

able upon this country. But they are not a power; their places have been taken by men who are pledged to a policy which practically removes that line so far as they have been concerned in the building of it. It now remains for us to remove our share in that line which has been truly termed "idiotic."

The proposal for Independence still confronts us, and, although illogical, must be dealt with in a more lenient spirit than Annexation, inasmuch as it is an open confession that Canada has not proper relationship with Great Britain.

The other day the writer was on board the Royal Arthur, one of the four British war-ships which had come to visit Vancouver.

Standing upon the fore-castle beside a big gun, and gazing along the magnificent ships' decks at the British tars with their proverbial cheery and quiet self-reliant bearing, the voice of a very small boy was heard to say:—

"Father, do these ships fight in war-time?"

"Yes, my son," answered the father proudly, "and fight well, for they rule the seas all over the world."

"They belong to England, don't they?"

"Yes, my boy."

"What do they come all this way for?"

"To protect our Canada, Bobbie," answered the father.

"How strange!" exclaimed the little boy, as his father led him to see another big gun. "I do not know, of course, the exact trend of that little boy's thoughts, but his words implied a correctness of conclusion quite foreign to the majority of the most loyal Canadians when discussing this subject. I can only account for it on the ground of a shameful anomaly and want of national pride in allowing the struggling British taxpayer to bear this enormous burden alone, by a deplorable lethargy among ourselves. Such a Dominion does this depict, that Independence would be infinitely preferable to a continuance of our present relations. The argument that Canada has nothing in common with any other part of the Empire has already been advanced by the establishment, with a Canadian steamship company, and an attempt to arrange a preferential trade with Australia. I say an attempt. With our government pledged to a protective policy that cannot possibly prove to be anything but a great proof of our interest in things Imperial in the land of fellowship to Australia, even though we do persist in beating our heads vainly with our commerce-depressing clubs. I refer to the tariffs of the various countries."

The proposed form of Independence would not only mean material loss but would be, in much more to be considered, a weak and contemptible shirking of our responsibilities. It would stamp us as a nation of cowards.

Another form of Independence would be to send representatives to the Imperial Parliament and to the British fleet. We are prepared to give as nearly free access as possible to those countries sending representatives to the Imperial Parliament. Every Anglo-Saxon nation would ere long be invited to send its representatives, and fulfil the conditions of paying for what they use and

Now is the time for this country to demand representatives in the Imperial House. Such a demand would so affect the new constitution of that House, as suggested in the Home Rule issue at present impending, that preparation would be made for acceptance of Colonial representatives within it. Such a House could not be tyrannical, for its power over individual parts of the Empire would be limited. It would not be unwieldy, for it would be composed of Anglo-Saxons, not a conglomeration of negroes, Indians and Sepoys as some have thoughtlessly asserted.

Thus could Canada by a demand for Anglo-Canadian Federation pave the way for the gathering together of the "Parliament of Men" of which Tennyson has sung. A parliament having power to enforce peace and the disbanding of European Armies with their accompanying vast gold reserves which even at the present time so disturb the financial world.

The great question of taxation must soon be solved. The writer is not alone in the opinion that the solution can only be found in municipal governments, each raising and paying their share to the Provincial Governments, the Provincial to the Federation, the Federation to the Imperial, thus sweeping away the present expensive machinery.

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## PARIS LETTER.

One concrete fact stares out from the general election—the new Chamber will have a total of declared moderate Republicans amounting to 316, in a House of 581 members; the Monarchists figure only for 58—that's all that represents French monarchy after its reign of 1,000 years over France. A rather nondescript class, called Rallies, or Royalists, who have been converted to republicanism, as rapidly as was Paul on the road to Damascus, number 35; the Radicals have 122, and the Socialists 49 representatives, or nine less than the Royalists. This is the first time that the Socialists have a distinct party in Parliament; they have progressed by "leaps and bounds." The Radical rank and file have not more than remained stationary, but they have lost all their great captains, Clemenceau and Floquet, being among the greatest of the mighty fallen; lesser stars have gone out, or sunk below the firmament.

These various results were anticipated by public opinion, that had made up its mind, independent of Panamaism, that it had enough, and more than enough of the old parliamentary tricks, and small shifts of party intrigues that did duty for legislation and government. Then new generations have arisen that know not the Josephs. Floquet, after all, was but a figurehead in the Republic; the active man was Clemenceau; but he has no legislative laurels to his credit; 'Ichabod' may be written over his political house; he will be succeeded by M. Goblet, who will not commit the error of Clemenceau, and flirt with the Socialists. The latter will be led by M. Millerand, a cautious man, and not an irritating speaker. To keep the Moderates together—that's the question.

It is with difficulty that France suppresses her spite at the presence of the Prince of Naples at Metz; but she would

do well rather to express her pain than to nurse it. The whirligig of time brings about its strange coincidences. France, over thirty years ago, expended money and blood to make Italy quasi-united; for she even occupied Rome, and in exchange received the provinces of Savoy and Nice; to-day the King of Italy drinks to the Emperor of Germany, as his "best friend," as not long ago the Czar toasted the ruler of Montenegro as his "only friend. Germany has wrenched from France, following the fortunes of war, Alsace and part of Lorraine, and the Crown Prince of Italy "assist at the Autumn manoeuvres of the victor in the conquered provinces. France has not been prudent in reminding Italy so often what she did for her, that provoked irritating rejoinders, ending in the triple alliance, and the actual intimacy of the "Mother" of the Latins, with the great foe of France.

The review of the German legions in Alsace by Emperor William, is admitted even by French observers to have been magnificent and imposing. Independent judges add, that in efficiency, the Germans are terribly up to date. When the long-deferred day arrives for testing relative strength, the French will have a foeman worthy of their steel; they make no mistake on this point. It is also attested, that the principle of German unity never was more profound and general than now. This is, happily, a gauge for peace, as neither nation shows any readiness to rush at each other's throat. It is unfortunate that to all these unconsoling incidents for the French, is to be added the annual one of the anniversary of the battle of Sedan. Few nations but hurrah for their Waterloo laurels, and France has still enough to fall back upon, and so ought not to feel hurt.

The coming of the Russian fleet to Toulon, gratifies the French, but only in a sense, because the people are not absolutely certain of the nature of the alliance with the Muscovite, and it is unpleasant to be told by on-lookers, they do not believe in any alliance. Russia ought to set the mind of France at ease on this point; "if you are for me, be for me; if you are off me, be off." England being ranked as a member morally of the triple alliance, Russia gains nothing now by not officially proclaiming, as do the triple allies, her association with France's fortunes. Professional people know the exact value to attach to the maintenance of a Russian fleet in the Mediterranean. Alone, it could not stand before Italy's, and the latter, in case of graver danger, is fully aware she will not be left alone.

The Siam question seems to hang fire; if public opinion does not know exactly what supplemental conditions France exacts from the Siamese, it is aware of what cannot be obtained. The boundary question rests with England and China; and the British having the right of the most favoured nation clause in her commercial treaty, France cannot obtain any privileges further, as she can nominate consuls in Siam, where any European power has them, her agents can officially perceive anything like settling down, on the part of the French, on guar-