

at such an unpatriotic and disastrous course. The designing demagogues who are thus leading the people astray from their ancient allegiance and the natural and higher instincts of their nature, may well pause before they take a step fraught with consequences the full extent of which it is scarcely possible to determine. Uncle Sam has ever shown a dislike almost amounting to hatred to Britain and British institutions, and, when he generously opens his arms to receive his northern neighbors, it is not through any love for them that he does so, but to inflict a serious loss and injury upon England. Between the people of Canada and those of the United States there exists a gulf which it would take more than mere annexation to bridge. Loyalty to the British Crown and Constitution is an inherent principle of our national faith implanted by the patriot fathers of our land who sacrificed everything for it; and, when they exiled themselves voluntarily to the then bleak wilderness of the North, they brought with them that lofty and unswerving faith which was their greatest glory, not the less sacred that they had been called upon to suffer for it. This bequeathed to their children has been a guiding principle in Canadian political existence, and it has secured to us advantages which nothing that the United States can offer could in any way compensate for. The people of the latter country overlook the fact that upon this continent there are a vast number of people who do not hold a Republican form of Government to be the very best of systems, but who cherish British connection as a prouder and happier position than any which could replace it. They are free, happy and prosperous under the sway of the best and most enlightened Government the world ever saw, and have no mind to try experiments in speculative theories which even were they thoroughly successful could not place them in a better position than that which they now occupy as a portion of the British Empire.

A MORTGAGE BY THE KING OF THE CANNIBAL ISLANDS.

Since the mania for speculating in land took hold of the United States Government there has occurred nothing more supremely absurd than the mortgage made by His Epicurean Majesty of the Fejee Islands, of all his dominions to the President of the American Republic. A New York cotemporary gives a history of the transaction as follows:—"Many moons ago three American seamen deserted while cruising near the Fejee Islands, landed there, and were swallowed by the over-curious and excitable inhabitants. The Islanders are very philanthropic, very fond of their fellow men, and the downright liking they exhibited for our countrymen was creditable to their tastes; however "they loved not wisely, but too well." Regarded, as Mr. Wemyss would say,

as "portable property," those swallowed seamen were valuable to the United States, and an estimated value was set upon them and demanded of the King of the Fejees. He acknowledged the eccentricity of his subjects, and paid one cash instalment on the gross value of the seamen. This was twenty years ago or so; and now, for some mysterious reason, the monarch revives his own debt, and mortgages the whole of his islands to us for three years, as colateral. This singular performance he accomplishes thro' a treaty which consists of an enormous whale's tooth. A good sized human molar would be, perhaps, more appropriate from that quarter. As this tooth is all that comes we have to trust the "naval agent" who delivers it, as to its meaning. He explains it as a mortgage, as we have said. If the President accepts the tooth then the treaty is established. If he declines the treaty, he is to return the tooth to the King of the Fejee Islands."

We congratulate our neighbors upon their new acquisition, and recommend them by all means to accept the offer, while we would suggest the propriety of establishing diplomatic relations with this gastronomic people whose peculiar predilections might be made the means of doing a capital business in the way of getting rid of troublesome politicians; roast Ambassador, with Attache sauce, would be a new and doubtless highly palatable dish for the Fejeeans.

CHANGE IN PROPRIETORSHIP OF THE "VOLUNTEER REVIEW."

The short "business notice" at the head of our editorial column last week announced the change in the proprietorship of this paper. We are sure the press generally, and such of our readers as are personally acquainted with Mr. Moss, will heartily endorse the sentiments contained in the following from the *Ottawa Citizen* of Tuesday last:—

"It is with mingled regret and pleasure that we learn that Mr. George Moss, of the *Volunteer Review*, has disposed of his interest in that journal and is about leaving Ottawa to take up his permanent residence in Montreal. For some years Mr. Moss has been connected with the press of this city, at first as one of the editorial staff of the *OTTAWA CITIZEN*, and more recently as proprietor of the *Volunteer Review*. In both these positions he has secured for himself a large circle of friends, as well by his strict attention to business as by his social and obliging disposition. Under his management the *Review* has achieved a standing which its originators dare hardly have looked for, and he now relinquishes his interest in it only on account of having entered into a new line of business in Montreal. Mr. Moss, we understand, intends establishing at the commercial metropolis of the Dominion an advertising agency, with branch offices in the principal cities in the Dominion; and, as we believe him highly qualified for the work, he carries with him our best wishes for his success. Sorry though we may be to lose him from his present home, it affords

us much pleasure to know that he has bright prospects before him, and we are sure he leaves many friends behind in Ottawa who will join with us in wishing him the full realization of his highest hopes.

WEEKLY SUMMARY.

The long controversy on the vexed question of the "Alabama claims" has at last been closed and the whole matter remains, as we anticipated it would, in *statu quo*; no definite conclusion having been arrived at. We see occasional paragraphs from United States papers demanding immediate settlement or war, but we apprehend their Government will think twice before rushing to such a doubtful alternative. The resignation of Mr. Adams, American Minister at London, has been tendered; but Mr. Seward hopes to induce him to withdraw it. A successor to him is mentioned in the person of George Francis Train; this would indeed cap the climax of American impertinence, but we hardly think it possible.

Fenianism still gives indications of activity in England and Ireland, the last exploit being the blowing up of one of the gates of Cork. Anent the same in the States we see General O'Neil has offered the services of 100,000 men to the Government in the event of war with Great Britain.

The Local Legislatures continue at work and have in some instances made valuable improvements; as, for instance, in the Game Laws of Ontario, for it is high time a stop were put to the doings of American "pot hunters" in our forests. Also the Bill in reference to Free Grants of Lands to Settlers, a measure much required, as our public lands have too long been locked up, to the detriment of the country.

The presence of Admiral Farregut on the coast of Italy, is construed so as to revive the hopes of the Garibaldians; and made a menace to France, but we do not think it can be seriously intended by the Americans to embroil themselves in a European quarrel in which they can have no possible interest.

Cable despatches give us the position and situation of the opposing forces in Abyssinia up to the 14th ult. King Theodore had fixed his camp near Magdala, where the captives are held, and the British forces were at Senafe, and were about to move forward. A battle must necessarily result from the forward movement of the English forces, unless King Theodore chooses to withdraw before them and establish his camp further back among the mountains. Meantime the captives are reported to be alive and well, but there is no little anxiety felt lest the near approach of Sir Robert Napier's troops shall induce Theodore to take the lives of the unfortunate causes of the war.