

would not long be as common as they now are. It is a matter of thankfulness that there does appear to have been an improved state of things of late. We are glad to observe that a few of the members petitioned against have run the gauntlet of a trial before a judge with impunity. At one time it was matter of doubt whether any of the men occupying seats in Parliament, except these elected by acclamation, had been duly elected; whether, in other words, if any election which had been decided at the polls were subjected to a searching judicial investigation it would not be declared void. Things are not, however, quite so bad at present. Whether it is to be attributed entirely to the fear of the judges or to the operation of some higher motive, there are certainly the indications of an improved state of things; and in these indications all good people and true patriots will rejoice.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The fact that the heroic element still exists in English society in spite of the enervating influence of enormous wealth, and of a materialistic and money-loving age, is demonstrated by the large number of men who offered themselves for a service which has perhaps fewer attractions, and which is beset with more dreary discouragement, than almost any other—a new expedition to the North Pole. Already the amount of suffering and the sacrifice of human life which has attended these fruitless attempts to reach “the top of the globe” have been enormous. And these things have not been done in a corner. Every schoolboy has read of these Arctic expeditions, and the sufferings and danger which are inseparable from them. And yet it is said, “The Admiralty could have filled twenty Arctic ships with volunteers had need been,” so deeply are the love of glory and the love of England planted in the hearts of Englishmen. We confess we are not sufficiently impressed with the

advantages which are likely to be conferred upon either science or civilization by this expedition to feel any great degree of enthusiasm about it. In fact, if the truth must be told, we are strongly inclined to the opinion, that, should these heroic men succeed in planting the union jack at the pole, whether it should prove to be a mass of ice or an open sea, the achievement would have cost vastly more than it is worth. But though we do not share to any very great extent in the enthusiasm which appears to be felt by so many in respect to the expedition itself, we can fully appreciate the heroic and indomitable spirit which leads men to engage in such enterprises. So long as Old England has plenty of such men—men who are prepared to embark in any undertaking however hazardous, in which, to their apprehension, the glory of their country is involved, she has nothing to fear. While she continues to be so ardently loved at home she will be sure to be respected abroad.

EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Once in a while we get a glimpse at the immense forces which are pent up within the earth's crust, by which, apparently, it might be blown to atoms in an instant, if that nicely adjusted system of checks and balances by which their equilibrium is preserved were permitted to be seriously deranged. The earthquake at Curcuta on the 29th of May appears to have been one of the most terrible visitations of the kind which has occurred in modern times. Out of a population of ten thousand we are told that eight thousand were overwhelmed and perished in an instant. One of the almost invariable attendants of this class of phenomena is violent agitation of both the atmosphere and the ocean. We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that on the coast of Chili there has been great loss of both shipping and life. Sometimes, when we contemplate the prevailing worldliness and forgetfulness of God which prevail around us, we tremble