

guarantee of a nation's ultimate well-being, which is found only in genuine national feeling and loyalty to the soil, is but now struggling into existence through opposing prejudice and discouragement. We do not ourselves think that any of the schemes proposed as substitutes for government by party are practicable. It is not this method of government, but the abuses which we see accompanying it, against which we would raise a voice of warning. Yet if party should prove to be, as it now to some extent appears, inseparable from demoralization and the supremacy of selfishness, it would become the duty of true citizens to seek a better means of government. In the North-West, upon whose healthy growth depends our future as a nation, we see one party by ill-judged measures creating a sore, which the other poisons and skilfully inflames, to the peril of the national organism, in order that it may have something worth holding up to view, as the execrable work of its rivals. Not wholly from the real grievances of the settlers, but in part from the seductive suggestions and loudly-expressed sympathies of those who would turn their grievances into political capital comes all the angry talk of secession—of annexation. Vain is this talk, we believe; but it is injurious. Young as the Confederation is, we may congratulate ourselves that the central power is pretty firmly established, and could muster to its support, were it or the integrity of our union seriously menaced, most of the best men of the country, Conservative and Reformer alike.

IN the late strike of the compositors of the *New York Evening Post* there was afforded an illustration of what the opponents of trades-unionism claim, and what believers in the combination of labour for the purpose of defence against capital find it so hard to argue against. When trade unions by fair and honourable means enable the labourer, who cannot afford to wait, to negotiate on equal terms with the capitalist, who can, they have legitimate reason for their existence and should be regarded as a good sign for the future of the working class. We should be the last to say anything against them did they prove themselves rational, to the smallest degree temperate, and capable of respect for the rules of business morality and the considerations which vitally affect the order of a civilized community. But experience of trade unions has lately shown them regardless of these considerations and influenced in the main by irresponsible socialistic schemers. In the case referred to the negotiations which preceded the strike were conducted judiciously, and the strike itself would as things were shaping have probably resulted in a way satisfactory to the workmen. But here the men interested lost control, and the Union stepped in and took possession. The result was a series of dishonest and criminal acts on the part of unionists;—and the dismissal from employment of the original strikers, decent men who were heartily ashamed of the tactics employed but were unable to escape responsibility for them, or to act independently of the organization to whose control they had committed themselves. The workman is under a worse tyranny than that of capital when he commits his conscience and his daily bread to the keeping of an irresponsible council of designing agitators, who at their own caprice or for the furtherance of their own ends may compel him to stand idle while his family starve or steal. In the case in question all was in the hands of a *lawyer*, not a compositor or a printer. Then what a mockery to see the chief dictating and taking no risk; the men whose livings were at stake obeying blindly, and losing after a dishonourable struggle.

IN spite of the very conciliatory attitude of Marshal Serrano and the Spanish Ministry toward France, it is plain that Bismarck has attained, by the visit of the Prussian Crown Prince to Spain, the object he had in view. The present Coalition Ministry represents but a small factor in Spanish politics. The enthusiasm for Germany was by no means confined to the Court circles, but was shared in by the leaders of opposing parties, and by all but an insignificant minority of the people. The power of the Martos-Serrano faction will in all probability be brief. Whether the reins fall next into the hands of the Conservatives or the Moderates,—whether the next Prime Minister of Alfonso be Canovas or Sagasta,—the attitude of Spain toward France will speedily be made unmistakable, and her Ambassador to the Republic be recalled.

THE disaster in the Soudan opens up the way for serious complications. El Mahdi's claims are established in the minds of the inhabitants by his overwhelming victory, and all the surrounding country may at his bidding burst into a blaze of insurrection. How far this might spread among stuff so inflammable as the Moslem populations is a question it were rash to attempt to answer. Turkey has sought to profit by the opportunity, and has asked permission to send troops to reconquer the lost provinces. Neither to England nor to France was this greatly desirable; and Turkey

makes complaint to the Powers because her request was not granted. Though Hicks Pasha's army by no means consisted of Europeans, and though anything else than defeat would have been a miracle, considering his spiritless troops, ridiculously inadequate supplies, and the nature of the country he had to traverse, nevertheless this crushing disaster cannot but seriously damage the prestige of England in oriental eyes. The pronouncement from Mecca declaring the prophet an impostor may prove about as effective as a barrier of tissue paper against a conflagration, when confronted by such proof of the prophet's divine mission, as is afforded by this prompt annihilation of his enemies. The situation at Khartoum is one of extreme peril: rebels within and fanatical enemies in overwhelming numbers without the city, and an insufficient and unsupported garrison to hold it. Baker Pasha, who will at once go to the Soudan, it is said, accompanied by Seiker Pasha, the conqueror of Darfour, writes to the *London Times* that Khartoum may with due precautions be rendered impregnable. He suggests that the Abyssinians might be invited to march upon the city, but advises that no British troops be exposed to the deadly climate of the Soudan. He urges above all that England straightway declare her policy in Egypt.

THERE appears to be an obstacle to the acceptance by Mr. Lowell of the Lord Rectorship of St. Andrew's to which he has been elected. The reports that have reached us have the customary inconsistency, but we gather that the difficulty arises, not from the fact that Mr. Lowell is an alien, but that he is a foreign envoy and therefore not amenable to British law.

### CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

IN spite of a drizzling rain, Evacuation Day at New York seems to have been celebrated by a great throng, which however may have been drawn as much by the pageant and by the presence of the President and other notabilities as by the anniversary itself. There was nothing Anti-British in the demonstration or in the speeches, and at the banquet the Queen's name was received with full honours, the company standing while "God Save The Queen" was played. The old feud then is happily buried; the hearts of the Anglo-Americans are manifestly turning again to their Mother Country; and as the Germans are emigrants of nations between which and England there is fast friendship, Great Britain has now no enemies on this continent except the Irish, whose antagonism is not to her only but to Anglo-Saxon civilization. Mr. George W. Curtis was the orator, and he could not fail to speak eloquently and with good taste. But the best of Revolution orators has now to squeeze an orange which has been squeezed by a hundred orators before, and which to tell the truth never was over full of juice; for the heroism of the American Revolution was not unlimited: it fell very far short of that displayed by the Dutch in their sixty years' struggle against Spain. The English have been blamed for not duly acknowledging the help which they received from the Prussians at Waterloo; but if the Prussians had failed to come up Wellington would at worst have had to fall back, whereas it seems certain that without the intervention of France, in spite of the inefficiency of the king's generals, and the distance of their base of operations, the American Revolution must have completely succumbed. Mr. Curtis says that Hamilton was the head, Jefferson the heart, and John Jay the conscience of the country. Hamilton and John Jay deserve their crowns, but if a malevolent and canting Jacobin like Jefferson was the heart of the country its blood must have been bad indeed. The centenary of the foundation of St. John, New Brunswick, celebrated just before that of Evacuation Day, recalls another unheroic feature of the American Revolution, the vindictive proscription of the vanquished party. Precision can hardly be exacted of eloquence; but Mr. Curtis, if he were writing history, would not fail to admit that George III. and the oligarchy of borough-mongers were not "England."

In his work on the "Expansion of England" Professor Seeley gives us an illustration of that which he considers the proper mode of treating historical subjects. History, he thinks, ought always to lead up to a political moral. The worst of this plan is that the political moral is very apt to lead up to the history. Professor Seeley's political moral, put into definite form and current phrase, is Imperial Federation. The expediency of Imperial Federation depends on the value of a Colonial Empire; and to prove the value of a Colonial Empire Professor Seeley turns the whole history of the European Powers, during the last century and the early part of the present, into a struggle for priority in the race for Colonial dominion. Even Napoleon, it seems, in overrunning Germany, grasping Spain, and invading Russia, was really aiming not at the subjugation of