

greasing. Public works, like everything else in that historic land, connect themselves immediately and inseparably with the Nile. In the utilization of the waters of this famous river for purposes of irrigation are included the chief means for the moral as well as the material improvement of the degraded native population. On this point some of the figures which we find quoted from the Report are very significant. For instance, the sum of £293,561 appears as having been paid during 1887 in order to exempt 115,530 men, for one hundred days from *corvée* labour, by substituting paid labour. This old system of *corvée* labour as described, implies a degradation so far below the level even of ordinary slave labour, that it is humiliating to think of it as still lingering in a country under British influence. The wretched Fellaheen, or peasants, who have been from time immemorial in a state of abject and spiritless bondage, were, and it would seem still are to some extent driven by herds into the canals, and set to do the work of keeping the channels free, without tools, by simply scooping up the mud with their hands. They are described as utterly listless, submitting to their taskmasters with all the docility of domestic animals. To give to a race so degraded by centuries of bondage sudden freedom would be mockery. Such entries as the above would seem to show that they are being prepared in the most effective way for freedom, by being taught to regard their labour as their own, and themselves as men, not simply working animals. From the mere material point of view, it is estimated that a saving equal to half a million of pounds sterling has been effected for Egypt by the reform introduced in respect to *corvée* labour. The great works that are being carried on cannot but redound to the well-being of the country in every respect.

LATE English exchanges show that the insurrection which has been for some months in progress in Zululand is at an end. The insurgent leader Dinizulu, who is, by the way, a son of Cetewayo, has surrendered, not however to the British but to the Transvaal authorities. The stipulation made with the latter that he should not be delivered up to the British will no doubt be gladly acquiesced in, as saving the British Government the trouble of settling the perplexing question, "What shall be done with him?" The Transvaal Government, whose position has been one of friendly neutrality throughout the disturbance, may probably be relied on to see that Dinizulu does no further mischief, either by making their neutral territory a base of operations, or by rejoining his countrymen in Zululand. From the history of operations given by a *Times* correspondent, and from a statement made by General Smyth, who conducted the campaign as the representative of the military authorities, there seems to have been a serious lack of concert between the two branches of the service. From the meagre details given, it may be inferred that the Governor, Sir Arthur Havelock, was desirous of treating the affair as a mere internal disturbance, to be put down by police measures, while the military instincts and training of General Smyth led him to prefer more vigorous measures. Be that as it may, it is thought that the need of a radical change of system in the Government of the Zulus has been demonstrated. The *Times* characterizes the proclamation announcing the annexation of Zululand to the British Empire, more than a year ago, as "a fanfare followed by a ridiculously inadequate show of power." It maintains "that a few magistrates and a few hundred police, scattered through the bush and fastnesses of Zululand, are utterly insufficient to maintain order among warlike savages smarting from recent humiliations and fevered by inter-tribal wars." The correspondent says it is rumoured that the question of the future government of the country is to be submitted to a special commission, "completely severed from all connection with the late administration." Sir Arthur Havelock and his advisers are, however, yet to be heard from.

THE announcement that overtures have been made by the Canadian Post Office Department, looking to the opening of negotiations with the Japanese Government for the establishment of a Money Order Convention between the two countries is one of considerable importance. It may be regarded as in some measure prophetic of the great results yet to follow from the opening up of the new world-route afforded by the Canadian trans-continental railway, and trans-Pacific steamship lines. There can be no doubt that the development of commerce with a distant country is greatly helped, or hindered, according as facilities for the transmission and interchange of money are furnished, or withheld. It is to be hoped that the official anticipations in regard to the readiness of the Japanese authorities to enter into the arrangement may be realized.

THE series of unspeakably revolting murders which have been committed, and which may be said to be now going on, in Whitechapel, London, are sending thrills of horror throughout Christendom. Hitherto

public sentiment, both in England and elsewhere, has been mainly divided between the sickening sensations produced by the shocking barbarity of the crimes, and a species of wondering indignation at the failure of the police authorities to detect the perpetrator. In a very forcible letter to the *London Times*, a writer, over the familiar initials "S. G. O.," calls attention to another aspect of the case, which is still more deserving of public attention. His position is, in a word, that these crimes are related to the social conditions amidst which they are taking place, as effect to cause. They are the perfectly natural and legitimate results of a state of things which exists and is tolerated under the eyes of all London. In his own expressive words, "The tilled garden is fast producing the crop sown; in its ripening, it affords ample evidence of the nature of the seed; its fruit is just that which such seed, under such tillage, was certain to produce." The nature of soil, seed and tillage are indicated in the statement that "within a walk of palaces and mansions," with all their appurtenances of luxury and refinement, there exist "tens of thousands of our fellow creatures, begotten and reared in an atmosphere of godless brutality, a species of human sewage, the very drainage of the vilest production of ordinary vice; such sewage ever on the increase, and in its increase for ever developing fresh depths of degradation." As "S. G. O." whom the *Times* describes as "a social student of life-long experience," goes on to indicate, the powers of an imagination, untaught by observation or experience, are utterly unable to picture the surroundings of child life under these conditions. What can be expected of human beings begotten and brought up in an atmosphere devoid of the commonest decency, accustomed to a conversation in which every word reeks with obscenity and blasphemy, familiarized from the very first with things inexpressibly corrupt and bestial? Such deeds were, as another *Times* correspondent says, "bound to come." The important question, a question infinitely more important than that of the detection and punishment of the foul fiend who is doing these butcheries, is, will the conscience of Christian London awake at last to a sense of the public guilt and responsibility in this terrible business? And will other cities in both hemispheres, which have their dark corners in which vice in its most hideous forms holds nightly orgies, and where no decent citizen would dare to set foot, unless under police protection, take warning before they, too, "reap the whirlwind?"

THERE is something unpleasantly suggestive in the evident anxiety of the German Emperor and his advisers to punish those who are responsible for having given the extracts from the late Emperor's diary to the public. So far as the contents of those extracts have been indicated by cable, it is not easy to see what harm either national or international can be feared from their publication. They may have the effect, it is true, of still further exalting the already high conception the nation and the world have formed of the sagacity and magnanimity of the deceased monarch. They may even, and in this, perhaps, is to be found one source of their objectionableness, increase his reputation for far-seeing statesmanship at the expense of that of Prince Bismarck. But these are small grounds on which to base a Government prosecution, not to say persecution, of contributors and newspapers. Should the expected punishment follow it will become very clear to the world that Germany is yet under a pretty rigid despotism, but it can hardly be supposed that its people are so devoid of the instincts of freedom that such an event will not instead of repressing greatly stimulate the demand for a larger measure of self-rule. Frederick, though dead, is yet speaking to the nation, and speaking, possibly, to greater effect than he could have done had he lived to undertake the great constitutional reforms he had in mind. The Government may, indeed, succeed in suppressing for the present further instalments of the diary, and this is no doubt the design, but on the principle that everything unknown is conceived of as magnificent, especially if shrouded in a little mystery, the popular imagination will readily supply, and more than supply, what may be lacking. It may well be doubted whether anything short of a great war can much longer arrest the march of liberal ideas in the German Empire. It is humiliating to remember that such a war is in the power of the Emperor and Prince Bismarck, that is to say, two individuals, to bring about at almost any moment.

No thoughtful observer can doubt that the "particularist" tendencies of French Canadians are the most serious obstacle now in the way of Canadian consolidation. The tenacity with which the *habitant* clings to the language, institutions, laws and traditions of his forefathers has created in Quebec an *imperium in imperio*, which threatens to render any good degree of Canadian national unity impossible. Not only so, but by dint of plodding industry, close-fisted frugality, and racial cohesiveness, our French fellow-citizens are lengthening the cords as well as strengthening the stakes of their encampment, to a degree which forbodes serious encroach-