleasing evidence of friendliness on the part of the United States is not entirely owing to gratitude for the stand taken by Great Britain during the Spanish-American war. The eagle is watching the bear on her own account, because of the apparent designs of Russia in Northern China. A leading New York paper thus refers to what is called the "confidence game" of the Muscovite bear:

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador at Washington, misses no opportunity to air some polite commonplaces in regard to the relations between his country and the United States. This is an eminently proper role for the representative of a power which is so naturally solicitous to retain friendly relations with this Republic, and the Count fulfils it admirably. The only exception that can be taken to these unofficial utterances of his is that they are slightly deficient in candor and correctness."

After this extremely plain intimation to Russia that Americans are not deceived by ambassadorial politeness and courtesy, the paper in question does not hesitate to say that several of Count Cassini's statements seem to be made for the purpose of misleading public opinion in the United States. The wily Russian ambassador having intimated in a sought for interview that there was a splendid opening for American commerce along the line of the Trans-Siberian railway, incidentally dropped the flattering hint that America was fast taking the place in that market formerly held by England and Germany. To this subtle bit of flattery the reply of the "Commercial Bulletin" of New York must be given in full. To