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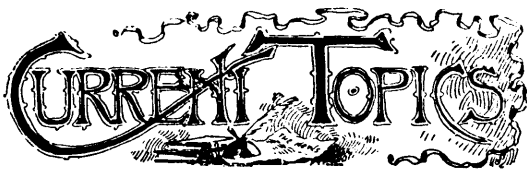
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Mr. Mercier's Allies.

MR. MERCIER might well cry "save me from my friends." His chief Press supporters have resolved themselves into two; one, the organ of the "financial agent" whose sudden flight involved his party in such a scrape, the other, an annexationist sheet, totally without influence or reputation, except with the Fenian element. A new ally has sprung to his help in the person of MR. F. W. GLEN, of Brooklyn, who at one time represented South Ontario in the House of Commons, after taking the usual oath of allegiance to the Queen. This worthy man has seen fit to shake off the monarchical dust of Canada; his British citizenship evidently sat lightly upon him, for on taking up his residence in the Republic, he at once began to lift up his voice in blatant admiration of American institutions, and in bewailing the abject tyranny under which Canada groans. This sort of thing probably proved remunerative, for he has steadily kept it up. His latest effort in this direction is an appeal, through the medium of the New York *Sun*, to "the advocates of Home Rule for Ireland," urging them to support MR. MERCIER by gifts of hard cash. His arguments are apparently irresistible. He states that \$100 sent MR. MERCIER will do more to aid the cause of Irish Home Rule than \$1,000 in the ordinary way, on the ground that if the talented Count gets enough money he may "raise the flag of independence and annexation;" that the annexation of Canada will result in the establishment of the Republic of Great Britain and Ireland. Many thick-witted people may fail to grasp the connection throughout this chain, to say nothing of recognizing its probability; but to MR. GLEN's massive intellect it no doubt is perfectly clear. He follows up this specimen of his lucid reasoning by a letter to a prominent Canadian daily, in which he reiterates his adherence to annexationist doctrines, and stating that he has been an avowed advocate of that foul doctrine since 1853. This is not at all unlikely as he is the son of an American, and was born and educated under the Stars and Stripes; it is therefore not a matter of surprise that his

fierce young intellect should so long ago as 1853 yearn for the addition of Canada to his native country, and share in its glories of legalized slavery and mob law. His confession is worth noting, however, from the fact that while still holding views of determined opposition to British rule, he solemnly swore that he would bear faithful and true allegiance to the British Crown. What an honourable gentleman he must be.

Foreign Interlopers.

There is far too much of this outside meddling in our affairs. Where a foreigner addresses his fellows on Canadian topics, solely with reference to his own country's gain or loss thereby involved, no one has any right to gainsay him; but when he shows his lack of good breeding by a continual series of impertinent statements on matters purely Canadian, and in which he and his people have no business, he becomes a nuisance, and deserves treatment usually accorded to nuisances. As a rule, Canadians and Englishmen seldom comment on the domestic policy of the United States, nor with its party politics; and the best class of Americans in political and journalistic life are far above that continual interference in Canadian and British local politics which seem to interest so greatly their less prominent brethren. Canadians are perfectly able to conduct the affairs of the Dominion with assistance or intervention from foreign hands; and, more than that, they propose doing so. By attending strictly to their own business, and trying to remedy abuses that exist and flourish at home, American politicians would do their country a good turn, and give no occasion for bitter feelings from outsiders who have no need or wish for their services or advice. When open for either, we can get all we want from Great Britain without calling on our foreign friends.

The St. Clair Tunnel.

The opening of the St. Clair tunnel is considered, by those best competent to judge, to be one of the most important mechanical events of the century great as the century has been in the development of technical skill. To Canadians it should be a matter of special pride, not only from its having been projected and undertaken by a great Canadian railway company, but from the fact that the mechanical skill and energy that have been shown throughout its construction, and which have brought it to a successful issue, were thoroughly Canadian both by the birth and training of their possessors. To the Grand Trunk Railway too much praise cannot be given for its inception of the ideas; SIR HENRY TYLER has justly received the highest encomiums from all sides for the wisdom he has shown in originating the scheme, and his persistence in aiding its successful completion by all the means in his power. His name adds one more to the list of Royal Engineer officers who have done wonders in the development and successful operation of great public works in Canada. SIR JOSEPH HICKSON and MR. L. J. SERGEANT, the past and present General Managers of the line, have systematically and carefully watched its progress, and given their counsel and assistance on all possible occasions. MR. JOSEPH HOBSON, the Chief Engineer, must to-day be a proud man to see the work to which he has devoted his rare skill and unremitting attention for the past four years a magnificent success; Canada is no less proud of him as one of her sons. His talent, energy and care shown in this enterprise have at once brought him into the front rank of the world's great engineers

No greater praise can be given to the Grand Trunk Railway for its success in this enterprise than to say that this work it has just completed is one of the most notable performances that have ever been attempted on the continent.

The Death of Mr. Parnell.

In its way nothing so surprising has occurred for many years as the almost simultaneous decease of two of the most noteworthy figures in British political life, and of a third who has of late come into no little prominence in the same line. Of the three, the death of MR. PARNELL vastly overshadows the others, although in position and wealth they left him far behind and were men of no little ability. In the case of the Irish leader, a short fifteen years compassed a public life full of the most varied incident, and directed by an iron will, which, strange to say, was to a large extent exerted on behalf of a class to which he was foreign by social habit, education and general surroundings. His sudden death at this time is a dramatic *denouement* to a life which cannot be called a happy one, and of which the last twelve months must have been a period of unremitting pain. During his long reign as leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, hope of success and the sense of unquestioned autocracy must have been his sole pleasures, standing, as he did, distinctly apart from his colleagues on many points, and separated from the more congenial fellowship of his political opponents by the extreme revolutionary views to which he at times gave utterance. His life was a succession of vivid incident, and his restless energy and indomitable spirit did much to draw attention to the inequalities under which Ireland laboured, and which have been to a great measure ameliorated within the past ten years. His error was excess of fervor in his opposition to Imperial authority; not but what he was himself always under perfect self-control, but he made no effort to restrain the fiery zeal of his followers, who went to extremes both in language and action that materially hindered the consummation towards which they were striving. Far too much was made of the disclosures of last autumn, and his punishment was infinitely in excess of what the offence demanded. That the personal obloquy he then received helped to shorten his life there is no reason to doubt, although this must be mainly attributed to the defection of so many of his followers and the adverse results of his recent political campaign. Mr. Parnell was in all points a man of such marked abilities that his premature death must be considered even by political opponents as an unquestioned loss to the *personnel* of the Empire.

To Our Subscribers.

Orders for our Christmas Number are now coming in freely; as the edition will be a limited one, we would recommend our friends to send in their orders without delay, and thus ensure prompt delivery.

Prize Competitions.

We may state that the answers and MSS. received for the Question and Literary competitions are being examined as rapidly as possible, and we hope to be able to notify the successful contestants in a very few weeks.