

In our issue of the 30th ult. a correspondent called attention to the increased postage of books coming to Canada from England. The letter posted it appears is the same from England to Canada as it is to the United States; but the book postage is double; that is to say, Canada interposes twice as great an obstacle in the way of importing English books as the United States. But how is this? The duty on English books brought into this colony is surely high enough, and can have no other object than that of severing the connection between England and ourselves as much as possible. It cannot be for the purpose of protecting Canadian printers and publishers; for if we want an English book and cannot get it, there are no substitutes for it to be found on this continent. We could understand a customs duty levied in Ontario on Pennsylvania coal, in order to encourage the Nova Scotia trade; and we could appreciate an argument in support of such an arrangement, on the ground that as we did the best we could to bring the Maritime Provinces into the Dominion, much against the will of many of them, we have no right to ignore their interests and their prosperity altogether. But this book duty and this extra book postage can benefit no Canadian interest whatever, and is but a wretched policy as far as the revenue is concerned.

It is to be hoped that Her Majesty's new Title in connection with India will not be rendered ridiculous by a curtailment of the powers usually supposed to belong to the direct representative of royalty. It appears that the Marquis of Salisbury, as Secretary of State for India, claims an amount of authority over the Governor-General which would reduce him from a Vice-Emperor, or Viceroy even, to an agent appointed in England, and obliged to regulate his most important and most suddenly-called-for movements as his masters at home might determine. In that case he would be not a representative of the Sovereign, but a deputy of the House of Commons. This anomaly surely will not be allowed to continue, or any augmentation of the Queen's Title would be worse than useless. If anything can reduce our prestige in India to a minimum, this return to a state of things which was so strongly objected to when India was governed by the Company, would most surely accomplish that undesirable result. If India is to be well governed, it can only be by employing the best men of the time in the administration of its affairs; and such men cannot be secured unless they have wide liberty of action. The Secretary of State in England could not possibly escape a succession of the gravest errors without the assistance of a powerful and wise administration in India.

A TREATY of weights and measures has been agreed upon by representatives of the following nations:—Germany,

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, Brazil, the Argentine Republic, Peru, and Venezuela. There is to be a central bureau at Paris, maintained at the joint expense of the various nationalities. It is believed that this association, even without any legislative enactment, will have a great tendency to harmonize measures of bulk, weight, and also value. Great Britain is not included. She is supposed by our neighbours across the border, to be so far behind in progress that "she will probably cling to the awkward old ways until her relations with the rest of the world compel a change." A more correct way of putting the matter, would be to say, the commercial operations of Great Britain are so extensive, that she can afford to have a system of her own; and also, that as the present French metric system, or one very much like it, will probably be that ultimately adopted by the contracting parties, Great Britain will be at liberty to make use of it, if she finds it expedient. The commerce of England like her constitution, has not been built up on the principles of abstract theories, manufactured by less successful nations; but on such as each particular emergency has seemed to require. French systems, whether politics, religious, or any thing else, have not usually found much favor with the mass of the British people; perhaps in part for the same reason as that assigned by an English Ambassador to a continental diplomatist, who taunted him with the fact, that at the English Capital, there was much greater ignorance of the French language, than in the Cities of the continent. The reply was, that Great Britain had not the honor of her Capital having been occupied by French troops, as the other nations of Europe had.

THE death of Lady Augusta Stanley, wife of the Dean of Westminster has cast a considerable gloom over Court and other circles in England. She was the most intimate private friend of the Queen, who was much attached to her from the unremitting attention she paid to the late Duchess of Kent during her last illness. She was further endeared to her Sovereign by the kind and faithful ministrations which preceded and followed the death of the Prince Consort. She was the only daughter of our ambassador at Paris, was therefore brought up on the continent, and came into early relationship with all that was best and noblest in French society. Her far embracing sympathies were of an unusual order, and many are the intellectual and the religious circles where she will be missed, more than almost any other of their number. She repeatedly urged the Dean to "try to lead the heart of England from an irrational infidelity to a reasonable Christianity. Never despair in your efforts to check the flood of superstition on the one hand, and on the other hand to restore and keep alive the spirit of a truly national religion." Her spirit

was large; her mind was comprehensive; her charity was all embracing. The poor were always with her. In her last days she said:—"When first I knew that my lot was to be cast at Westminster, I was seized with a kind of panic fear. When I heard of its purlieus I shrank from it, but now I love it from my heart. Its people are very dear to me." Her power of sympathy was very extraordinary; at the same time she strove to live above the world, while living in it, and appeared to be passing gently onwards through the appointed duties of life, with a certain and steadfast course towards that infinite happiness which is laid up for those who love God, and who are called according to His purpose. Just before her death when informed that the Queen desired she should be buried in Westminster Abbey, she said:—"God is very good to me in gratifying my desire. I shall be near my husband when he is in the Abbey, and I shall be near when the little children are baptized." She was buried in the Abbey on the 9th ult., the Archbishop of Canterbury being one of the pall-bearers. The Queen was also present.

OVER NIAGARA—AND AFTER!  
OR  
POLITICS WITHOUT RELIGION.

(Concluded.)

To-day, in England it is criminal for a man to be, conscientiously, a member of the religion called "Peculiar People;" and if he allows his child to die without medical assistance on account of his religious theory (which they call "trusting in the Living God"), the English law says he is guilty of manslaughter and punishes him accordingly. Why? Because the Church still has some moral sentiment capable of being urged upon the State through the establishment, so as not to tolerate such abuses of religion. Where establishment of religion is now existent, liberty of conscience is absolutely limitless, when logic is pushed to a consistent extremity. You all know something of the history of Mormonism in Utah Territory, and how the remnants of the old Puritan establishment of the Eastern States (whence it sprang) are trying to crush it. Well, listen to these fine words of 23,000 Mormon women in their memorial to the Yankee Congress a few weeks ago:—"In accordance with our sacred constitution, which was bequeathed as a protective boon by our forefathers, guaranteeing the rights of conscience, we do humbly pray that no bill or action shall have the sanction of your honorable body that shall in any way conflict or interfere with the belief in and practice of plural marriage, as it is practiced by many of the citizens of Utah, and which most of your petitioners have adopted as a portion of their religious faith in all sincerity, &c." The constitution of the United States provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," and also "no