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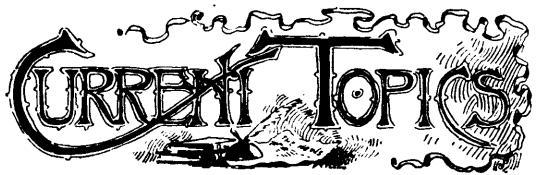
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Mr. A. P. Low writes to *Science* to correct a statement of Jacques W. Redway, in that journal, in which he makes the Geological Survey of Canada responsible for the various startling reports that have been circulated as to the immense size of Lake Mistassini. The only official reports on that body of water, Mr. Low points out, are those of Messrs. Richardson and McOuat in 1870 and 1871, and of Mr. Low himself in 1885. "Mr. Bignall," he adds, "who is credited by Mr. Redway with the survey of the lake, was employed by the Geological Survey and the Crown Lands Department of Quebec, to make a complete survey of the lake in 1884; but, owing to certain reasons, was recalled before he made any surveys on Lake Mistassini, and the work commenced by Messrs. Richardson and McOuat was continued and finished by myself. From the report of that survey it may be seen that Mistassini is only one hundred miles long, with an average breadth of twelve miles." To Mr. Bignall and his sons, according to Mr. Low, must be attributed the exaggerated statements as to the dimensions of the lake—statements based on Indian hearsay. Mr. Low adds some explanations which tend to reconcile Père Laure's map with the reality as known to-day.

The utter nonsense of which even reputable American papers seriously assume the responsibility, when they undertake to deal with Canadian affairs, is sometimes startling. A flying rumour is made the text for disquisitions on anti-British sentiment, now taking the form of a yearning for restoration to France, now of annexation to the neighbouring republic. As for the former feeling it is wholly imaginary, and it is equally certain that those who are constantly engaged in watching the successive changes in popular sentiment are ignorant of any appreciable desire on the part of our French-speaking fellow-citizens for incorporation with the United States. There is no party or even group in Canada that has made annexation a plank in its platform. The great objection to Commercial Union was that it tended to bring about political union also; and much of the energy displayed in the defence of that policy by its promoters was devoted to the task of proving that it was consistent with the utmost loyalty to the British connection.

Mr. Martin's scheme of a consolidated North-West is not likely to become a *fait accompli*. It would make still more hopeless the opposition to his one-language policy. The strength of the French minority in Manitoba would be considerably reduced by the addition of the Territories. The population of the whole North-West would not be

too great for a single province, at least for some years to come. But ultimately a redivision would be necessary. The consolidation of the Maritime Provinces has also been advocated from time to time. There is certainly more in favour of such a plan than there was in favour of the union of the Canadas. As the Dominion develops, however, and its vacant areas are filled up, sub-division is more likely to take place than amalgamation. It is the unlimited provision that it makes for local independence that gives the federal system its best justification.

In view of the controversies that have been agitating Ontario and the North-West, it may be of interest to recall the words of Lord Elgin during the early years of the Union *régime*. Setting forth the difficulties of the situation to Lord Grey, and suggesting means by which they might be lessened, if not removed altogether, his lordship wrote: "I am very anxious to hear that you have taken steps for the repeal of so much of the Act of Union as imposes restrictions on the use of the French language. The delay which has taken place in giving effect to the promise made, I think by Gladstone, on this subject, is one of the points of which M. Papineau is availing himself for purposes of agitation. I must, however, confess, that I for one am deeply convinced of the impolicy of all such attempts to denationalize the French. Generally speaking, they produce the opposite effect from that intended, causing the flame of national prejudice and animosity to burn more fiercely. But suppose them to be successful, what would be the result? You may, perhaps, *Americanize*, but, depend upon it, by methods of this description you will never Anglicize the French inhabitants of the province. Let them feel, on the other hand, that their religion, their habits, their prepossessions, their prejudices, if you will, are more considered and respected here than in other portions of this vast continent, and who will venture to say that the last hand which waves the British flag on American ground may not be that of a French Canadian?"

One of our contemporaries, edited, we believe, by an American, indulged in a jubilation some time ago on the downfall of the Brazilian Empire, which, he maintained, was (with the exception of Canada) the last fortress of monarchical rule on the continent of America. This is not quite accurate. British Honduras, which has an area of more than 7,500 square miles, and is therefore somewhat larger than the principality of Wales, still represents the flag of England in Central America, while in South America the colony of British Guiana has a surface of nearly 80,000 square miles and a population not far short of 275,000. Honduras is the centre of a thriving industry—that of precious woods, mahogany, logwood, cedar, etc.—and of an important commerce. It also raises sugar, maize, rice, coffee, and other tropical products in considerable quantities. Its annual trade averages about \$2,500,000. The country had the honour of receiving its name from Columbus himself—the word, which is the Spanish for "depths," being applied to the coast owing to the difficulty experienced in finding anchorage.

British Guiana is noted for its production of sugar, the export of which constitutes about 62 per cent. of all that is sent out of the country. The remaining exports are rum, molasses, timber, coconuts, and other tropical produce. After being alternately in possession of Holland and England

for more than 200 years, it was finally allotted to Great Britain in the great readjustment of 1814. The old Dutch law is still the law of the colony. For education there is fair provision, and Queen's College, Georgetown, supplies professional training. Science and letters have also their representatives in British Guiana. In insular South America, England has Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada and the Falkland Islands. The British West Indies, including Jamaica, constitute not the least valuable of England's foreign dependencies. Spain, Denmark and Holland have also a share in the New World, as has also Republican France.

The enthusiasm with which the proposal to establish night schools in this city has been greeted by its young men goes to confirm the words which we quoted lately from an American writer. Men or boys who are worn out with daily toil do not care much for improving their minds afterwards. All they want is rest and a few hours' oblivion of the taskmaster. The number of applications for the privilege of attending the classes was so large that the promoters of the enterprise had to amplify the scope of their experiment. Unless a grave reaction takes place, the winter night school is destined to rank among the most fruitful institutions of the country. The normal educational authorities have taken it up and no pains will be spared to make full provision for the accommodation of the pupils, so that no earnest seeker of knowledge will be sent empty away.

CHINA'S 400,000,000.

The Chinese problem is again occupying the serious attention of economists and social reformers in the United States. The question is evidently becoming more and more perplexing every year, and the policy which has hitherto mainly prevailed of treating it merely as an issue in party politics will no longer satisfy the requirements of the situation. The complexities of the subject are endless. England, France, and the United States insisted on breaking down the Chinese wall of exclusiveness and opening the vast region known as the Chinese Empire to the commerce of the world. In so doing, they virtually invited the Chinese to come forth from their seclusion and avail themselves of the opportunities of free intercourse with the rest of the world which, by their own course, they had so long been denied. Once the barrier was broken down and the mighty volume of Mongolian humanity began to stream forth, it was soon evident that the itinerants were practically countless. The two or three millions that have left the country within the last couple of generations have hardly had any effect in relaxing the intensity of the struggle for existence. Famine, floods, slaughters, sweep away the tithes of provinces, but the loss is scarcely felt so quickly do the living take the places of the dead. It is no wonder that the Chinese can subsist on wages that are a source of astonishment and wrath to European and American labourers. They have their training in a school of necessity. The crowding of population can only be understood by those who have witnessed it, and the poverty is in proportion to it. The pittance on which the Chinese abroad can live would be wealth and luxury to those at home. The emigration that has begun, therefore, is not likely to stop. Exclusive laws may keep back the invaders for a time, but somewhere they must go. They have already made their way to every country in Asia, to Australia and New Zealand, to South