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Comments on the Cartoons.



POINTING THE FINGER OF SCORN AT HIMSELF.—This is virtually what the editor of the *Empire* has been doing in his somewhat sizzling articles on the Mail-Plot case. In good set terms he has denounced the editor and manager of his esteemed contemporary for plotting to hand over their country to the United States. He declares that men who would do such a thing are renegades, traitors, black-hearted wretches, and an assortment of other objectionable characters too numerous to recall in full.

And by what means, according to the *Empire*, did these alleged Mailefactors hope to accomplish their fell purpose? By discouraging the Americans from making an offer of Reciprocity with Canada, and giving the existing policy of restriction a chance to accomplish its natural result, viz., to make the Canadian people beg for Annexation as an escape from a worse alternative. Now, (aside from the question of motive) what has the *Empire* been doing day in and day out ever since the question of Reciprocity came up for discussion? It has been trying by every means in its power to do the very thing these "traitors" are alleged to have done. With all the resources of partisan warfare (excepting truth and logic), it has fought to maintain the policy of Restriction, and to head off any sort of Free Trade offer from the United States. If this means Annexation in the case of the alleged plotters, it can mean nothing else in the case of the *Empire*. The most that can be pleaded in defence of the latter is ignorance, but, if so, it is ignorance maintained in the presence of light, and therefore inexcusable.

GUSH.—The address to our most gracious sovereign, in which that royal lady is assured (greatly to her surprise, no doubt,) of the continued loyalty of her Canadian subjects, was duly moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Mulock. As a matter of course it passed unanimously. This was a piece of easy good-nature on the part of the House which, had it consulted its dignity and self-respect chiefly, would have promptly suppressed the fussy gentleman who proposed the superfluous address, or at least demanded of him some less flimsy reasons for asking Parliament to consider it. If the summary of his remarks given in the *World* is correct, Mr. Mulock's reasons for the declaration of Canada's loyalty at present were not merely flimsy—they were sordid. He said it would give information that the Dominion was not anxious for Annexation, and that "the effect of this information, he hoped, would be to again set flowing towards our shores, the surplus population and surplus capital of the old world." Her Majesty cannot but be delighted with this. Of course Mr. Mulock's speech will be engrossed and transmitted with the address, and the very least the Queen can do is to send a knighthood to a loyalist of such engaging candor.



THE Free Traders of Victoria, Australia, have sent for Henry George to come over and help them in the campaign now on in that colony, and that valiant champion of liberty has cheerfully responded to the call. He sails from San Francisco on the 8th inst. On the eve of his departure from New York, a farewell dinner was tendered to Mr. George, at which speeches were made by Rev. Lyman Abbott and other distinguished men, whose names have not been known in connection with the single-tax movement. There were many indications in the speeches of the tremendous hold which "George-

ism" has obtained amongst the thoughtful classes of the community. The day for sneers has gone by; earnest argument is now in order, and the world yet awaits the arrival of the man who can dispose of the logic of "Progress and Poverty." Prof. Huxley's late effort in that direction was simply pitiful in its weakness.

DR. LANDERKIN is going to revive his pet conundrum this session—to wit: If it is proper for the Government to grant a rebate of the duty on corn when the same is exported in the form of strong drink, why shouldn't it do the same when the export is in the form of fat cattle or other stock? The farmers of the country will, no doubt, listen attentively for the Government's answer to this poser. Last year, when it was propounded, they were speechless.

THE *Canadian Nation* suggests that our Public schools ought to confine themselves to the imparting of a practical education in the fundamental subjects, backed up with an industrial training, which would give the pupil a fair start in the battle of life, and that Universities and other institutions of higher learning should be supported exclusively by those who benefit by them. This is sound talk. The average pupil does not get beyond the Public school, and it is a sad fact that the training he receives there is of very little use as a preparation for business life.

THIS subject is up for discussion across the lines, too, we observe. Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York, recently said in a public address: "We have no more right to instruct freely the children of our citizens in the