

satisfaction of the Washington authorities. From one point of view it seems almost unworthy of a great nation like the United States to be equipping a fleet for the purpose of coercing a little State like Chili. Yet there is some danger, as was seen by England a little while ago in the case of Portugal, that a small nation may some times take advantage of the fact of its inequality in strength, relying on it for impunity in a course of conduct which would not be tolerated in a stronger nation. On the other hand the Great Republic owes it to its national character, not only to deal magnanimously with the Chilians under the circumstances, but to enquire closely into the charges of improper interference with Chilean affairs by its accredited Minister during the war, as well as into the allegations of "hectoring and brow-beating" on his part in the pending controversy. On the whole, it is very likely that the danger of actual hostilities against the brave little South American State is very slight, and that the sounds of activity in the United States Navy yards may quietly die away now that the elections are over.

WHAT might have been the effect of the McKinley tariff, pure and simple, upon the prosperity of the United States, the world will never have an opportunity of judging, because that tariff as modified by the Blaine reciprocity clauses represents a policy very different from that of the original Bill. At the same time it must be admitted that in some respects the Bill itself, considered from the protectionist point of view, was not so destitute of consistency or logic as its opponents were disposed to think. Indeed, those who believe in a policy of protection on its merits—as distinct from those who adopt such a policy as a matter of expediency or retaliation justified by exceptional circumstances, such as those which prevailed with the people of Canada when the National Policy was adopted—can hardly deny that the McKinley system is comparatively sound. That is to say, the doctrine of protection, pure and simple, seems to demand the free admission of articles of merchandise that cannot be produced in the country, and a prohibitive tariff against those which are or can be so produced. Carried to its legitimate result this would, of course, destroy all revenue from imports. It would also tend, at the same time, to limit commerce to those countries only whose exports cannot be produced in the protected country. It is further obvious that the tendency of such a policy would be to cause the channels of commerce between nations to follow lines of longitude, instead of lines of latitude. The effects upon civilization and intercourse between the most enlightened nations may well be imagined, and could scarcely fail to be disastrous. Of course the McKinley tariff at its worst was by no means prohibitive, and so would have exemplified this tendency only in a modified degree. But, as we have said, we have in the United States not the McKinley tariff, but a compound of that tariff and the Blaine reciprocity system. There can be no doubt that the latter system, supplementing the extensive free-list provided for in the Bill, is producing considerable effect upon the foreign trade of the Great Republic. According to recent statements furnished by the Bureau of Statistics, as summarized by *Bradstreet's*, the total value of the foreign commerce of the country, imports and exports combined, for the eleven months ending August 31st, 1891, amounted to \$1,603,782,266, an increase of \$74,768,639 over the value of the foreign commerce during the corresponding period of the prior year. This increase is nearly double the average annual increase during the twenty years from 1871 to 1891. The value of the imports of merchandise for the eleven months amounted to \$763,210,965, an increase of \$25,681,316 over the value of the imports for the corresponding months of the prior years. The value of the exports amounted to \$840,571,301, an increase of \$49,087,323 over the corresponding period of prior years. As was to be expected, a marked increase is seen in the volume of duty-free imports, as compared with those of preceding years. The value of the duty-free imports for the eleven months exceeded by nearly \$100,000,000 the value of such imports for the whole fiscal year 1890. This increase was most marked during the last five months of the period, that is, after the provision making sugar duty-free went into effect. There was, of course, a decrease in the value of the imports of dutiable merchandise. This decrease amounted to more than \$86,000,000 for the eleven months. As was also to be expected, there was a considerable falling off in the revenue from customs. This decrease amounted

to over \$41,000,000 for the year ending September 30th. It must not be forgotten, moreover, that the prices of some of the articles mentioned, as, for example, sugar, have been directly affected by the new law, while the prices of others, as, for example, wheat and other cereals, have been affected by quite different influences. These are considerations which seriously affect any conclusions which may be based upon the figures presented. But the important fact to be borne in mind is that the results, whatever may be their real character or value, are the outcome, not of protection, pure and simple, but of a mixed system of protection and free trade, and that any increase of commerce that may result is due to the free trade, not to the protective part of the system. All Mr. Blaine's efforts are now directed, be it observed, to extend the area of the free-trade parts of the system—a fact which it would be well for Canada to note, for more reasons than one.

THE returns from the elections of Tuesday in the United States, which have come to hand as we make ready for press, are meagre and perhaps unreliable. It is tolerably certain, however, that Tammany Hall is again triumphant in New York, and that McKinley is elected by a large majority in Ohio. The issues in these two States were in many respects the most important in the campaign, though for different reasons. The contest in New York derived its main interest from the fact that it was a struggle between the forces of reform and those of corruption not only in City but in State politics. Though the Tammany Hall organization, which stands for unblushing corruption, is still victorious, there is reason to hope that the returns will show a serious falling off in its strength, as shown by the numbers it is able to control. In the heat of fierce party strife it is always hard even for friends of purity to vote for reform, when reform means the success of the other party. But there are indications that steady progress is being made in the right direction even in the great City which is the stronghold of boodlesism, and that the day is not far distant when the honest and respectable portion of the electoral will so far shake themselves free from old party fetters as to give the death blow to Tammany and all its works. In Ohio the interest centred mainly in the tariff struggle, though, as we have elsewhere said, this was not the only great question around which the tide of battle surged. The silver coinage question came in to complicate the struggle, still the success of McKinley, together with the probable return of high tariff candidates in other States, may pretty safely be taken to indicate that the trade policy, or, as it really is in some of its main features, anti-trade policy, of which he is the chief exponent and apostle, is to be the policy of the Republic for some years to come. No doubt, as we have already intimated, the Blaine reciprocity attachment superadded to the large free-list, for which the McKinley Bill itself shrewdly provided, are the great auxiliary forces which are saving the policy from the popular wrath which at first threatened its speedy destruction.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CABINET.

FOURTH ARTICLE.

A VISIT of a little more than a week to Toronto, that city which every year wears more and more the air and features of a great capital, and where one meets people from all parts of the Province, emphasized the writer's conviction as to the depth of earnest anxiety in Ontario respecting the reorganization of the Cabinet. The first question asked by everyone, and we met hundreds, was: "What about reconstruction?" "Will it be done thoroughly?" We were in no position to give authoritative answers. All we could do was to express our conviction that the reorganization would in due time be made, and that it would, by reason of its wisdom and thoroughness, prove satisfactory. This earnestness pervades the Conservative party, and even the better minds among the Reformers, who desire that purity should be found in public life, who abhor the thought of this young nation, so full of resources, so bright with great and glowing possibilities, thrown to the wolves. There may, indeed, be a few who would like that influences, which are dangerous even when skies are cloudless and seas are calm, should rule the Premier's eye in selecting his team, just as, when France was on the eve of the inevitable grapple with her historical foe, the Courtiers swayed Napoleon III., from whose side, one by one, death had taken the remarkable group of men who had, eighteen years before, on that dreadful and bloody winter's night, placed the Imperial Crown on his brow, to hand over the military glory of "a nation of men of honour and of cavaliers," and her "pride of place" in Europe to the care of the incompetent Leboeuf.

Little family rings will exist in all parties, and their guiding principle will always be that of two typical characters in one of Lord Beaconsfield's novels, in whom he satirized the men who had sought, and not without some success, to throw doubts on his capacity, to asperse him as "erratic," as "a professional bowler in our eleven." That noble principle is comprehensible by the humblest understanding, and is dear to vulgar and aspiring hearts. "Let us stand by each other and keep other men down." But the great mass of Conservatives throughout the country hope that of sinister, underhand, family, nepotical influences we have seen the term. Only a strong Government will save us from the danger of an organized, daring, resourceful Banditti, who have broken free from all the restraints which are felt by ordinary men. We are confident that many patriotic Reformers desire to see Mr. Abbott raise a strong bulwark against those political brigands. The *Globe* has set a noble example, and, as regards these, has taken its stand not where partisanship, but patriotism, called.

The drama of political infamy now unfolded before the eyes of the world, on the Quebec stage, surpasses, in flagitious abandonment, anything to be found in history or fiction. We should have the hand of him who held up Cleon to the scorn of Athens, and as it proved to the civilized world of all time, to do justice to the principal actor. Only Shakespeare's brush could paint the portrait of the second leading character. We all knew that pillage was rampant. This huge Baie des Chaleurs robbery is only a taster by which we may learn the character of the whole cheese. It is alive with rotteness. A man who was penniless, overlaid with debt, suddenly builds palaces, buys farms, drives his stately equipage; another, as far as he can, does likewise; and so on; the Province sinking, every hour, deeper and deeper in the slough; the central figure at first and for some time masquerading, with the tricks and devices of a showman, his "properties" drawn alike from sacred and profane sources, a glance in his eye and a leer on his lip such as Tom King used to assume when in Iago he cried: "Thus do I ever make my fool my purse"; then, dazed by a failure fraught with instruction and a striking index of the discredit to which Quebec has been brought, behaving so that his fastest friends declared he had "vertigo." When asked in the height of his plunging—where all this would end? Who was to pay the piper? He replied, and his reply was foreshadowed by a resolution which had been adopted by the Provincial premiers, Mr. Mowat—*et tu Brute!*—being amongst them, that he looked to the Dominion Government. The breeze of the fifth of March killed this in the bud, and the dream of plundering the Federal treasury proved to have come by the ivory gate. Was there an alternative of treason? Was it contemplated, failing the Dominion purse, to look to Washington? Oh! the irony of it, should the chief of Nationalism have planned engulfment in the great Republic! But a purely egotistical ambition makes men equal to any infamy. We have been told he so expressed himself, and a few days ago his first officer, Mr. Charles Langelier, told a reporter who interviewed him at St. Louis, Mo., that if a vote were taken on annexation to the United States in Quebec, it would be carried by 100,000 majority. Such are the leading Nationalists—*shirri*.

However, the practical danger the people of Canada and all who in any way have the fate of Canada in their hands should consider is the terrible consequences that would follow were the Federal treasury placed at the mercy of political brigands. The Italians have a proverb that the dog who likes ashes is not to be trusted with flour, and wholesale cabbaging in a province is a trifle to the stupendous plunder a great Federation would invite. What is before Quebec, Heaven only knows, but no honest man, Liberal or Conservative, can tolerate the idea that Canada should be thrown to the sharks which have devoured that devoted Province. We regret to see some newspapers published in the interest of the Reform Party palliating even Pacaud's misconduct. The *Globe*, as we have already said, has, to its honour, taken its stand on truth and patriotism. But one paper seeks to point out that there was nothing wrong in Pacaud taking \$100,000, because two members of Parliament had been declared by the Supreme Court to be entitled to a commission on a bonus they were instrumental in obtaining for a railway operator. It was a very improper and pernicious thing for a member of Parliament to take a commission for aiding in the getting of a bonus from the Dominion Government. But the Supreme Court had not to deal with this gross impropriety, but whether the claimants had rendered the service they alleged, whether there was an agreement to pay them, or, failing this, whether their claim was a reasonable one. There is no analogy between the position of the claimants alluded to and that of Pacaud, no proportion between their moderate commission and his "gold mine." Pacaud bore himself like a man who could do what he liked with the Quebec Government, and it is proved he could. He told Macdonald, the contractor, that \$50,000 was not enough. He received the \$100,000 out of money the Quebec Government did not provide, and he devoted a great part of it to the advantage of members of that Government whom he was to influence in the direction Armstrong desired. The evidence of Pacaud is one of the most shocking things which have ever transpired before a tribunal having the powers of a Court of Record, even as the spectacle of the Quebec Government in the light of this Enquiry is calculated to fill us with alarm, not only for the Province, but for the whole Dominion. Where is help to come from? What is to be hoped from the allies of such men? A general provincial election will