

The policy of the past in Canada has thus been, as a whole, patriotic and British in its inception, and Imperial in its progress and development. The great highway across the continent and the wide aspirations of Sir John Macdonald were alone enough to stamp it with such characteristics. It is well to remember, also, that Canadian protection does not discriminate against the interests of the United Kingdom, all products being taxed alike from the different countries. Thus, fiscally, England treats Canada as she does the United States, and the Dominion treats Great Britain exactly as she does the Republic. It is wrong on both sides, but still we can hardly do otherwise with our revenue requirements and our proximity to the States until the United Kingdom modifies its fiscal system, and creates commercially a united Empire. Even as it is, our trade with Great Britain leaped up eleven millions in 1890, and decreased three millions with the States.

The future is always uncertain, but, if the instincts of an imperial race prove true, the time will come when the great Crowned republics of Britain, Australia, South Africa and Canada will unite in organized and continuous action for the common weal. Meantime, in the words of a statesman already referred to, one who voiced this sentiment in almost unequalled eloquence:—

"Canada dreams her dream and forbodes her destiny—a dream of ever broadening harvests, multiplying towns and villages, and expanding pastures; of constitutional self-government and a confederated Empire; of page after page of honourable history, added as her contribution to the annals of the Mother Country and the glories of the British race; of a perpetuation for all time upon this continent of that temperate and well-balanced system of government which combines in one mighty whole, as the possession of all Englishman, the brilliant history and traditions of the past with the freest and most untrammelled liberty of action in the present."

Toronto.

J. CASTELL HOPKINS.

PARIS LETTER.

THE more things change in France the more they remain the same. The new Loubet Ministry differs from the old De Freycinet Cabinet in chanting the same tune only in a different key. It looks as if the change in premier-ships was brought about simply to eliminate Home Minister Constans, and not to snub the Pope or menace the Cardinals and Bishops for alluding to ecclesiastical hardships and threatened vexations. Neither the late nor the present Cabinet differ as to the necessity of upholding the Concordat, and the expediency of abstaining from stirring up religious strife. The republicans who object to the union of the Church and State for France, vote for its maintenance in her relations with foreign countries. Now one cannot have the cake and eat it. Neither the Church nor the State desire to be divorced.

It is a sad position for M. Constans, after saving the republic from the Boulangist conspiracy, to be cast aside like a sucked orange; but politics have no bowels of compassion. He fought desperately against being snuffed out, but his adversaries were too many and too strong. His relentless enemy, Rochefort, may be excused illuminating in honour of the victory. During five years he threw at the ex-Minister's head all the ancient, modern and slang expletives to be found in the several French dictionaries; indeed all the Boulangists hounded him to political death, and now gloat over the quarry. In the late ministerial crisis the public funds were in no way affected, and public opinion but little interested. There was a time when the downfall of a French Ministry would be expected to cause the sun to stand still, so Monsieur merits to be complimented on his acquisition of political coolness. There were at least seventy-two legislators who had their own consent to be chosen as the new Ministers, and who put on the necessary side during the interregnum. Ignoring them, M. Carnot has converted them into personal enemies.

Monsieur Loubet is a brand new premier, aged forty-five, small, chubby, honest, with a leaning on the side of melancholy; he partakes of the temperament of his political play-mate, President Carnot. He is a lawyer, a senator, and a fair all-round legislative plodder. He will never set the Seine on fire; he will never adopt the see-saw policy of M. de Freycinet; he will not flirt with equivocations; he will rely on the law, and will see it applied with a Brutus impartiality. He is not exactly a leader of men, and perhaps too iron-clad in the political virtues. Will he have the soul to dare what he may have the will to do? That's the unknown quantity in his character, and he may rest assured it will not remain long untested. Aunt Sallyism applied to French Ministers apparently does not the slightest harm to France; it has not prevented her from having a tremendous army; a by no means insignificant navy; to be immensely rich; to speculate in land-grabbing and hinterlands; to squander milliards in Panama bubbles, and to hold on to her present constitution while converting the Pope to republicanism and remaining wholly indifferent, whether the clergy chant or do not chant, the Dominical, *salvum fac Rempublicam*.

Emperor William appears to be down on his luck. The French follow with avidity the *emeutes* on the spree. Paris never in all her troubles had riots sprung upon her like what has taken place in Berlin. And his Majesty to

be hissed in his own capital—the world seems to be coming to an end. If, as the Emperor claims, heaven has opened a special road for him, that *chemin* cannot start from Berlin. Bismarck's three-haired plume must be wagging at all such signs of the times.

I passed the evening recently with a financier, a Frenchman, who has cart-loads of Egyptian bonds; the *Beati possidens* makes him a strong partisan for the British occupation of Egypt. France and England, he holds, ought to annex, not protect, Egypt and Tunisia, and since there seems to be no limit to the milk and honey flowing in the Nile valley, the British ought to take over the national debt of Egypt, as France has done in the case of Tunisia; the operation would not be difficult, as Egypt is solvent and a big bonanza, while it would deprive the European powers of the right to put spokes in the administrative wheels of the country. In the meantime, England ought to creep cautiously and steadily towards Central Soudan and open up the natural highways to that great future market to the commerce of the world. As to France utilizing for naval purposes the natural inland harbour of Bizerta, in Tunisia, that will be according to her own good pleasure, concluded my *causeur*, as there is nothing in any bond to prevent her, while she knows that England already possesses Tangiers, in the sense that she will never permit any other European power to hold it, and Tangiers is a port of far greater strategic value than Bizerta. The navy that can sweep the seas and display broom at the mast-head can afford to refuge harbours with tranquility.

The Consul of the United States has done good and timely service by calling in the aid of the police to suppress the many bogus agencies opened in Paris and the provinces for the representation of exhibitors at the Chicago World's Fair. The swindlers claimed to not only have an official standing, but to be in a position to secure privileged and exclusive advantages for their clients. Now, the moment you get into a Frenchman's head that he will enjoy what no other competitor will—not a difficult operation—and that you bind him to "silence and discretion," you can bleed him to the last drop, or pluck him to the last feather. Several of the agencies, concluding their little game to have been blown upon, have folded up their tents like the Arabs, and as silently stolen away.

That leading *chroniqueur*, M. Scholl, receives 250 frs. for each of his articles, which are always amusing, and, it is needless to add, witty. As he contributes eight chroniques weekly to various journals, his income is not bad. Only think, that in 1810, M. Guigot was considered rich because paid 180 frs. per month for supplying five historico-political articles to the *Gazette de France*, while Mlle. de Meulan, whom he subsequently wed, was paid 200 frs. per month for the same number of contributions on social, fleeting subjects.

In February, 1848, when the mob invaded the Tuilleries and compelled Louis-Philippe to fly to England, his throne was seized and burned near the Palais Royal; the tricolour decorating the throne was captured as a trophy taken from the enemy. In time it came into the possession of a M. Baur, and was sold last year among other articles of his collection of curios for 39 frs. At the time, the purchaser stated his intention to make a present of the flag to the Duc d'Aumale. The famous "red flag" that flew from a pike, and which was presented to Lamartine to replace the tricolour, and that drew forth his famous apostrophe, is said to be in the possession of Albert, the *ouvrier* member of the 1848 Provisional Government. Albert is now an inspector in the employment of the City Gas Company, and a tory republican; he delights to relate his experience of mob government. On May 15, 1848, the people unanimously elected him to office; a few hours later the populace screamed demands for his head.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth; the Duval taverns are as much Parisian institutions as the Louvre and the Chamber of Deputies. They supply, in their forty establishments, 26,000 meals daily; during hard times, like the present, these eating-houses are over-crowded, for families prefer to economize at the popular broth houses than incur the expense of keeping up a home-kitchen, which implies retaining a cook servant. As a proof of the working of the new tariff, Duval has had to increase by one sou the price of every *plat* of mutton, and by two sous every beefsteak commanded. The public are equal to the occasion; those who gave a gratuity of three to four sous to waitresses reduce their tips in proportion. Other effect of the tariff—perhaps, at a secondary theatre, famous for its leg business, the manager has been compelled to raise the part-contribution of his danseuses by 5 frs. all around, for "artificial calves"—65 frs. the pair; "rectified at knees," 64 frs.; "ditto with aids," 85 frs. The ladies object to the extortion.

HUMAN reason borrowed many arts from the instincts of animals.—*Dr. Johnson*.

TENDENCY is imminent even in spinsters to warp them from intellectual to baby love.—*Tyndall*.

RICHES expose a man to pride and luxury, and a foolish elation of heart.—*Addison*.

ANOTHER life, if it were not better than this, would be less a promise than a threat.—*J. Petit-Senn*.

NOTHING of worth or weight can be achieved with half a mind, with a faint heart or a lame endeavour.—*Barrow*.

PANTOUM: THE BLUSH.

WITHIN my heart there fell a hush,
I thought my very soul had died,
When first I saw my lady blush
And own the love she strove to hide.

I thought my very soul had died
Before affection bade her speak
And own the love she strove to hide
With silent ways and manners meek.

Before affection bade her speak
I watch'd her as she used to go
With silent ways and manners meek
Whilst I with love was all aglow.

I watch'd her as she used to go
To gather simple blossoms fair,
Whilst I with love was all aglow
Yet dare not lay my passion bare.

To gather simple blossoms fair
I often went—to give to her,
Yet dare not lay my passion bare
Though all my soul with love did stir.

I often went to give to her
My life if she would deign to take,
Though all my soul with love did stir
My lips their silence dare not break.

My life if she would deign to take
'Twas her's, not mine—yet strange to tell
My lips their silence dare not break
Ere she had learned love's sacred spell.

'Twas her's, not mine—yet strange to tell
Moons waxed and waned and years flew by,
Ere she had learned love's sacred spell
By touch of hand and glance of eye.

Moons waxed and waned, and years flew by,
I thought she loved, alas! not me;
By touch of hand and glance of eye
The truth was told—ah! ecstasy!

I thought she loved, alas! not me,
Within my heart there fell a hush,
The truth was told—ah! ecstasy!
When first I saw my lady blush.

SAREPTA.

THE RIGHT OF CANADA TO NEGOTIATE HER OWN COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

A LEADING article in THE WEEK, for February 26, sums up the late Reciprocity negotiations at Washington thus: "It is evident that the Canadian Ministers must have laboured under a serious disadvantage in their efforts to ascertain the views of the American Administration, from the fact that they represented no national government, and were utterly without power to say what the British Government would or would not concede or ratify in the shape of special arrangements for reciprocal trade. We should suppose that the circumstances must have been such as to cause the members of the Government to reflect seriously on the disadvantages under which the Dominion labours in consequence of its inability to perform any national function with the representatives of a foreign nation." The situation is indeed rather humiliating, though it would seem that the Ministers themselves do not choose to regard it in that light. Worse still, the great majority of the Canadian people appear to be as blind as the Ministers. But is it not about time for them to open their eyes? If the moral question does not disturb them, are they going to remain proof against the appeals of the material one also? It is almost beyond the shadow of a doubt that the inability of a Canadian Government "to perform any national function with the representatives of a foreign nation" is one of the greatest obstacles in the way of bringing about a satisfactory, or possibly any commercial treaty between Canada and the United States. Canada, notwithstanding her boasts of practical independence, is still a dependency; and, what is the chief thing in the eyes of Americans, a British dependency. It is notorious that a great many Americans look upon Canada merely as a stalking horse for Great Britain. This, and the fact that Canada is herself an active competitor of the United States in certain lines, lead many statesmen of the latter country to look with suspicion on any proposal for Reciprocity from Canada. A witness before the Committee of the United States Senate, appointed to consider the subject of relations with Canada, made this significant remark in the course of his testimony: "It is very important that the country (Canada) should not be increased in wealth and strength while it remains a British Dominion and can be used as a basis of operations against us." The Secretary of State would not, of course, express himself thus freely to the Canadian Ministers, but, so far as we can judge, this just about represents his real feeling on the question.

All this, to be sure, is no reason why Canada should not persist in remaining a British dependency, if such is