

pathetic element in the Queen's present position. There is no one living who could address her by her Christian name, or indeed, on any terms of equality; while all her children but one are married, scattered, immersed in business and households of their own. It is a lonely peak to sit on, at the top of the world, and as age draws on the Sovereign, who already has reigned so long that men passing middle age have consciously known no other, must feel this more and more painfully, with a sadness which the movement of the world does not diminish. We are no devotees of Monarchy, gravely holding self-government to be more educative and more dignified; but there has never been in history a reign like that of Queen Victoria, who, surrounded by an impenetrable etiquette, breaks it to tell her people that devotion, even in the humblest of followers, has roused in her "real friendship." Republicanism in England sleeps, and will sleep while the Queen reigns. Is there not in that mere truism a sufficient biography?"

It seems necessary to make some reference to the dynamite outrages and the attendant panic; but, what can we say? England has always been proud of her right of asylum, her boundaries have proved a sanctuary to many a political refugee; Louis-Philippe and Louis Napoleon alike found strong the protection of the British flag. Just now there is a growing feeling that it is hardly consistent with the friendly relations of two countries that one should throw the ægis of its protection over those who *murderously* plot against the other. There can be little doubt but that a restless, reckless base of conspiracy is found in the neighbouring republic, but Englishmen must not forget the strong feeling which followed the remonstrance of the French Government after the Orsini attempt upon the late Emperor's life, that Her Majesty's Government would not surely continue to shelter, "not mere fugitives, but assassins, who place themselves beyond the pale of common right and under the ban of humanity." That feeling expressed itself in such words as this: "No consideration on earth would induce Parliament to pass a measure for the extradition of foreign political refugees." International duties, however, are becoming better defined and more obligatory. The right of asylum must have its limits. The American Minister has justly said that dynamite is not war, and such acts as the shattering of public buildings, to the indiscriminate endangering of life by secret explosives, must evoke a public sentiment that eventually will crush the cause which trusts by such means to gain its end. The Boston *Congregationalist* says truly:

"Dark days may be ahead. Affairs in Russia, France, Germany and Great Britain may seem to grow worse before they improve. But the dynamite policy will defeat itself, and if terrorism continue to be attempted thus as a political force in any country, there will occur immediately such popular uprisings in defence of existing governments, in spite of their faults, and in behalf of law, good order and peace, as will crush all surviving representatives and remnants of ancient barbarism out of existence forevermore. Neither Ireland nor Russia nor any other country ever can be freed or reformed by desperadoes or infernal machines."

To those whose eyes still turn with kindly interest to the old land, the following items regarding its educational advance will be read with pleasure. For long, the finished scholarship of England was confined to a few, and in fact must still to a large extent be, but the ignorance of the masses, which made such a huge gulf between classes, is fast passing away under the public school system. Our more favoured American land might well be proud of an exhibit such as that, which these facts from a recent blue book gives regarding education in England and Wales for the past year. The figures both gratify and startle, by the progress which has been made, alike in providing the means of education, and in the extent and success of their employment. The number of pupils enrolled, the number in average attendance, and the number presented to the inspectors, have all been well nigh doubled during the past ten years. The passes in elementary subjects indicate a steady growth. In reading they amounted to eighty-nine per cent. of the presentations; in writing to eighty-two; and in arithmetic to seventy-seven. This is behind the Scottish figures, which stand respectively as ninety-two, eighty-nine, and eighty-five; but the disparity may perhaps be redressed by-and-by through the operation of two causes. In Scotland the number of enrolled scholars who attend, and the number of such scholars who are above ten years of age, show little variation. They are higher than in England, but they increase slowly, whereas in England the augmentation has been constant and rapid. The increase of pupils has led to a corresponding increase of teachers, of schools, and of expenditure. The certificated teachers are twice as many now as they were ten years ago. The number of schools has risen by sixty-three per cent. in the same period. In 1873 the grant from the Privy Council was £1,172,786; in 1882 it