

they were dated. It is to the American press that we have been in the habit of looking for fake despatches in the past, but it is evident that the press of Great Britain do not intend to be outdone any longer by "Jefferson Brick" *et al.*

To those who are accustomed to taking the telegraphic despatches received from American sources *cum grano salis*, and to excuse their many inaccuracies with respectful admiration for the fertile imagination of the American editor, but who worship the *Times* to the same degree as the Persians adore the sun, it must be a rude awakening indeed, to find out that all their faith has been misplaced, and that even the great light of the journalistic planetary-system is fed occasionally with home-made despatches.

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DR. JAMESON'S TRIAL.      THE reception by the British people accorded Dr. Jameson, who has been taken to England to stand his trial with others of his company, for participating in the Transvaal raid, has provoked an outburst of indignation and disapproval from the press of Great Britain and the continent. The *Manchester Guardian* says that Jameson and his men were received as if they were so many Havelocks and Gordons; it says: "The people should remember that these men have been brought to England to stand their trial for a crime." The *Amsterdam Handelsblad* gives vent to its feelings thus: "A large number of officers of the British army, with cannon and Maxim guns, invade a friendly state in time of perfect peace. Their life is given to them by a magnanimous enemy, they are sent to England to answer for their deed—and are received as heroes. May the British people harvest what they have sown when next a force of filibusters attack a peaceful people."

There are those in England, however, who, while deploring the raid and the

burst of enthusiasm shown by the mass of the English people, are, nevertheless, inclined to look upon the act of Jameson, as that, in a way, worthy of a Briton, whose offence is one more of a technical nature than otherwise. Among these is no less a personage than Mr. Stead.

The outside world does not believe that any serious punishment will be meted out to those who took part in the famous raid.

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ARCTIC EXPLORATION.

DURING the last half of the month of February, the report which reached the civilized world, that Dr. Nansen, the sturdy Norwegian explorer, who left Christiania in 1893 in search of the North Pole, had accomplished his mission, and was then on his way back to Europe, caused considerable agitation in scientific circles. Although the report has not been confirmed, the interest in Arctic exploration has been kept warm by the discussion in the papers of the theories which various scientists have advanced concerning the possibility of the truth of the report, and by the visits with which we in Toronto have been favored by Lieut. Peary, of the U. S. Navy, who himself has commanded two expeditions to the North in search of the much sought pole. Concerning the likelihood of the Nansen report being correct, Lieut. Peary spoke with diffidence. In regard to the Swedish expedition, commanded by Andree, who hoped to reach the pole by means of a balloon, Lieut. Peary intimated that with the knowledge he had acquired from experience with the severity of the climate in a region where the thermometer often registered 60 degrees below zero, and the wind frequently blew a hundred miles an hour, he would not care to make the attempt in a balloon. The Jackson expedition, Lieut. Peary considers the most likely of the three to fulfil its purpose.