

It is to be hoped Congress will favorably entertain the idea conveyed by the President, and also offer inducements to their warlike Fenian citizens to engage in the Mexican expedition as a sure and certain base of operations by which *Ould Ireland* could be wrung from the grasp of the bloody Saxon.

There can be little doubt that the United States would have been engaged in this business before if it would pay, campaigning in Mexico is not particularly profitable and our only fear is Brother Jonathan knows that right well.

A report by the captain of the Russian corvette *Boyarín*, published in the *Cronstadt Messenger*, gives some curious details on the present state of the naval armaments of Japan. On the 14th of July, 1871 (he says), five Japanese ships of war entered the harbor of Yokohama. One of these ships is a corvette of English construction, armed with six long cast iron guns and two bronze guns. The second ship is an ironclad ram, the *Stone-wall Jackson*, formerly part of the Confederate fleet. It is armed with a 300-pdr. and two Armstrong rifled 70 pounders. The three other vessels are screw gunboats of English construction, each armed with three guns. The crews of these vessels are composed exclusively of Japanese, with a uniform exactly the same as that of English sailors. On the 28th March a case-mated Japanese corvette, *Reuzekan*, armed with eight guns, also entered the harbor. The Japanese Army is equipped and armed in the French manner, and its rifles are according to the Albini system. In the Gulf of Yeddo there is an arsenal, situated on a terrace cut into the side of a mountain. This arsenal is provided with a large dock, 407 feet long, 82 feet wide, and 21 feet deep. The largest ocean steamer can enter it for repairs. The water of the dock is exhausted in ten hours by three large steam-pumps. Its construction occupied eighteen months and cost the Japanese Government 240,000 Mexican dollars. Thirty vessels have already been refitted in this dock. Another dock of small dimensions is being constructed by the side of the first for ships of small tonnage. The Admiralty also has a rope manufactory, a foundry, a boiler manufactory, a mechanical forge, a sawing machine, and all the necessary appliances for repairing ships. Engines and boilers are now being constructed for river steamers. The arsenal was built by a French engineer, M. Verny, who has been retained as manager of the establishment. Thirty Frenchmen are attached to it in the capacity of foremen, assistants, and instructors. The maintenance of the works costs 300,000 Mexican dollars a year; and since they were begun, five years ago, the expenses of the establishment have amounted to \$1,500,000.

The new Empire which force has added to civilization appears to have the aptitude for what our neighbors would call *go a head activeness* in them.

I will be well for the interests of humanity if the Japs are not tinctured with some of the qualities of the *mild Hindoo*, and some fine morning the *foreign devils* at Yeddo and elsewhere might awake with their throats cut, whenever their unwilling hosts finds themselves sufficiently strong to face the music.

However the rumoured visit of the *Mikado* to Europe may be sufficient to impress the aristocracy of Japan with the fact that resistance would now be futile.

In the event of consolidation of the power of that wonderful Empire and the peaceful civilization of its people, a great future will be opened to Eastern Asia by their means. There can be little doubt of the effects produced on the Chinese and the surrounding nations, in all of which Japan will necessarily take the lead owing to the wonderful aptitude of its people for acquiring knowledge.

Let us hope in the interests of humanity that the great revolution now progressing may be brought to a peaceful conclusion.

Our readers will be pleased to hear that the Right Honorable Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, K.C.B., has been named a Privy Councillor of Great Britain, and will shortly leave for London to take the oath of office.

Sir JOHN ROSE has also been created a Baronet of the United Kingdom.

The Canadian people feel particularly gratified at the deserved honors conferred on their leading Statesmen, and the fact that Sir J. A. MACDONALD has a seat in the Privy Council is an evidence of the desire to draw tighter the bonds which connect us with Great Britain as well as to give Canada a position and influence in her Councils.

The circumstance may be looked on as the first step to a solution of the difficulties surrounding a Federation of the Empire in a Constitutional manner.

This event has an historical importance and a constitutional value of which we cannot realize the full bearing. It is a plain intimation that the opinions of the Canadian people are to be heard from the lips of their leading Statesmen in the Constitutional Council of the Empire and in the presence of the Sovereign, although not the Executive Council which is extra constitutional, the Privy Council exercises commanding influence on all great questions of foreign policy and with the issues of that policy our interests are more immediately concerned.

The Right Honorable Knight has written his services to Canada and the Empire in unmistakable characters on the history of both.

REVIEWS.

The *Westminster Review* for July has been received—The contents are:

Sovereignty: Royal and Representative. English Philology.

Greek Lyrical Poetry.

Dr. Newman: the Difficulty of Protestantism.

The Politics of Aristotle.

André Chenier, Poet and Political Martyr.

Recent experiments with senses.

Contemporary literature, re-published by the LEONARD SCOTT Publishing Co., 140, Fulton-Street, New York.

Experiments of a very interesting character took place last month in Wales to test the qualities of an explosive called "dynamite," invented by Mr. Nobel, of Hamburg, and which has been largely used for mining purposes in Europe. Dynamite is a compound form of nitro-glycerine, by adding to the latter 25 per cent. of infusorial earth called *kieselguhr*. The new compound, while possessing an equal if not greater explosive force than pure nitro-glycerine, avoids the excessive danger of the latter, which explodes so easily by concussion. Its disruptive power is so great that three quarters of a pound of it placed in a mass of wrought iron fifteen inches by nine inches—precisely as it would be used by a miner in blasting rock—rent the metal in twain. It also fractured a block of wrought iron seven and a quarter inches square by five inches in thickness with five pounds of the material simply placed upon it. In the former case it was calculated that to rend the metal must have required a force of not less than three hundred tons to the square inch. The facility with which pure nitro-glycerine explodes was fearfully demonstrated near the spot of these experiments, some three years ago, when a box of it happening to fall from the footboard of a cart, an explosion took place which blew men, horses, wagon, and even a portion of the road to atoms. To test the dynamite in this respect, a box containing half a hundred weight was dropped from the quarry side, a height of sixty feet then a five-pound box was thrown from a height of 130 feet on to a bare rock, and lastly a 200-pound weight was dropped sixty feet on to a box containing the material. In neither case did any explosion occur.

A travelling correspondent of the *Troy Times*, who has been making a tour in the Dominion, tells the people of the United States of Canada's resolve to work out her own destiny in her own way, apart and distinct from the Republic. "I am satisfied say he, "that 99 out of every hundred of the people are opposed to annexation; they dream of an independent nation. The people who rule are loyal to Great Britain but hope some day to build here a Greater Britain. Johnny Kanuck is willing that his Cousin Jonathan shall visit him, on condition that the Yankee pays double price for everything, but under no circumstances will little Johnny consent to sleep in the same bed with big Jonathan. This antipathy is natural. We need not be a sponge among nations, absorbing, like water, all our weak neighbors. Give them a fair show. Let those English speaking sons of the North do their own work in their own way; let them, if they can, hew out of this wilderness a nation compact and friendly, and then perhaps will follow, not annexation, for that signifies the swallowing of the lesser by the greater, but consolidation which implies mutual concessions and mutual privileges. "We thank our Yankee cousins for these liberal, brave words.