

An esteemed N. B. contemporary thinks that the rumored possible appointment of the Duke of Connaught to be Commander-in-Chief of the army would not be popular, partly on account of his assumed youth. As a matter of fact Prince Arthur is not so very young, as he will be forty on the first May next. Personally, we believe he is quite popular wherever he is known, he is a thorough soldier, acquainted with every branch of the service, and has a considerable amount of experience. Still we should agree with our contemporary that he might well afford to wait for the position for another ten years or so, during which the army would be none the worse for being under the command of Lord Wolseley.

An esteemed correspondent and occasional contributor sends us some remarks on our recent notice of the prevalence of insanity in the State of New York. He wishes us to go into statistics, and turn to our physiological and phrenological books, and generally demurs to short notes "on great subjects." To this we have to answer that we have not space for long articles, and know by experience that they are not acceptable to the majority of our readers. But it is probable that our correspondent is right in regarding as factors of considerable weight in the ratio of insanity the effects of drink, speculation, gambling, and perhaps not least the general looseness and immorality involved in the divorce laws of the several States, and the enormous extent to which they are resorted to.

The *Militia Gazette* of the 6th inst. has the following note:—"Those who have been interested in the accounts appearing from time to time in these columns of the progress of the cadet movement in Montreal, will be pleased to note in this issue the superiority in drill already acquired by the youthful Highlanders being trained by the enthusiastic Adjutant of the Fifth Royal Scots. The encouragement—as yet scant, it is true—given by the Government for the formation of these cadet corps, would if fully taken advantage of be a source of no little strength to the Militia system, and assist materially in imbuing the youth of the country with the patriotic zeal characteristic of volunteer militiamen." Is there no spirit in the Maritime Provinces to inaugurate so valuable an adjunct to our excellent militia?

The *Montreal Witness*, in its issue of the 10th inst., has an excellent article on the Canadian flag, which it aptly describes as "the wonderful menagerie of things on earth and in the sea which adorn the spot which we have placed in the middle of it." But we do not agree with our contemporary as to the beauty of the red ensign. In the first place, though we may be wrong, we do not think it is the flag to which the term "the meteor flag of England" was applied. In the second place it has not enough white about it to make it a thoroughly conspicuous flag, and thirdly it has been entirely relegated to the merchant service, the Navy, when abolishing the red and blue ensigns, having with perfect good taste elected to retain that most beautiful flag, the white ensign. A fair proportion of white is a necessity to an easily discernible flag, and simplicity and "markedness," so to speak, are its essentials. Simplicity and strong contrasts are the great features, and it is these which make the French and Dutch tricolors such admirable flags both at sea and on shore.

Whitaker for 1890 gives the populations of the several Australasian Colonies, estimated at the dates set against them as follows:—

New South Wales.....	31st December, 1887	1,043,000
Victoria .....	30th June, 1889	1,104,000
Queensland .....	in 1888.....	387,000
Southern Australia.....	31st December, 1888.....	318,000
Western " .....	31st " 1887.....	43,000
Tasmania .....	31st " 1888 .....	147,000
		3,042,000
New Zealand.....	31st " 1888.....	650,000
		3,692,000

Considering the dates at which the estimates were made, it would be safe to assume the Australasian population to number at the present date over 4,000,000.

Queensland, as will be seen by the returns of population given in another note, and as she is justly reminded by some English journals, "is not Australasia nor even a very important part of it," a remark elicited by a fresh ebullition of the spirit of "bumptiousness" for which this Colony has made itself conspicuous. Whatever may be the cause it is certain that there exists in Queensland a more wide spread spirit of disaffection to British connection than anywhere else in the Island Continent. The latest development is a letter in, to say the least, very bad taste, based on crude and insufficient data and very false assumptions, written by no less a person than Sir Charles Lilley, Chief Justice of Queensland. This injudicious production is in the worst style of spread-eagleism, and Sir Charles is backed up by a paper of similar proclivities which goes by the, probably, very apt name of *The Boomerang*, which talks about "insolent interference" on the part of the mother country with "the 360,000 honest white workers who are the backbone of Queensland." The *Boomerang* would seem to be imbued with the notion that a certain stated amount of population consists almost entirely of adult males, but while a number of persons in Queensland give vent to this sort of rant, the would-be great colony is engaged in an internal squabble about the erection of its northern portion into a separate colony. Altogether Queensland seems to have got itself into a state of foolish and causeless excitement about imaginary matters, while the more sober colonies are gravely and seriously considering the great question of Australian Federation.

The *New York World* has recently capped the climax of American insolence and bad taste by a farrago of speculation, based on consummate ignorance of the state of feeling of Canadians on the annexation idea. It is emphasized with all the parade of display headings and black letters, in which type appears the following dastardly insult to our country. "Nobody who has studied the peculiar methods by which elections are won in Canada will deny the fact that five or six million dollars judiciously expended in this Country would secure the return to Parliament of a majority pledged to the annexation of Canada to the United States."

In view of the extensive increase contemplated to the American Navy it may be borne in mind that last year's scheme for the augmentation of that of Great Britain involved the construction of no less than 72 vessels of all classes, most of them large, with immensely increased horse-power. The launches last year were numerous, and included a large proportion of very powerful ships. There are now on the stocks 42 more, classified as follows:

		Tonn.	H. P.
Battle Ships.....	3 of	14,150.....	13,000
Screw Cruisers... 2	"	9,000.....	20,000
" " ... 5	"	7,500.....	12,000
" " ... 17	"	3,500.....	9,000
" " ... 9	"	2,575.....	7,500
Gunboats . 4	"	735.....	4,500
" " . 2	"	805.....	1,200

The number of guns to be carried is small, but the armaments will be heavy. The Battleships are to carry 14, the larger Cruisers 12, and the smaller ones 8; Gunboats six and two guns.

In order, we suppose, not to be too much behind the *New York World* in arranging the future of Canada in accordance with the American idea of the fitness of things, Mr. Senator Frye, the eminent tail-twister, finds himself impelled to these amiable utterances:—"In short," he says, "we must treat Canada as she treats us. She is too small to justify us in adopting drastic measures toward her, but she is big enough to know better than to act as she has, and she should be taught that we will no longer permit it. Canada must set the measures of her own accommodations. If she treats us fairly we will treat her fairly. If she refuses to transport our fish we must refuse to transport hers; if she will not let us buy her bait we must not let her buy ours. Under existing laws the president can enforce retaliatory measures against Canada and I have no doubt he will do it. If we deal with Canada as she deals with us this question will speedily adjust itself to our satisfaction, at least." Mr. Frye must be accredited with the negative merit of not being quite so shamelessly brutal as the *World*, but he is covertly insulting enough, and always proceeds on the false assumption that Canada has treated the United States unfairly. With regard to the purchase of bait we are not aware that the privilege of buying it on American shores is of the slightest value to Canadian fishermen.

Apropos of flags, it is perhaps not assuming too much to say that it takes a sailor to design one. He is accustomed to flags of all nations and to codes of signals, and it is only necessary that he should also possess good sense and good taste. The finest and the most tasteful flag we have seen of late years is that of Nova Scotia—a blue St. Andrew's Cross on a white ground with the Scottish lion in yellow on the intersection of the limbs of the cross. This would of course not do for the Dominion, but it affords an example of what are the desiderata—elegance, simplicity and conspicuousness. We have once before said that probably the best distinguishing flag we have ever seen was the old house-flag of the great ship owning firm of Green & Wigram. This was a red St. George's Cross on a white ground, with a square blue patch in the centre. This flag was unequalled for distinct visibility, and we would strongly recommend it to the Dominion authorities, with these additions and alterations. We would make the square blue patch shield-shape, and impose on it a Beaver in yellow, semi-surrounding it with a wreath of maple leaves either on the shield or outside it, and surmounting it with the crown, probably also in yellow. That would be all that Canada needs to symbolize her. The attempt to typify each Province is clumsy, complicated and absurd to the last degree.

The Marquis of Lorne, in an article contributed to the *Graphic*, discussing certain colonial questions, makes a point which is worth doubling down in the minds of Canadians. Speaking of the Kingston Military College the Marquis says:—"She has, too, in the Kingston Military College an institution for the instruction of officers which is absolutely admirable, and much needed in Australia. The cadets find berths easily in other services than that of the art military, and can be relied on as a body always available in case of need. Were such a federal institution established by the Australian Governments, one great home for the proper play of federal feeling and organization would be at once established. It is of the highest importance that this College, when once founded, should give officers only to a Federal Army, at the call of the Federal Council or Government alone, and that no men, whether officers or privates, should be allowed, once a Federal force is established, to call themselves Provincial forces, but that they should all be Federal or Dominion troops. It was the reverse of this policy—it was the fear of offending the separate colony pride—that led America, when her Federal Constitution was first settled, to allow each State to enrol militia, that made the Great Civil War possible, and it will assuredly again breed trouble unless altered by an amendment to the Constitution. Canada saw the fault, and has remedied it, and every militia-man looks only to the Federal Government for orders." Canada may indeed, in our opinion, congratulate herself on having avoided the constitutional error into which the United States fell in the inception of their polity.