

tempest of angry passions, and possibly put an end to the internal convulsions which at present paralyze the country. But for the present, a Republic, one half or the better half of which, has after a protracted struggle, succeeded in conquering and subjugating the other, and now rules over it with more than military despotism; with the West on her flank discontented, the South in her rear ruined and prostrate, but desiring separation as unitedly and more fervently than ever; and a debt of three thousand millions of dollars, bearing a heavy rate of interest (which will no doubt be paid in the course of time, but which, in case of war, could neither be repudiated nor allow of fresh loans), is not in a position, at least for the present, to become aggressive; unless from some very justifiable cause of provocation. But no such cause exists at present, nor is there any good reason why on either side any such should arise.

Canada, on the other hand, is strongly opposed to any union with the Republic. There is little sympathy in Canada with institutions, the defects in the workings of which, however ignored by superficial admirers at a distance, or slurred over here for political purposes, are far too apparent to such near observers as the Canadians. On the frontier men are in daily intercourse with their neighbours, and it is proverbial that the nearer the frontier, the greater the aversion to live under American rule. Free from the elements of discord and the other sad consequences of a prolonged civil war, from the burden of heavy taxation, from the curse of political hacks and intrigues, and the most glaring political corruption, the Canadian stands aloof; and proud of the real liberty he enjoys, compares the superior advantages of his position with that of his Republican neighbours. As long, therefore, as the conduct of England towards Canada remains liberal and conciliating, it will be warmly reciprocated, and doubly repaid by the friendly and increasing commercial intercourse of half a continent; whilst any attempt at aggression on the part of the United States would instantly convert the Canadians into the bitterest of enemies; and if persisted in, might bring on, in another form and under different circumstances, a species of civil war, with a repetition of the scenes of mutual extermination which decimated the South. May we trust that nothing so fearful will ever come to pass.

THE GREAT EXPENSE OF THE UNDERTAKING.

The cost of an overland railroad with 4ft. 8½in. gauge,* and a single line of rails, from Ottawa to the Pacific, would be, from what we have seen of the nature of the country, and with no land or lumber to pay for, no fencing or parliamentary expenses, and provided the extra-

* A 3ft. 6in. gauge would be much cheaper. It would greatly diminish the cost of the roadway, the rolling stock would be less expensive, and the working expenses lighter. In countries like Sweden, Norway, and Australia, with a sparse population, and great distances between, it has been found to work admirably, and the writer would decidedly recommend its adoption.