

The Colonist.

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THE INTERESTS OF MANITOBA
AND THE TERRITORIES.

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OUR BRITISH CONNECTION.

If there is anything which is likely to destroy the little pretensions to friendship which yet exists between Canada and the United States it is this senseless annexation talk which we are so often treated to from the press and platforms of the Republic. The people of the United States or at least those of them who are leading in this annexation discussion affect to be supremely indifferent to the future of Canada, and make out that if our country was to decide for annexation to-morrow it is questionable whether they would admit us to their union or not, while to the outside world they present a spectacle which reminds us of the old story in our school books about the fox and grapes.

A good deal of this talk is the outcome of jealousy. The United States do not and never will occupy so important a position among the nations of the earth as Britain; if they, as a nation, were swept out of existence to-morrow it would make very little change in the relation towards each other of any of the world's great nations, but who can foretell the disasters which would follow the removal of Britain's influence. The people of the Republic are themselves intensely patriotic, yet they laugh at such sentiments in Canadians and poke fun at us because we are proud of our connection with such a nation as Britain. While they in the States are spouting about annexation and threatening to coerce us into political union or take forcible possession of our Dominion, the people of Britain and her colonies are putting their heads together and devising schemes for a union of the Empire which will forever shut out the possibility of our annexation. Perhaps there is not yet very much indication that we will hit upon a plan for such a union, but there is a growing sentiment in favor of it, and just in proportion as that sentiment grows does the chance of the United States ever having part or lot in our great heritage—the Dominion—diminish.

We have before us a copy of the last number of *The Northwest Magazine*, of St. Paul, containing an editorial on "The Far Canadian Northwest" which voices some of these offensive annexation ideas. This magazine always talks of Canada in a patronizing manner which seems irresistibly ridiculous to Canadians, but it has fairly excelled itself in this case. The article opens with a mention of the recent Grand Forks reciprocity convention and the Canadian

delegates, which convention, by the way, could not have been made the success it was had the Canadians on whom the magazine looks with such condescension not consented to participate. The part of the article, however, to which we wish more particularly to refer is the following, which contains a barefaced insult to every self-respecting Canadian:

"There is only one thing we feel a little impatient about, and that is that the Canadians should continue to cling to the skirts of a European nation a hundred years after we set up for ourselves. We would like to have them take the position of an independent power in order that when questions arise involving our mutual interests we might settle them with each other without going across the Atlantic and asking leave of a few gentlemen in London in the service of Queen Victoria, who are very busy running the affairs of England and Ireland."

That the United States should be fortunate or unfortunate enough, we leave the future to demonstrate which, to have set up for themselves, is none of Canada's business and has no influence whatever on our actions in that respect, while as for the two countries not being able to settle questions which may arise involving their mutual interests without going across the Atlantic and asking permission, we are rather inclined to think in the light of the experience of other of the divisions of these American continents which unfortunately for themselves, had not a Britain at their back to insure them fair treatment when settling questions of mutual interest with the United States, that it is just as well that we have to go across the Atlantic or we might get scant courtesy from our over-bearing neighbor.

If the people of the United States want to encourage the growth of annexation sentiments in Canada they will have to talk to us a little more politely than they are doing at present.

A WORD TO THE GRUMBLERS.

We are often tempted to settle into the belief that the majority of Manitobans are chronic grumblers. They certainly give that impression to anyone who visits the different parts of the province in the fall of the year—the very time when everyone should be wearing a broad smile of contentment.

1892 has been on the whole a year of great prosperity and progress with the entire province, yet there is more grumbling and kicking this year than ever before. The wise operations of the immigration department of our government have resulted in a large influx of good settlers, the splendid weather of the summer and autumn has aided in the production of the most satisfactory crop ever grown by the province; the general health of the people has been good; and all conditions have combined to make this year one of the most prosperous we have ever known; yet THE COLONIST'S representative after several trips through various parts of the province reports about four out of every five persons he met with as suffering from fits of "the blues," grumbling about the crops, the times and everything else. What a shameful state of affairs this is. How much better it is to look on bright side of things.

There is really no reason for despondency on the part of the people of Manitoba either at present or in prospect. Undoubtedly the

price of wheat is not all that we could wish, nor has the yield been quite as large as was at first expected; living expenses are too high in proportion to those prices; and the vexing questions which have disturbed our political life are still agitating the minds of the thoughtful; but for all that we have reason to enter upon the closing months of this year 1892 with feelings of cheerfulness and joy rather than of gloom and sadness. To those who have been inclined to feel glum in the past we would hold up the following as a partial list of the blessings we have had, with the suggestion that they paste the list in their hats: First—the very small percentage of sick which has prevailed in all parts of the province; second—our providential escape from an epidemic visitation of small pox; third—the unequalled weather which has marked almost the entire year; fourth—the success of the year's agricultural operations; fifth—the happy termination of the provincial political contest, and sixth—the opening of the railway to the Souris coal fields, affording us access to a practically inexhaustible supply of fuel. Only a list of the practical benefits we have had to say nothing of the scores of others which most people take as a matter of course and look upon as their due.

No let us have no more grumbling, but rather remember the terrible calamities which have befallen many more deserving communities in different parts of the world and be thankful that we live in Manitoba.

THE COLUMBIAN CELEBRATIONS

During the past month we have witnessed the spectacle of a continent, a world, paying honor to the name and memory of a man—Columbus. In life he was called by many of his fellows a fool, a lunatic, his learning was mocked at, his liberty taken from him, yet now, four hundred years after the time in which he lived his name and deeds are thrilling the entire civilized world. What mortal man of any age or time has had such a perpetuation of his memory.

Great have been the demonstrations which marked the date of this four hundredth anniversary of his discovery. In Europe, Genoa, his native city led with a very fitting celebration and in America, Chicago, the city of the World's Fair, dedicated her mammoth Fair buildings and grounds on the date of the discovery. At this ceremony, representatives of every civilized race were present together with the greatest and best of the Republic's sons. The orators who delivered the dedicatory addresses were of national fame and masters of the English language. Other celebrations were held in various cities on this continent which have combined to attract to Columbus and his history more attention than has ever been given to any discoverer since the world began.

SHOOTING IN MANITOBA.

Shooting is pre eminently the favorite sport in Manitoba at present. Ever since the end of the close season for feathered game parties have been organizing with a view to making wholesale onslaught on the birds (which plan cannot be too strongly condemned) and better sportmen