

Russia confine her humane efforts to the relief of the woes of her own people, where they are most needed. The unjust oppression and the crying wrongs of the Siberian exiles, that exist with terrible reality at the present moment, make any charitable outburst towards the people of foreign countries, on her part, appear the supremest cant. If Russia would confine her attention to her own affairs, England would be in a better position to deal effectually with the present affliction of her Indian subjects. But, of course, it is apparent to Canadians that Russia does not desire this.

While more moderate than either the Russian or German Press, the French papers, in dealing with the subject, show that ill feeling towards Great Britain for which the European Press have been remarkable of late. The object of this concerted action on the part of the Press of Europe is well understood in England. France, as well as Germany and Russia, has her own objects to serve in decrying England, and the dread of the plague plays but a minor part in the question.

In view of the acrimonious stand towards Great Britain taken by the rest of the European nations, the arbitration treaty recently consummated with the United States has a fresh significance.

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THE TRIAL
OF
CECIL RHODES.

The latest incident in connection with the ill-starred raid into the Transvaal of a year ago is the parliamentary inquiry against Mr. Rhodes, the ex-premier of Cape Colony, now going on at Westminster, where Warren Hastings stood to answer the charges brought against him for his dealings in connection with the East India Company. There is no topic in England that is arousing more comment at the present moment than the investigation now in progress. All the papers contain lengthy and exhaustive reports of the proceedings and leading editorials relative to the probable outcome of the matter. The demonstrations in honor of Mr. Rhodes before he left Cape Town for England have drawn attention to the fact that he is still the most popular man in Cape

Colony, and it is thought that the existence of this popularity cannot fail to have a deterring effect upon those sitting in judgement upon his conduct, who, otherwise, might have been inclined to take too harsh a view of the case for Mr. Rhodes' personal comfort. There are those who even hint that the receptions and *fêtes* tendered the South African millionaire were instigated by Mr. Rhodes himself for the very purpose of intimidating, with a show of strength, his persecutors; and it is pointed out that if Mr. Rhodes has disobeyed the Imperial Government in the past, he will, if given the opportunity, do so again when it suits his purpose. For this reason it is claimed that he should be restrained and the free hand which was once given him in South Africa be held in check. From all accounts, Mr. Rhodes is too strong a man in Cape Colony to be thus laid aside unceremoniously, and the Committee of Inquiry may find it politic to "whitewash" him. That Mr. Rhodes is culpable of certain misdemeanors is not to be denied—in fact, he himself has admitted such at the present enquiry, but against these trivial transgressions must be arrayed the enormous profit and benefit that has accrued to the British Empire by the acquisition of a territory as large as France and Germany combined—by the consolidation of the outlying British settlements in South Africa—and by the sway and influence which has been given to England over the southern portion of the dark continent through the efforts of Mr. Rhodes.

In all this, he has been the prime mover, and it should have an extenuating influence in his behalf at the present time. True, he himself has benefited by the policy pursued, but the gain to the Empire will be felt long after Mr. Rhodes has passed away, and all personal considerations so far as he is concerned shall have ceased to exist. In view of all that he has done for the Empire, it seems a rather ungrateful thing to attack Mr. Rhodes in the vituperative manner that has been indulged in by certain Radical journals in the old country, now that he is under a cloud; it looks very much as if the attacks were