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conveyed in the most simple and most pleasant form possible. It is scarcely, however, true to say that the great bane of this is puff the learners up, and make them conceit and vain. In the first place, every good thing makes some people vain, and knowledge more

take its chance with other good things." Considering that a large number of persons are vain of being religious, we need not trouble ourselves much at finding that vanity can be seen on the acquirement of all other forms of success. And, in the next place, the world is general is not vain of knowledge. It cares not a little about it, and comes too easily by all that it possesses. There are very few school boys who would not be much more vain of fine curly head of hair, than of knowing trigonometry. The effect of placing a little

when they might get more. It is this premature satisfaction and contentment of the mind which is the real danger. So long as education was open to only a few of the lower classes, and it required great natural gifts and untiring industry as well as singular good fortune for a boy born in the humbler ranks to get instruction, there was at least this advantage to balance the difficulties—that his desire of education was not spoiled. He considered

knowledge a thing very hard to attain to, and only to be won by sheer force of labour and unbroken courage. Now a poor boy gets learning so easily, and he has such an abundance of amusing lectures, and diagrams of the steam-engine, and panoramas of the Acropolis, offered him, that he feels wafled to the height of knowledge without having the bore-

An American Opinion.

An eminent Boston lawyer, George Ticknor Curtis, son-in-law of Judge Story, and brother of Judge Curtis, of the U. S. Supreme Court, has published a letter on the case of the "Trent," which fully bears out the English view of the case. The concluding part of the letter, as to

“ There are, however, many persons among us, who are disposed to blame our own Government for not having restored, or offered to restore these prisoners, before they heard from England. But let us be just to our own rulers likewise. Let us remember that from the instant of the capture, through the space of five weeks, the Administration were bound fast by

state of pure feeling that would not have permitted the smallest concession, while it lasted. Nine men out of every ten pronounced it a perfectly clear case on the law, and whether clear or not on the law, it was to be maintained at every hazard. The very few who thought otherwise could scarcely get a hearing, and even that was crisscrossed with doubt of their patriotism. Men of high consideration led the overwhelming

majority, and the majority were resolved. All at once, this mighty edifice of public opinion collapsed into the dust; and then it was seen that our Government had to deal with a very delicate case, involving the national honor and the national safety, without any means at all of saving either, but by a frank and manly admission that a well-meaning officer had made a mistake, and that consequently we could not make a case.

"Mr. Mason may never go up the steps of the Foreign Office in London, and Mr. Sidiell may never darken the doors of M. Thourmel. At all events, let us hope so. But whatever comes of their mission, let us remember one thing, namely, that our own cause cannot be advanced and must be injured by imputing bad motives to foreign powers without reasonable proof; and especially that proclamation on the floor of Con-

gress, of our purpose to fight with England hereafter, is a very good invitation to her to fight with us now. Peace with all foreign powers is of unspeakable importance to this generation of the American people, and will long continue to be so to our children. Whether our Union is to be restored, or to be finally or irrevocably severed, we have a work to do which far transcends the renewal of a nation, at its magnitude and re-

tations. We are to decide the question whether our republican institutions and their accompanying systems of civil liberty shall live or die. They are surrounded with perils on every hand. Throughout the loyal States there are those who insist upon overthrowing the Constitution, in order to reach the domestic institutions of the revolted States. In the revolted States there are those who reject the Union as no longer a thing

possible to exist, either under the present or any other common government.

principle of a Federal republic will have to encounter demands upon its energy and vitality, such as it has never known here or anywhere. If the armies of the Union are to triumph, long years of consummate legislation, of administration almost superhuman in wisdom, will be needed to heal the wounds which we are now inflicting upon each other. Peace, therefore, of all

things,—peace with the world at large,—is our only safety; and if we could secure that safety, we must not only postpone our grudges, but we must indefinitely postpone our battle in their existence.”

Jan. 13, 1862. G. T. C.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.—A number has just appeared which, if it

to excite some interest among persons engaged in mining pursuits with capital. It has been written by Dr. Gesner of New York, who, it appears, was commissioned by gentlemen of science and influence to explore the gold regions of Nova Scotia. After a brief geological description of the country, the sites where gold has been discovered and is now obtained,

the writer describes certain peculiarities of the rocks in which the gold is situated, and its combinations with other metals. The gold has

An American Opinion.

An eminent Boston lawyer, George Ticknor Curtis, son-in-law of Judge Story, and brother of Judge Curtis, of the U. S. Supreme Court, has published a letter on the case of the "Trent," which fully bears out the English view of the case. The concluding part of the letter, as to the relations between England and America is interesting, and we therefore reproduce it:

"We are, however, many persons among us, who are anxious to see the rights of our countrymen not having restored, or offered to restore these prisoners, because they heard from some of our friends in England, that they were otherwise. Let us remember that from the instant of the capture, through the space of five weeks, the Administration were found fast by a manly people, who would have been immediately satisfied the smallest occasion, while it lasted. No man out of every one pronounced it a perfectly clear case on the law, and whether clear or not, I am sure, few men would have done otherwise. We do not wish to be mistaken on every hazard. The very few who thought otherwise, did so secretly got a hearing, and even that was enough for me. It is to be regretted that men of high consideration led the overwhelming

majority, the majority were solved. All the other problems were left behind and left to be swept up in the dust; and then it was seen that our Government had dealt with a very delicate case, involving the national honor and the national credit, with the maximum degree of saving face to all parties concerned. It was a very delicate case, but a well-meaning officer had made a mistake, and that consequently we could not make a case. I think many never go up to the White House. Mr. Sillars, the Foreign Office, Mr. Sillars may have never even darkened the doors of Mr. Theobald. At all events, let us hope so. But whatever comes of their mission, let us remember one thing, namely, that the Government of the United States must be injured by imputing bad motives to foreign powers without reasonable proof; and especially that proclamation on the floor of Congress, which was a very serious matter, and which is a very good invitation to her to fight with us now. Peace with all foreign powers is of unequal importance to this generation of men, but it is of great importance to those to be so to our children. Whether our Union is to be restored, or to be finally or irreversibly severed, we have a work to do which far transcends

ations. We are to decide the question whether our republican institutions and their accompanying rights are to be maintained or abandoned. They are surrounded with perils on every hand. Throughout the loyal States there are those who insist upon overthrowing the Constitution, in order to make the slave States a part of the United States. In the revolted States there are those who reject the Union, as no longer a thing possible to exist, either under the present or any other common government. To give up the Union, given up to the former, there is no guaranty of any description, no principle in the whole federation, that will not be swept by the board, to give place to a new and arbitrary majority of a consolidated people. If the revolt of the South is maintained, and the Union is dissevered, the principle of a Federal republic will have to succumb to a new and arbitrary majority, such as it has never known before or anywhere. If the armies of the Union are to triumph, long years of consummate legislation, of administration almost without intermission, will be required to heal the wounds which we are now inflicting upon each other. Peace, therefore, of all

things—places which would be the only safety; and if we could secure that safety, we must not only postpone our struggles, but we must indefinitely postpone our battle in their existence.

Jan. 18, 1862. G. T. C.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.—A pamphlet has just appeared which is likely to excite some interest among persons engaged in mining pursuits with capital. It has been written by Dr. George of New York, who, it appears, was commissioned by the Hon. of science and influence to explore the gold regions of Nova Scotia. After a brief geological description of the country, the sites where gold has been discovered and is now obtained, the writer describes certain peculiarities of the rocks in which the gold is situated, and its combinations with other metals. The gold has