

tions of the United States and the redemption of United States notes called 'greenbacks,' if not already encroached upon is perilously near such an encroachment." The threatened crisis can, in his opinion, only be averted by "the suspension of the purchase and the coinage of silver." If that were done, Mr. Cleveland thinks, the present mass of coined silver might be retained in use. Unless this suspension takes place the cheaper silver must expel the dearer gold. This silver, to which a fictitious value is given, is receivable in all public dues; and the artificial support which it receives in this way has hitherto buoyed it up and kept its exchangeable value on a level with that of gold. But once let a break come at any one of the points where a break is possible, and then the difference in the exchangeable value of the two coins will become coincident with the difference in their intrinsic values. If the stock of gold in the treasury should fall below the amount necessary to meet all calls upon it, or if the Government, as a member of the clearing house at New York, should adjust its balances in silver, the break would come, gold and silver would part company, and the silver dollar would at once fall to the commercial par which would be determined by the value of the silver it contains. The fact of its being a legal tender would not prevent any one except creditors, who would have no option, making a distinction between gold and silver dollars, as the history of the greenback proves. The silver men affect to find between silver dollars and bank and treasury notes an analogy which does not exist. The bank and treasury notes are payable in gold; the silver is not similarly convertible, and once it falls to its natural level it will be worth only the value of the metal it contains. They admit that gold and silver have already parted company, under the influence of the demonetization of silver in other countries; and it is certain that they cannot close the breach by driving the wedge home as they insist on doing. Till next session of Congress the coinage of silver must go on at the present rate; and if it be not then stopped, the crisis which President Cleveland predicts cannot be long in coming.

PROHIBITIONISM is not alone in the field. Recent reports from England show that it has a rival in Vegetarianism, which is assuming highly respectable proportions. The leader of this crusade appears to be Mr. Francis Newman, the brother by blood and the direct opposite in mind of the famous Cardinal, a figure often conspicuous in philanthropic and eccentric movements. As yet Vegetarianism has not taken a political form, nor does it threaten the sellers and eaters of meat with extermination by the sword of the law; but it holds language about "carnivorous" barbarism almost as high as that which the Prohibitionists hold about "intemperance." It has, like Prohibition, a certain amount of right upon its side. The excessive use of animal food is unquestionably a source of much disease, of much ill-temper, and probably of many of the criminal or vicious actions to which physical derangement, extending its effects to the moral character, gives birth. The error in both cases consists in the advocacy of total abstinence in place of temperance, while in the case of Prohibitionism the mistake is combined with the false belief that legislation has power to change the habits of mankind in a day. Excess, whether of meat or drink, is the only evil. Mrs. Youmans, on the Scott Act platform, creates, we are told, a thrilling sensation by the exhibition of physiological diagrams, showing the effects produced by alcohol and tobacco on the human stomach. Tobacco is evidently marked out as the object of attack in the next crusade. Mrs. Youmans couples it, as a destroyer of the stomach, with alcohol, and Mr. Charlton told us the other day that whiskey and tobacco were two things in which a Christian gentleman would never indulge, a judgment which bears rather hard on Mr. Spurgeon. Mrs. Youmans, it is to be hoped, tells her audience whether the stomach taken as a specimen of the ravages of alcohol and tobacco was that of a man who had been drinking a single glass of wine or beer and smoking a single cigar a-day, or that of a drunkard and one never without a cigar in his mouth. She might complete her series of physiological illustrations, and throw some light upon the practical question before us, if she would exhibit a diagram showing what effects are produced upon the stomach by the green tea, or the decoction bearing that name, which is daily swallowed in unlimited measure by male and female supporters of the Scott Act.

GENERAL GRANT'S closing scene must touch the hearts even of those who have been least impressed by his career. It may be true, as military authorities say, that he was a great General only by dint of superior numbers; though we must not forget Fort Donelson, where the light of victory first broke through the clouds which lowered over the Confederate cause, or the success of the daring operations at Vicksburgh. But no one who was in the Federal capital and in the Federal camp while the conflict was going on can doubt that this man, with his indomitable tenacity and

fortitude, was the soul of the Federal war. He was always thoroughly loyal to the cause, always true to his colleagues, simple in his demeanour, and in those days, totally free from any ambition but that of doing a soldier's duty. Nor did he put himself forward for the Presidency. He was selected, partly perhaps as the available man, to gratify the American craving for military distinction, but also largely from sincere confidence in his integrity and firmness, and in the hope that he would set his face resolutely against corruption. He did upon his election make an effort to emancipate himself from the managers of the machine, by forming a Cabinet of his personal choice, but his ignorance of politics and politicians rendered his effort abortive, and he then fell helplessly and finally into bad hands.

A CURIOUS paper might be written on the practical influence of literary forgeries. The False Decretals exercised an enormous influence on ecclesiastical character and pretention, on the course of events in the Church, and the relations of the Church to the State during the Middle Ages. The Donation of Constantine and the Athanasian Creed also exercised great influence, each in its own way. Nor did the effect in any of the cases cease when the imposture had been exposed: that of the False Decretals survived in a permanent bias given to the tendencies of the priesthood, that of the Donation survived in the *non-possumus* which met every proposal to reduce the temporal dominion of the Pope, that of the Athanasian Creed survived in theological dogmatism and intolerance. "Eikon Basilice" in like manner, not only gave a decided impulse to royalist reaction at the time of its appearance, but when its authenticity had been abandoned continued to operate in the same way. Another forgery which has done no small amount of mischief is the reputed Will of Peter the Great, to which a prominent preacher of Toronto referred only the other day in a letter to this journal. The document is unquestionably a fabrication; if it in any way refers to the British Empire in India, it may be said to be a fabrication on the face of it, since that Empire did not exist, nor could any one have foreseen its existence in Peter's day. The circumstances of the Czar's death were such that he was unable to make a will or even to name a successor. The Russian archives, Mr. Schuyler tells us, in his "Life of Peter the Great," are freely open to historical students, and no such document as a Will of Peter the Great has ever been found in them. The fabrication first appeared in 1812, at the time of Napoleon's Russian campaign: its author was Lesur, then employed in the French Foreign Office, and there is good reason for believing that he was inspired by Napoleon, who wished to excite European feeling against Russia. A quantity of copies were carried with the French army of invasion and left behind with other baggage in a house which had been occupied by the Duc de Bassano. Mr. Schuyler remarks that the document contains expressions such as "clouds of Asiatic hordes," "disunited and schismatic Greeks," which could not have been used by a Russian. Twenty-four years later another version was produced by a litterateur named Gaillardet, who pretended that it had been brought by that whimsical personage the Chevalier d'Eon from the archives of the summer palace of Peterhof, where, says Mr. Schuyler, no archives ever existed. The lie was repeated with some new circumstances by a Pole residing at Paris in 1839. Lastly, during the Crimean War a sensational chart of Russian annexations (which by the way were not greater than British annexations) was brought out with an endorsement of the Will as an authentic document, and a reference to the inventions of the Polish exile. A complete summary of the case will be found at the end of Mr. Schuyler's work. The spuriousness of the Decretals, of the Donation of Constantine, of the Creed of Athanasius, is not more conclusively proved, or more universally admitted than that of the Will of Peter the Great. But in this, as in the other cases, the proofs against the cherished document though overwhelming are admitted with reluctance. Fancy clings to the belief that there must have been some nucleus of truth, and a posthumous effect remains. The Will of Peter the Great had certainly something to do with the Crimean War, nor has the evil career of the imposture even yet come entirely to a close. After all, this figment is not more baseless or absurd than the deeply-laid and far-reaching plan of unlimited aggrandizement which Anglophobists imagine to exist and be carried on through all vicissitudes of party and all changes of ministry in the dark councils of perfidious Albion.

MR. HAULTAIN, in a letter to the Archbishop of Toronto, controverts the validity of the "Illative Sense" which Cardinal Newman in his "Grammar of Assent" proposes to erect into a criterion of truth more convenient and trustworthy in practical cases than logic, that is to say than reason. Mr. Haultain, stating his case clearly and with point, gains an easy and complete victory. But we dare not hope that the lovers of intellectual