

dismiss Mr. Letellier, and that the Conservatives of Ontario and Manitoba are now hunting up charges, true and false together, in order that Lieut.-Governors Macdonald and Cauchon may be dismissed from office. The Hon. Senator Macpherson is dragged in as a party to this infamy—inasmuch as he is charged with a desire to obtain the office of Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. It is more than a pity that such unfounded and reckless charges should be made. The Conservatives of Manitoba would command a large amount of sympathy in any expressed desire to be rid of Lieut.-Governor Cauchon, but no Government could dismiss him for what he was before he was placed in the office; they could only consider his fitness and conduct now. To set talk of wrong afloat is in itself a wrong.

It is a good "sign of the Times" that the question of exemption from taxation is to be taken up by the Ontario Government. That so many religious institutions should not pay their rightful taxation is a standing crime. The Ontario Government can better deal with the evil than any other of all our provincial governments—at any rate, better than the Provincial Government at Quebec—it has not so much Roman Catholic Ecclesiasticism to face and please. But I hope the work will be thoroughly done—let all who share the privileges of citizenship share also the burdens of it. There is no reason in the world why the clergy should be a privileged class.

An important conference was held a few days ago between Appraiser Ketchum and the kid glove importers of the City of New York, the Treasury Department having expressed a desire to obtain the views of the merchants on the proposed substitution of a specific for an *ad valorem* duty on kid gloves. General Ketchum, having announced some plans he had for specific duties, called for an expression of the views of each house represented at the conference—which call was freely responded to. On no proposition put forward was there a unanimity of opinion, but the meeting was strongly in favour of a specific duty instead of an *ad valorem*. There is some considerable discussion in Canada just now as to the relative merits of each kind of duty—and, as many people would like to be enlightened on the subject, I invite an expression of opinion in the columns of this journal. Facts and figures of an interesting character have been given to me, showing how, by fraud, merchants can, and do, evade the paying of duties, but I would prefer that those gentlemen should speak for themselves.

In the American Congress, Senator Blaine has made an effort that had but small issue—it was a resolution by which record should be made of the frauds and outrages by which the recent elections were carried by the Democratic party in the Southern States, and also to find if there be any method by which a repetition of such crimes against a free ballot may be prevented. The speech in which it was moved appears to have been good from an oratorical point of view, but otherwise barren of results. For it was evident that it went upon two unproved assumptions; first, that all negro voters, not only ought to be, but are Republicans; and second, that when they do not vote the Republican ticket they must be the victims of the bulldozer or the ballot-box stuffer. If Mr. Blaine could make these assumptions good he would have solid ground to base his other arguments upon, but the possibility of doing so is gravely questioned.

The motions of Mr. Durham and Mr. Fort for a suspension of the rules, in order to pass a bill and a resolution designed to embarrass the resumption of specie payments and to secure an accumulation of cheap silver dollars, had but little more success, not securing a two-thirds vote. But they made it plain that even Senators do not understand the true position of affairs in this silver question. Mr. Fort's motion begins by declaring that the legal-tender quality of the silver dollars shall be maintained, and that "any discrimination against them by any national bank in refusing to receive them and treat them as legal dollars shall be deemed as a defiance of the law," and goes on to demand that the Banking Committee shall be directed to report a bill to withdraw the notes of banks that offend in that way. But as most of us have understood it, the banks do not propose to refuse to receive and treat the silver dollars as a legal tender—they being bound by law so to receive them; they, or the people for them, simply want that any debts contracted in the future shall be met by gold or greenbacks.

Mr. Hewitt's proposal was better and met with more favour; it is designed to help the resumption of specie payments and the speedy restoration of a sound currency, providing that gold and silver dollars shall be interchangeable at the Assistant-Treasurer's Office in New York, and that the Secretary of the Treasury shall coin an amount of silver dollars sufficient to meet the demand for them. The object seems to be that only just so many as are required for business uses shall be issued, so as to maintain them at par in gold. That way the evils of cheap silver money, resulting in a single silver standard, may be averted.

The British public appear to be greatly puzzled as to the real nature of the war with Afghanistan. That does not include the leaders on both sides, of course. Lord Beaconsfield and the members of his Cabinet say that it is the result of the inability of Mr. Gladstone's Government in 1873 to recognise the gravity of the Russian menace to Afghanistan and England; while Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, denounces the war as unjust and iniquitous. At first it—the war—was understood to arise from the insult to Major Cavagnari, and the evasive reply of the Ameer to the Indian Viceroy's protest; then we heard of the need for securing a scientific frontier; and then came the inevitable talk of Russian policy in Europe and in Asia.

And now there is the alarming rumour that a cause for the war more urgent than either or any of these has existed,—no less than the fact that a war in Afghanistan was the only alternative to a repetition of the Mutiny of 1857; that unless our soldiers were sent to fight in the Khyber Pass, they might have been compelled to witness a re-enactment of the horrors of Lucknow and Cawnpore. This is almost incredible; and yet there is evidence enough in Lord Lytton's despatches that there was something besides the quarrel with the Ameer which urged on the war.

The English people have been greatly amused at the spectacle of Mr. Gladstone at Woolwich solemnly appealing to the eternal moral laws of the universe as witnesses against the policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet. The age is far away too enlightened and practical for all that. If the object of the war was to stave off the horrors of rebellion against misrule in India, what would Afghanistan and a few hundreds of Afghans, and "the eternal moral laws of the universe," weigh against that? Mr. Gladstone has failed to grow with the times.

While search is being made in political circles for the causes of the war with Afghanistan, search is also being made in the headquarters of commerce for the causes of trade depression. And we in Canada can well understand the turn affairs are taking when we hear that they are beginning to blame the Government as being in a great measure responsible for the present stagnation. It is of course absurd, utterly and completely, but it is more than likely that it will ruin the Beaconsfield Government in England just as it wrecked the Mackenzie Government in Canada last September. Let the idea once get into the head of the suffering masses that the Government is in some sense responsible and they will turn upon it with a vengeance. It would be a grim piece of irony to see a party that went into power on the cry for domestic legislation—has been blessed for neglecting the domestic and assuming a spirited foreign policy—turned out because of depression in trade.

But the causes of trade depression are evident—the English have been spending more money than they were making; their wealth has been worn away by gradual depletion. From a paper read before the Manchester Statistical Society by Mr. Stephen Bourne, it is announced that the adverse trade balance of England in 1871 was £15,000,000; in 1872 it was *nil*; in 1873 it was £19,000,000; and since then it has gone on advancing year by year, until in 1877 it was a hundred millions sterling, and it will be as much in 1878. Living on the capital at that pace could have but one result—stagnation, bankruptcy.

It is rumoured that the Imperial Parliament will be dissolved in January, and the Liberals are in great spirits at the prospect. But it is to be sincerely hoped that Mr. Gladstone will—in the name of the eternal moral laws of the universe—beg his admirers not to use such vile language when speaking of political opponents. Here are some specimens of a vigorous speech:—Professor Thorold Rogers, speaking at Bristol, protested that Lord Beaconsfield's "public character is the worst of any statesman he knows; he is "a mountebank," "a juggler," "a coarse and brutal man," "a rogue," "a pinchbeck rascal," "a clever Hebrew at the head of the Government, who, in his passage from the old religion to the new, had forgotten the morality of the Old Testament, and had never learnt the morality of the New." Mr. Samuelson speaks of the same Earl as being "a modern Guy Faux," "an adept in the art of political lying." Mr. Gladstone gets a full share of the same, being described as "a crazy fanatic," "a lunatic," "a Russian agent," and such like things. *O Tempora, O Mores.*

The bye elections in England are going in favour of the Liberals. Mr. Lewis Fry has just been elected at Bristol by a tremendous majority.

But who is the real Liberal leader? It has been decided in a sort of caucus, held at Woburn Abbey, that Lord Hartington shall be supported as leader of the Opposition; but if the parties be called upon to change places in the House, who would be Premier? Lord Hartington is the nominal, but Mr. Gladstone is the real head of the party, and the question is put, which is chief?

EDITOR.