

About three weeks ago a mulatto tramp entered a farm-house near Port Huron, Ont., and brutally outraged the mistress in the absence of her husband. The criminal was apprehended and lodged in Sarnia jail. On the 27th ultimo a band of some fifty armed and masked men effected an entrance, overpowered the officials, dragged Martin out of his bed, and hung him to a truss over a bridge. A coroner's jury returned a verdict "that Albert Martin came to his death at the hands of a mob unknown to them." However much such lawless proceedings may be deprecated, it is difficult not to feel a certain satisfaction that an atrocious crime, which the law scarcely adequately punishes, should meet its deserts even at the hands of Judge Lynch. At the worst, it is to be hoped that the example will not be lost on the truculent tramp.

The unfortunate deceased wife's sister bill having been again treated with contumely by the lordly obstructives of the Upper House, a good deal of comment has been naturally elicited. The Liberal Press naturally takes the common-sense view, and intimates that that which has been legalized in the greater Colonies must eventually be conceded in the mother country. The *Times*, we are rather surprised to see, goes against the principle. In the recent division it appears that only 15 Bishops voted, the remainder of the adverse majority must therefore have consisted of prejudiced and unintelligent lay peers, concerning some of whom there is some evidence to show that they understood but little about the matter. The attitude of the House of Lords on this question, and that of the Upper House in this Province on Imprisonment for Debt strike us as somewhat analogous.

Admiral Porter, an accomplished officer of the United States Navy, has been writing lately on the "Naval War of the Future." He comes to the conclusion, in which many will agree with him, that the modern fleet has not fulfilled its promise, while the dynamite principle as applied to projectiles is gaining ground, and gives evidence of a probable revolution, as he thinks that two or three small craft armed with long-range dynamite guns would be more than a match for the most powerful iron-clad afloat. The experiments of the *Vesuvius* have not been conclusive, and there are many considerations which may tend to minimize the certainty of dynamite projectiles, yet sufficient has been accomplished to indicate a considerable measure of probable success, and the launch of the *Vesuvius* with its Zalinski gun equipment may fairly be considered a new departure in naval affairs and one which will be watched with the closest interest.

A contemporary had the following a week or two ago:—"Rev. G. M. Grant and W. Dalton McCarthy spoke in favor of Imperial Federation at Hamilton, Ontario, recently, to a large audience. They both spoke well and eloquently, but neither of them advanced any new arguments. They received respectful attention, and their references to the 'old flag' evoked the customary and conventional enthusiasm. It is the lobster that crawls backwards, and this Imperial Federation movement seems to have the same method of locomotion. It started out pretty fairly, but it is safe to say that hardly anybody with a practical head takes any stock in it now." This illustration reminds us of Cuvier's reply to certain savants who had been discussing the properties of the lobster. They respectfully informed him that they had decided thus:—"That the lobster was a fish, that it was red, and that it crawled backwards." The reply was:—"Very good! but the lobster is not a fish, it is not red, and it does not crawl backwards."

The covert American pretensions to exclusive jurisdiction over Behrings Sea savor of sheer candid arrogance, and look like deliberate trial of how much Great Britain will put up with. It is certain that these pretensions, for which there is not a shadow of ground, cannot be put up with much longer without all the world coming to the conclusion that John Bull will meekly knuckle down to any extravagance it may please Brother Jonathan's active mind to invent. It is devoutly to be hoped that anything like collision may be avoided, but even the *Toronto Globe*, facing possibilities which we can only hope may not be probabilities, says:—"We believe the Washington authorities will back down if firmly resisted. But what if they do not back down? Then Canada would have to face the worst. What then? Well, the *Globe* has always been very well disposed to peace and friendship with the United States. But we say with the utmost deliberation that it would be far better for Canada and Great Britain to face the worst than to submit much longer to unreasonable, unendurable American pretensions. Patience has in this case ceased to be a virtue."

The practice of virtually unlimited credit compels business men to carry a very large amount of dead weight, which measurably handicaps them in the race with those who buy and sell for cash. The sooner that parties who do not either pay cash or within a very short period are weeded out the better for all concerned. Good customers, as a rule, would as readily pay on the spot as at any other time. No dependence can be placed on the business element which is composed of persons who promise to pay and disappoint. They form a factor that most tradesmen will be well prepared to do without, unless they continue their business under a sort of financial shaving, and make their other customers pay for the delay. Absolutely bad payers are of course not wanted by any one, and the withdrawal of their custom would not be regretted, as it would entail no loss. Another element of dead weight in business is the carrying of too heavy stocks. Many business houses buy more than they can dispose of and the surplus remains stored upon their shelves from month to month and from year to year—articles that constantly deteriorate and scarcely ever can be realised upon. More conservatism in these matters is necessary if a healthy trade is to be prosecuted.

The Shah of Persia is by no means a pleasant visitor, yet as he has started for another round of State visits, it may be inferred that, utter barbarian as he is, he experiences some stirrings in the depth of his mind, of a desire for the knowledge, experience and novelty which so rarely enter into what passes for that part of the human economy in the East. It is probable that to his former glimpse of western civilization are due the concessions recently made to what we may fairly call the American syndicate for general civilization. No doubt His oriental Majesty will be the means of furnishing some amusement to the public through the Press, especially if *Truth* gets after him, of which Mr. Labouchere will no doubt take care.

A great deal of dodging goes on from time to time in the endeavor on the part of political wire-pullers to make capital out of the Militia, but happily it is an open secret that this sort of thing is kept in check by the staff. There is not now, we believe, a single inefficient officer or political hack in that body. They are all soldiers and gentlemen, and their instincts as such will not permit them to acquiesce in proposals detrimental to the efficiency of the national Force, or which entail useless expense. The Militia is the one public service on which men of all political opinions can meet on neutral ground, and every Militia officer and man ought to consider it one of his first duties to see that it is not made subservient to the great curse of the country—party politics.

It is said that perhaps the revival of brilliant costumes for gentlemen is nearer at hand than the general public imagines. We are told that at most of the balls and receptions in these closing weeks of the fashionable season in Paris the gentlemen, by arrangement, all wear dress coats of gay colors, rivalling the ladies in costliness of attire, as of old. No one appears in black. Knee breeches are very generally worn in society. And now the edict has gone forth at the German Court, the most splendid at present in all Europe, that ordinary full dress shall be discarded at all Court festivities, and that gentlemen shall return to the laces, the silk stockings and the rich satins and velvets of Louis Fourteenth's time. The dozen or fifteen smaller courts which take their tone from Germany are very likely to follow suit. There is of course no saying what may be the next freak of fashionable folly, but such a return to old fashions would, we think, be a matter of regret, as it would necessarily lead to extravagance in dress, which is now so easily avoided by the present sober modes.

No better evidence that the South has accepted the issues of the great struggle, and is determined for the future to loyally support the Union, is needed than the remarks made by Senator Wade Hampton, at the unveiling of a monument to the Germans who fought on the Southern side during the war. In the course of an eloquent dedication speech the gallant ex-Southern General said:—"The questions which brought about that unhappy war have been settled, and he is no true patriot who would strive to kindle the fires of sectional hate or reopen the wounds which the hand of time has healed. No higher duty can inspire the heart of every patriot than that which impels him to devote all his energies of mind and body to make this country worthy of the admiration and respect of the world, the fit home for all time to come of American freemen. This duty devolves on us of the South as urgently as upon any other citizens of this broad land, for whatever may have been the issues which brought about civil war, we must remember that now all, North, South, East and West, have but one country and Constitution, to both of which our allegiance is due."

Some Americans, either through ignorance or of set purpose of misrepresentation, are just now talking a great deal of nonsense about the C. P. R. The U. S. Senate committee sitting at Tacoma (W. T.) were recently informed by the second Vice-President of the Northern Pacific that the Canadian Pacific Railway is a line built for military purposes by the "British" Government, subsidized by it with "British" money, and which exists wholly and solely because of the traffic it draws from American railways. Canadians have a foolish belief that the C. P. R. is a line constructed at the (very considerable) cost of the people of Canada to unite the Dominion and promote its settlement. That it may now and then serve an Imperial purpose is incidental, and we are glad that it should whenever the occasion may arise. It is run in the interests of its managers and of no one else, and it is a sarcastic comment on the British subsidy idea our American friends have got hold of, that the Imperial Government had, we believe, on one occasion to relinquish the accommodation of transport over the line on account of the high rates insisted on by the company.

American capital has found a new field for investment in the far east. Owing to the care which has to be taken in Persia to maintain a nice balance between British and Russian influences and interests, the Persian authorities, though desirous of improving and developing their country, have found themselves precluded from soliciting the aid of either country without causing dissatisfaction to the other. American capital is of course free from political objection, and offers a clear way of escape from the dilemma. A number of Maine capitalists have therefore secured incorporation under the name of the "Persian Company," and have concluded negotiations with the Shah, who has conceded to them the right to build and operate railways, to supply cities with electric light, and irrigate the country by means of artesian wells, on condition that a certain portion of the profits be paid into the Royal Exchequer. The syndicate is also to establish a National Bank. These operations will completely revolutionize Persia, and everyone interested in the amelioration of the conditions of humanity must regard the prospect with feelings of satisfaction.