

tem of Free Trade in England,—and it is not our purpose to enter upon this question here, although we may remark *en passant* that it is not relatively greater than that of France or the United States under a Protectionist system,—there is one fact which appears very plainly before one's eyes, and this is, that if England should put a tax on imports of meat and grain from the United States, in retaliation for the offensive and intended to be prohibitive United States tariff, as against English manufactures, the western United States cattle and grain raisers would come down with a crash on the eastern manufacturing interests, and the result would be an arrangement which would make the state of things a little more equitable between the two countries. England might, in the meantime, import her meat and grain free from Canada, or elsewhere, and so keep up her supplies. She has so far seen, in her more than quarter of a century of experience, that the opening of her markets has not had the effect anticipated, of inducing other countries to do likewise; but it has, on the contrary, led to a general taking advantage of this privilege by them, while they have, at the same time, steadily, one by one, more and more closed their markets against her. It may be set down as an axiom that you will get nothing for nothing; and giving everything for nothing, until you have nothing to offer for an exchange of privileges, really amounts to this. We have tried the experiment on a small scale in the Dominion of Canada. We have given the United States everything that our markets could offer, and they have eagerly availed themselves of the privilege; while in return for this, they have exhibited their gratitude by exhausting ingenuity in the vexatiousness of their restrictions, carrying this to the extent even of violating the spirit, if not the letter, of a treaty, as witness the tax on lobster cans. There may be, as Sir A. T. GALT intimated, some change coming over the public opinion of the United Kingdom, at least there have been manifestations of this in some remarkable articles which have appeared; but things will have to go very much further yet before any general change comes over the minds of this generation, so deep are the impressions made by the prevailing doctrines.

THE COMMISSIONERS SPEAK.

The English Agricultural Commissioners have first broken silence at Toronto, at a social gathering given by the Exhibition Association, in answer to the toast, "Our Guests," with which their names were associated. Each spoke very modestly and with marked good sense. Mr. READ, M.P., said he did not see how the Commissioners came to be associated with the Exhibitors, except it might be for the purpose of exhibiting themselves. As respected the Exhibition itself, he stated, that he had witnessed it with mixed feelings—of pleasure and satisfaction on one side—and almost despair on the other. The latter expression had reference to the objects of the Commission although he did not in terms say so. He added that he lived almost exclusively on the produce of his own farm in the east of England, and that the English farming community had felt more keenly than they had liked, the competition from this side of the Atlantic. But he continued to say that, in his belief, competition was evidently only in its infancy. And here he came to perceive the master fact of the situation. He saw that when such cattle and other stock as were gathered at the Exhibition were more generally spread over the vast areas of the Dominion, and when further the great Prairies of the northwest should begin to pour out the supplies of wheat of which they are capable, then the condition of the Canadian farmer would be far more advantageous than that of the English. Here we have the whole story told in a very few words. Mr. PELL, M.P., next spoke. He said he came from a part of England (Norfolk), famed for the growth of its grasses; but when he saw the manner in

which the Canadians were converting their grass into beef, he found reason to fear that competition. He found that the English agriculturists would have to bestir themselves most actively to meet the competition with which the Toronto Exhibition showed him they would be confronted. Mr. JOHN CLAY, of Tweed-side, Scotland, the third member of the Commission, also spoke. He had been to Canada before, and therefore he felt less surprise than his brother Commissioners at the wonderful prosperity of the agricultural interest which they saw; and when he thought over the tremendous competition to which the English, Scotch, and Irish farmers were exposed, he found that the only way they would be able to meet it, would be to cross over and settle on this side of the Atlantic Ocean. He added it was useless to expect that competition would stop, for so long as the fertile prairies and the vast regions they had in Canada, produced wheat, beef and mutton, it would continue to increase; and, since he had left Scotland, there was an important movement going on, among a class of men who had never before, in any numbers, crossed the Atlantic. Up to this time, we had only, with slight exception, received the labouring class, the bone and sinew, it was true; but now the movement had commenced among men of capital, who would come and occupy the lands which had been cleared for them, and they would bring to our agriculture, industry and integrity, and also, scientific skill. He made a remark which we believe to be quite true, viz.: that these men would do much better to buy and occupy the cleared farms, while in their turn the Canadians are better adapted for fresh conquests over the wilds in frontier life. Such are the chief points of the first utterances of these three Commissioners. We feel that no elucidation is required at our hands. Their statements are in the same sense as those which we have for months been endeavouring to impress through these columns. We have already expressed our belief, as pointedly as we could, that the situation which has been indicated by the Commissioners could not fail to lead to results of the greatest possible magnitude, as well for the mother country as the Dominion of Canada.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPPLIES?

It is an ancient usage and custom, and therefore part of the common law, that each of the three branches of the Parliament of the United Kingdom should separately concur in any bill before it acquires the validity of a law. On the other hand, the absence of such concurrence is fatal. The bill cannot become law. The rule applies to all bills and of course includes Bills of Supply. But with regard to Bills of Supply, there are some especial privileges which are commonly respected, and held sacred by the three branches of the Legislature. The people at large, through their representatives in the House of Commons, have maintained the privilege that all supplies of money to be raised by taxation shall begin by a vote of the House of Commons. Effect is there given to it by a Bill which beginning there, and receiving the consent of the Lords, and the assent of the Crown, becomes an Act of Parliament. Such Bills cannot be altered by the Lords. They must be wholly accepted or wholly rejected. This well known principle seems not to have been everywhere understood, judging by what has occasionally been written on the subject. The rule was made in 1628 when a committee of the Commons, which included Sir EDWARD COKE and others, settled the form of the preamble of a Bill of Supply. The form so settled was this: "Most Gracious Sovereign, We Your Majesty's most faithful Commons have given and granted to Your Majesty," &c. This form has sometimes been modified, or made more effusive, but it has not seriously been departed from. Thus the prevailing principle is for the Commons to grant the sup-

ply, for the Lords to assent to the supply and for the Sovereign to receive the supply with thanks. The power of granting supplies was not bestowed on the Lords, as they were thought to be too much under the influence of the Crown to be safely entrusted with that duty. The great body of tax payers, through their representatives in the Commons, held the purse and determined what should be paid out of it. Again the Act of one House only in a matter of supply cannot be reported to the Sovereign. That was settled in 1407 when it was solemnly determined and recorded in Parliament that neither the Lords separately nor the Commons separately shall make any report to the king, of any grant granted by the Commons and assented to by the Lords until the Lords and Commons are of one assent and one accord; and then in manner and form accustomed by the mouth of the Speaker of the Commons. The positively and separately expressed assent of every one of the three branches to a Bill is indispensable. The power of the Crown to express a veto is not lost, though it may not have been used for more than a century. It still exists and occasions may arrive for the exercise of it. And this brings up the question in regard to the Legislative Council. Does the occasion justify their vote? Were the supplies refused by the Commons they might find their excuse in the constitutional watchword, "grievances before supplies." Now, although the Legislative Council of Canada did not use the watchword, they practically enforced its meaning when they refused to pass the Supply Bill in 1856. The case arose out of that vexed question, the permanently fixing the Seat of Government. In that year a Bill was passed to render the Legislative Council, in future, elective. Whereupon the House of Assembly chose to regard the Legislative Council, then existent, as moribund, and unworthy of special regard. The Assembly was bent on settling the Seat of Government question and by a close vote chose the City of Quebec. The Legislative Council was not invited by the Assembly to consider the resolution or to take any action on the subject. The ancient usage and custom was omitted. The Supply Bill included a vote for buildings at Quebec. Before choosing a permanent Seat of Government for Canada, the Queen had been graciously pleased to seek the advice of the two Houses of the Canadian Legislature. Money had been voted, but the previous question as to where the permanent Seat of Government should be, had not been chosen in accordance with the Queen's command. The Legislative Council under such circumstances had the right to exclaim "grievances before supplies." So the Bill was not passed. The reasonableness of the negation was recognized. An amended Bill was at once sent up from the Legislative Assembly, read three times and passed at one sitting. Though sneered at by some as moribund, the Legislative Council discovered a real amount of true life, and by their calmness in rebuking an encroachment on their rights and privileges won the grateful approval of a large majority of the people of Canada. The grievance out of which their opposition grew was a real and not a sentimental one. If they cried "grievances before supplies" most persons admitted it was the voice of the Constitution, which it was their duty to articulate. Extreme occasions excuse and justify extreme measures, but there ought to be no doubt about the character of the occasion, and no suspicion that the underlying motive is otherwise than pure and disinterested.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

I. GREAT BRITAIN.

We stated last week that the Zulu King was on the point of capture. We are now enabled to announce the fact, and with it, the close of the war. While Cetewayo was being watched on one side by Lord Gifford and scouts, Major Marter with a detachment of dragoons approach-

ed him from the other. Lord Gifford, whose presence was unknown to the King, intended to defer the attack until night-fall to prevent escape into the dense bush. Cetewayo had caught a glimpse of the dragoons, but thought in consequence of the bad condition of the ground they could not approach quietly. Major Marter directed the removal of all noisy accoutrements and sent a native contingent ahead. These surrounded the kraal where the King had taken refuge, and Marter then rode up and called to Cetewayo to come out. The King, after some parley, complied. He preserved a dignified demeanour and asked to be shot. He has been sent to Cape Town.—The Viceroy of India has received a letter from the Ameer enclosing a report from his brother Ayooob Khan about the outbreak at Herat. Three regiments participated in the mutiny because they had been ordered to march to Kooohistan, where disturbances had occurred. Ayooob Khan asks to be allowed to resign his command. The Ameer hopes shortly to regain control, when he will exhaust his resources in maintaining faith with the British. Later particulars of the outbreak at Herat state that the troops of the garrison plundered and burned the Governor's house and murdered the commanding General, who was a friend and supporter of the Ameer. The affair throws suspicion upon the loyalty of Ayooob Khan, brother of the Ameer.

II. FOREIGN.

At the military review at Strasburg, when the Emperor William appeared, the German citizens and the military greeted His Majesty with cheers, but the Alsatian inhabitants of the town remained very sullen and silent, and many of their houses along the route taken by the Emperor had their blinds and shutters closed. After the return of the Emperor William from Alexandrowo, Prince Bismarck presented him with a memorial demonstrating that it was absolutely necessary for Germany to support Austria against Russia in the East. The Emperor endorsed the views set forth in the memorial.—It is announced positively that, notwithstanding the rumours which have been circulated respecting his proposed retirement, Prince Gortschakoff does not intend to resign his post, and that the confidence reposed in him by the Czar still remains unshaken. It is reported from Janina that Albanians are arriving there daily with the object of fighting the Greeks. They are under the impression that Janina has been ceded to Greece. They number already 9,000 and are amply provided with ammunition.—The Kurdistan insurrection has not yet been quelled. Two powerful tribes have joined Abdullah with 12,000 men. The commanders of Erezeroum and Bagdad have been ordered to send all available troops to Mosul. It is feared that the Persian Turcomans will join the insurgents.—The rebellion at Tonquin is crushed. Lyungsai, the rebel leader, is still at large, but his family, his lieutenant and all his war material have been captured. Later reports state that the complications between China and Japan respecting the Corea and Loo Choo Islands is causing much anxiety. The opposition party in Peking is gaining strength, and removing the Emperor's relations to offices distant from the Capital. Orders have been issued for the three sons and grandson of Yakoob Beg to be mutilated because implicated, although innocent, in the Kashgar rebellion.

III. THE UNITED STATES.

The engrossing topic in political circles is the arrival of General Grant at San Francisco from Japan. This event took place on Saturday evening, the 20th inst. It was 7.20 p.m. when the lights of the *Oakland* were seen approaching the slip, she moved slowly into position, the platform was lowered, the band struck up "Home Again," and amid roars of applause from the crowd Grant stepped ashore. After a brief informal congratulation, the Mayor delivered an address of welcome to which Grant responded. He was then conducted to a carriage, the Mayor accompanying him, while various commissioners and other gentlemen in attendance repaired to their own carriages. The gates of the dock were thrown open, and vehicles moved forward and took their places in line. As the carriage containing Grant appeared, cheers went up from thousands. With the greatest difficulty a passage was opened and a procession formed. The march was taken up amid tremendous cheers. On the conclusion of the review the various organizations were dismissed, and Grant was conducted to his quarters in the hotel. As soon as the review was finished, various divisions of disbanded soldiers and sailors, veterans of the late war, repaired with batteries to the Sand Lots, where salutes were fired. Grant, in response to repeated calls, appeared on the balcony and bowed to the crowd, immediately retiring. The still enthusiastic populace thronged the court and refused to leave. Finally, the Mayor announced as soon as the General had finished dinner he would show himself. Grant shortly appeared amid long continued shouts. The Mayor then started up Market street, where bonfires at the street corners and illuminations lit up every window, and called the crowd to order, and the General, mounting a chair, said: "Fellow-citizens of San Francisco, after 25 years of absence I am glad to meet you and assure you of my cordial thanks for the kind greeting you have given me. I shall stay in