

at sixteen to one, and thus create a market in America which will enable them to unload their stocks of the white metal. This part of the statement is probably on a par with the periodically reiterated assertion that the Cobden Club of England sends money to the United States to further the adoption of a free-trade policy.

The "Canada." All Canadians will join heartily in congratulating the owners and managers of the yacht "Canada," on their fairly-won victory over the "Vencedor" at Toledo. The race was an excellent test, not merely of the sailing qualities of the respective yachts, but also of the seamanship of their respective crews. For the former the credit is due to the public-spirited gentlemen who contributed the funds and to the skilful designer and builder of the "Canada;" for the latter it is due to Mr. Æmilius Jarvis and the splendid company of amateurs whom he had under his command. The reception given by Toronto was unprecedented, and if the honours so well won and so cordially bestowed, should give an impulse to one of the noblest of physical recreations, few will regret the result.

Germany and France. It seems to have been finally decided that Germany will take part, officially if not cordially, in the French Exposition of 1900. The resolution to do so is a sensible one, and all lovers of peace and friends of humanity will unite in hoping that the incident will be followed by less disturbing relations between these two great powers. France cannot recover Alsace and Lorraine without a destructive war, and she is not prepared to go to war for the purpose of recovering them. Germany can well afford to assume a more dignified attitude toward France in view of her safe position in Europe—a position whose security cannot be disturbed except by some act of folly on her own part. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that more cordial relations will lead speedily to any disarmament in Europe, but sooner or later they will have this effect. In this respect France and Germany hold the key of the European situation, and on them devolves the chief responsibility for trouble, as to them will belong the chief credit of obviating it.

Zanzibar. A somewhat serious state of affairs has emerged in the Island of Zanzibar, which is under British protection. The sudden death of a Sultan friendly to Britain was made the occasion for the seizure of the throne by a usurper who at once entrenched himself in the palace, pointed his guns at the British ships in the harbour, and attacked one of them with one of his own war vessels. The latter was, of course, promptly sunk, and the palace was almost as promptly bombarded and evacuated. The usurper took refuge in the German consulate, and when his surrender was demanded by the British Consul it was stipulated that he should be treated as a Prince and a prisoner of war. It is not unlikely that these conditions will be accepted, but it is very likely also that steps will be taken to effectually prevent any recurrence of such trouble. The fool-hardy adventurer will be as completely deprived of all power, to work mischief hereafter as Arabi Bey was after he started the war at Alexandria, and Zanzibar, both island and coast, will be brought more completely within the civilizing effect of British influence.

## Responsible Government in Canada.

THERE is no principle of our political system better established than the one that is known by the name of "Responsible Government." It had become clearly recognized in Great Britain before the absence of it from the Constitutions of Upper and Lower Canada helped to precipitate the rebellions of 1837-38 in those two provinces. It was deliberately introduced into the constitution of Canada after the union of 1840, on the express advice of Lord Durham, who, in his celebrated "Report," made use of the following language:

"It needs no change in the principles of government, no invention of a new constitutional theory, to supply the remedy which would, in my opinion, completely remove the existing political disorders. It needs but to follow out consistently the principles of the British Constitution, and introduce into the government of these great colonies those wise provisions by which alone the working of the representative system can in any country be rendered harmonious and efficient. . . . I would not impair a single prerogative of the Crown. . . . But the Crown must submit to the necessary consequences of representative institutions, and if it has to carry on the government in unison with a representative body, it must consent to carry it only by means of those in whom that representative body has confidence. In England this principle has been so long considered an indisputable and essential part of our constitution, that it has hardly ever been found necessary to inquire into the means by which its observance is enforced. When a Ministry ceases to command a majority in Parliament on great questions of policy, its doom is immediately sealed; and it would appear to us as strange to attempt for any time to carry on a government by means of Ministers perpetually in a minority as it would be to pass laws with a majority of votes against them."

The principle of responsible government so lucidly expounded by Lord Durham was in 1839 expressly endorsed by the then Colonial Secretary, Lord John Russell, in despatches to Lord Sydenham, the first Governor-General of Canada, and was, by the first Legislative Assembly of the Province in 1841 embodied in a series of resolutions supposed to have been drafted by Lord Sydenham himself. Three years later a dispute arose between Governor Metcalfe and the Baldwin-Lafontaine Ministry over the practical application of the principle to the appointment of public officials, and for the time the Governor had his way. With the advent of Lord Elgin, however, the right of the Canadian Parliament to control public policy in domestic matters through responsible advisers of the Governor, was frankly recognized, and it has continued to be ever since the theory on which the administration of the public service has been conducted.

The refusal of Lord Aberdeen to make certain appointments recommended by Sir Charles Tupper, the late Premier of Canada, has been the occasion of a sharp controversy over the time honoured principle defined by Lord Durham, enjoined by Lord John Russell, formulated by Lord Sydenham, repudiated by Lord Metcalfe, and accepted by Lord Elgin. Sir Charles became Premier after the late Parliament had expired by efflux of time. He was defeated in the consequent general election. Before giving up office he and his colleagues passed four hundred and seventy Orders in Council and of these Lord Aberdeen assented to all but seventeen, of which fourteen were appointments to offices. Amongst these were four Senatorships, which His Excellency pointedly refused to fill except on the recommendation of new advisers.

It is held by Sir Charles Tupper and his apologists that the Governor-General cannot know anything officially of the state of opinion in Parliament until he is made aware of it