

in the habit of negotiating the transfer of her self-governing colonies to other flags, while the ears of Canadians are still tingling with the complimentary epithets which have been hurled so vigorously at her head from the highest places in Washington, during the current session of Congress. Add to this the fact that the Senate, from which the proposition in question was to emanate, had just rejected with contempt, and without even a suggestion of amendment, a treaty to which the Canadian people had reluctantly consented, as containing very large concessions on their part, for the sake of peace, and which the President and Government of the United States had pronounced fair and satisfactory. It is clear that, under the circumstances, any disposition on the part of either England or Canada to consider the question of annexation, would have all the appearance of yielding to menace—a course which would hardly accord well with Anglo-Saxon traditions.

From the British and the Canadian points of view there is manifestly nothing in the circumstance that calls for special warmth of feeling. Were it conceivable that the blunder of making such an overture could have been committed by the Great Republic, international courtesy would have required that it be taken as it was intended, and not as provoking resentment. The Canadian public need not, we suppose, be specially concerned with Mr. Wiman's relations to the affair, but there seems no reason to doubt his sincerity in protesting against the movement which he thinks was contemplated by the Senate Committee, inasmuch as it would be hard to conceive of anything more inimical to the cause of Commercial Union which he has at heart than that such a proposal should be made. The very fact of its having been mooted in the Senate Committee will add greatly to the force of the strongest objection the Commercial Unionists have had to meet from the first, albeit they will now be able to quote Senator Sherman's authority in favour of the opposite view, viz., that Commercial Union would destroy all hope of annexation, by supplying all the advantages political union could bring, while free from some of its most objectionable consequences. With reference to political union itself, it may be proper simply to add that, while it is undeniable that there is in Canada some sentiment in its favour, Mr. Wiman, whatever his motives, is undoubtedly right in assuring Senator Sherman that not only would the people of Canada as a whole not accept it, but that many of them would resent the offer as an insult to Canadian loyalty and self-respect. No movement in that direction, not emanating from Canada itself, could hope for the favourable consideration of even the small minority of annexationists. Still further, were we even, for argument's sake, to suppose that minority converted at some future day into a majority, that majority would need to be very large indeed before it could hope to effect the change of flags at less cost than that of civil war.

We have more than once alluded to the new Indian Policy of the United States Government, as embodied in the Dawes Bill, providing for the distribution of land in severalty to the Indians, and the purchase of the unallotted surplus of the Reservations by the Government, at fifty cents an acre. The Commissioners appointed under this Act have been negotiating with the Sioux, but have failed thus far to secure the assent of a sufficient majority of the members of the tribes, to enable them to put the bill in operation. It is said, however, that the Sioux are about to send a deputation to Washington to try for better terms. As the advocates of the new departure are thoroughly in earnest, and sanguine that the best results for all concerned may be expected from the new system, it is highly probable that the very natural suspicions of the Indians will eventually be removed, and their consent secured, if necessary, by more liberal offers. It is evident that with the progress of settlement the wasteful Reservation system will have to go, and should be superseded by a better. Many of the most disinterested friends of the Indians are confident that to transform them, as speedily as possible, into citizens, with all the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, will be the greatest boon that can be bestowed on them, as well as the only effectual means of preserving them from the rapacity of unscrupulous whites on the one hand, and the destroying tendencies of their own unsanitary and barbarian habits on the other.

APROPOS of the Indian question in the United States, it is interesting to note the advance of public sentiment in regard to the treatment of the Aborigines, as indicated by the proceedings of the last Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on Indian Affairs. General Whittlesey, Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, was of opinion that there had been constant progress in the treatment of Indians, since the inauguration of General Grant's "peace policy," especially in the direction of honest dealing by agents. Fraud is, he believes, now almost unknown. Supplies for

the Indians are bought and distributed under the careful supervision of a set of officers of greatly improved character. The work of allotting land in severalty goes on slowly from lack of appropriations. The Indians are making great advances in the direction of self-support, and good educational progress is visible. After stirring and thoughtful addresses by Dr. Lyman Abbott, General Fisk, and many other friends of the red man, an elaborate platform was adopted, the principal propositions of which are that the Indian ought to be protected by the Federal Courts, not left to the Indian Agent, or the State Courts for protection; that the Government ought, at once, to establish a comprehensive system of secular education for all Indian children of school ages, to be maintained at Government expense, and kept under Government control; and that this education should be compulsory, without, however, depriving the Indians of liberty to choose a private or religious school, provided it comes up to the Government standard. As Canada has its Indian problem yet to solve, the progress of Indian civilization and education in the United States, under the new impulse which has lately been given to the work, should be watched with intelligent and anxious interest.

THE Chinese Exclusion Bill, which was rushed through the House of Congress in such unseemly haste, in consequence of the anxiety of politicians of both parties to throw a sop to the Cerberus of the Pacific coast, has been signed by the President, and so becomes a law of the United States. The Bill, it will be remembered, was first introduced in consequence of a rumour, which afterwards proved to be incorrect, that the proposed Treaty had been rejected by the Chinese Government. It now appears, from the latest Pekin correspondence, that the Chinese authorities were favourably considering the Treaty until news of the precipitate and offensive action of the United States Senate reached them, whereupon they, as was natural, summarily rejected it. It is difficult to avoid the reflection that had President Cleveland possessed the heroic courage which has on various occasions been ascribed to him with apparent reason, here would have been a glorious occasion for its display. The veto of the Bill would have been the best atonement it was in the power of the nation to make for the affront their Congress had needlessly put upon a friendly people. Nor is it too much to say that such veto would have been approved by the brain, the heart, and the conscience of the true American native in his cooler moments, though it would, there is little doubt, have cost the President his chances of re-election in the year 1888. Perhaps such exaltation of virtue is too much to expect of frail humanity, especially after it has been for four years tasting the sweets of the highest office.

PROBABLY the best apology which can be made for the President's ready action in assenting to the Bill is that offered by the *Christian Union*. The President was placed in a very perplexing position by the action of Congress. If he vetoed the Bill, the provisions for the exclusion of the Chinese labourers by the Treaty having been set aside by the action of Congress, the ports would be open for the free ingress of the obnoxious Chinamen. This, the argument assumes, was to be prevented at all hazard. The President himself, with his fondness for laying down general principles, declares that "the admitted and paramount right and duty of every Government to exclude from its borders all elements of foreign population, which for any reason retard its prosperity or are detrimental to the moral and physical health of its people, must be regarded as a recognized canon of international law and intercourse." This general doctrine may be accepted without admitting that it carries with it the right to act with rude and offensive haste, unless under the pressure of some more imperative necessity than that created by the need of placating voters in a political campaign. It would be unfair, however, to omit to mention that the President's message recognizes as obligatory two acts of justice to the Chinese. He recommends that Congress enact legislation permitting those Chinese now on their way to this country, who are furnished with strong certificates, to land, and also that Congress appropriate a specified sum to indemnify Chinese who have suffered loss through the violent action of lawless men. Even these recommendations, the dictates of the simplest sense of honesty and decency, are, it is said, displeasing to the Pacific Coast Senators, and will, no doubt, be made effective weapons in the political contest.

EMPHATICALLY a "big" scheme is that which is now before the Congress of the United States for the irrigation and reclamation of the waste lands of the west, and for the investigation of which scheme an appropriation of a quarter of a million of dollars is included in the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill. The proposition, which emanates from Mayor Powell, is that huge reservoirs should be constructed by means of dams