

A fortnight ago we gave currency to what appeared to be an interesting item concerning the discovery of the body of General Lord Howe at Ticonderoga. It appears probable, however, that it was one of those mendacious inventions with which American pressmen seem to take such puerile delight in discrediting their profession, as a correspondent of the *London Daily News* asserts that the remains of Lord Howe lie buried under the chancel of St. Peter's Church, Albany. We have no means at hand of forming an opinion as to the truth or falsehood of either story.

It is probable that Mr. Evarts, Senator of the United States, has indicated the only true remedy for the threatening race trouble of the Southern States. Mr. Evarts has been devoting his attention to the menacing situation, and finds that no provision has been made for educating the negroes, and that since the civil war an entire generation has sprung up in the densest ignorance, while at the same time the race increases so rapidly in proportion with the remainder of the Southern population that it may at no very remote period become numerically the stronger. The crimes commonly committed by the negroes are mostly such as are natural to a people brutalized by ignorance, and their sensational and spasmodic religion seems to be inefficient as a check to low animal instincts. The outlook of such a population, armed with the ballot, and with many real or imaginary wrongs to avenge is a serious one, and Mr. Evarts probably suggests the only practical amelioration of the unpleasant prospect in saying that the education of the race has become a political necessity of the most urgent nature, and that the duty devolves on the nation as a whole.

It is no more than a logical sequence that the principle of excluding foreign competition, which has laid so firm a hold on the American mind, should commend itself to the railroad corporations. Accordingly, it is reported that these are preparing to make a strenuous effort against the rivalry of Canadian roads. Their plan of campaign is said to be so thoroughly organized as to give them very fair chances of success unless they are confronted by an equally well planned opposition. As the managers of the great Canadian lines are at least as astute and as able as their American opponents, the duel may not prove so unequal a fight as might be supposed. The American corporations contend that a railway is as much entitled to protection against foreign competition as a foundry or a cotton mill, and the contention is perhaps logical; but the logical theory will have to contend against the practical consideration of the vital importance of a cheap and rapid transport. In this interest New England is a unit against the railway men, and the Boston press urges communication with Detroit, St. Paul and other interested places in the American North-West with a view of organization to oppose their schemes. Against the united forces of the Canadian corporation and the New England men, with those whom they will probably rally to their standard, it is not unlikely that the American companies will have their work amply cut out for them.

In the death of the Hon. Alex. Morris Canada has lost one of the most single-minded of the Statesmen who have played prominent parts in her history. Mr. Morris' career, though it scarcely brought him so prominently before the public as those of some other politicians, was one of such long and varied usefulness as falls to the lot of few. His academic career gave token of literary ability afterwards proved by contributions of recognized value, but he soon directed his energies to the law under Sir John Macdonald, whose close friend he remained during his life. His peculiar tact and amiability pointed him out as the most fitting medium between Sir John and the late Hon. Geo. Brown, and identified him with the inception of Federation. As Chief Justice, and afterwards governor, of Manitoba, he will be ever associated with the construction of the law in that Province, and with a most popular and successful term of government, nor will his later career in connection with Ontario affairs be soon forgotten. Many years of ill-health impaired the vigor of speech of his earlier days, but the weight and soundness of his counsels were ever appreciated by those associated with him. Mr. Morris' kindly disposition endeared him to all who came in contact with him, and it is safe to say that the demise of no other Canadian public man could be felt with deeper regret or more affectionate remembrance. The deceased statesman was 63 years of age.

Every liberty-loving people rejoiced when, last year, the abolition of slavery was proclaimed in Brazil. It now, however, seems not unlikely that other consequences, not then clearly foreseen, may result from the liberation. It appears not improbable that the overthrow of the monarchical form of government and the establishment of a republic may be one of them. Emancipation, it appears, has not been viewed with unmixed satisfaction by the landed proprietors, whose interests have suffered by the unwillingness of the freed blacks to work for their former masters, while other laborers are not to be had. The spirited Crown Princess, to whose prompt resolution the emancipation was so largely due, has therefore incurred the enmity of the landowners as well as that of some other classes, and latent republicanism has been stimulated and increased. A general election took place in September, and resulted in a victory for the monarchical party partly due to their progressive programme, partly to judicious manipulation and partly to an impressive demonstration of military force. Notwithstanding this success, however, republicanism lives and grows, and it is thought by many that the Empire, liberal as it is, may not survive the demise of Dom Pedro, who can scarcely add many years to the fifty-eight during which he has occupied the throne. As the *Week* pertinently observes "a republic founded by men opposed to, or at least not in strong sympathy with the abolition of slavery, anomalous as it may seem, would not be without historic precedent on this continent."

The new Lord Mayor of London, Sir Henry Isaacs, will be the third Hebrew who has held that high office. The first was Sir David Solomons in 1854 and the second Sir Benjamin Phillips in 1865, and there are now in that city four Jewish aldermen, with a Jewish population of about 50,000, which is pretty good evidence that the ratepayers of London are not much influenced by either race or creed.

The Federation of the Australian Colonies, which, though it broke down a few years ago, has scarcely even lain in abeyance, as it has been almost constantly discussed in the Australian press and by Australian and English Statesmen, is again being brought into prominence. It is more than probable that on the reviva' of the agitation minor difficulties will disappear or be surmounted, and that a "Dominion of Australia" (if our antipodean relatives choose to adopt such a title for their federation) will spring into existence. Some American correspondents, who (by the way) scarcely comprehend the Canadian constitution, think an Australian Federation would be less dependent on Great Britain than Canada. The immunity of Australia from the influence of a contiguous powerful foreign nation no doubt does make a practical difference in the relative positions, and Australia, by reason of her island continental situation, is happily free from certain complications which are embarrassing to Canada. Moreover, nothing can now deprive a united Australia of the position of the greatest power of the South. Whether her independence lies in a not far distant future, or whether, once confederated, she will elect to continue on quietly after the fashion of Canada, under a Governor-General appointed by the Imperial Government, will probably be indicated with sufficient plainness before long. Her position affords some temptation to the assertion of independence, which will very likely strengthen with the increase of a native-born population, and if that sentiment should come to prevail, it is quite certain that Great Britain will interpose no obstacle to the realization of Australian wishes.

In our issue of the 18th ultimo we made some remarks on the proceedings, as reported in the Press generally, of a body of Pennsylvania adventurists in expectation of the immediate collapse of the world as it exists. An anonymous person claiming to be a member of the sect demurs to our observations in the following letter, which we print exactly as received:—

"Kingston, 28 Oct. 1889.

To the Editors of THE CRITIC,
Halifax, N. S.

DEAR SIR,—I wish you would call the attention of your readers that report made of yours last week's issue that adventurists was expecting the end of the world. I am astonished to see that after the great effort, the old of the so called Christian Church to tell the public that we as a body are Athes or Freethinker because we denied the existence of Hell and Heaven and believe that these world will have no end but been follow by and other age the same as the where former ages but we fully deny any thing as the end of the world and hope you will give us fair play by let your reader know that we have no such and idee as the end of the world but a grander hope that at the coming of Christ on earth we will leave for ever which is the promise of Christ and also the fulfillman of is prayer. when he say thy will be done on earth as it is in Haven. Trusting you will give these your attentions I remaind Sir, Yours truly

AND ADVENTIS OF MONTREAL."

We trust our anonymous correspondent will consider we have afforded him the fair play he desires.

A correspondent of the Boston *British American Citizen* who has recently visited Nova Scotia has given to that journal a column and a half of appreciative comments, from which it is a pleasure to extract the following: "But as to Nova Scotia, now fading so quickly from our view. The *Citizen* has given up much of its space to that fair Province of late, but it has been well worthy of the consideration. Nova Scotia is beginning to boom. That expresses the situation in a very few words. Only beginning, to be sure, but even the beginning of a new era is something momentous and suggestive of great possibilities for Nova Scotia. Like the drop of water that finally wears away the rock, the still, small voice that for years has incited the people to arise and shake off some of their lethargy for their own and children's sakes is at last apparently having its effect, and Nova Scotia is beginning to 'get a move on it.' The end of the present year will find it a long stride ahead of the last. The farmer folks have not ceased to complain about the lack of markets, and the mechanics have not yet become capitalists, to be sure, but the industrial and commercial spirit of the Province has received an impetus that augurs well for the future of the people. New railroads in all parts of the country, an important ship railway that will revolutionize coastwise traffic, and an immense dry dock that will serve as a magnet to every disabled monster of the deep, have all been started, completed or projected. The great mining interests of the Province have had new blood infused into them, and above all the annual and constantly increasing pilgrimage of summer visitors from the United States, who have come to exchange their money for rest and pleasure, has been greater than ever before. In consequence of all this. Nova Scotia may safely be referred to as 'looking up.' This is well. If it progresses in the same proportion for the next five years, and the iconoclasts who masquerade as politicians and statesmen do not pull down, by their machinations, what has been built up, the 'exodus' will be part of ancient history, and will go down the misty aisles of Time to join Evangeline and the scalping of the early inhabitants by the Indians." These free and impartial observations of an outsider should put to shame the wailings of our native pessimists about the "exodus" and such like themes, apparently so congenial to the unpatriotic political mind.