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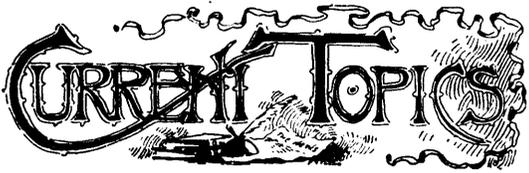
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The absurd mistakes that English writers, even of the highest attainments, are prone to make when they undertake to deal with Colonial questions have often been the subject of comment. These mistakes are sometimes due to pure ignorance, aggravated by rash self-confidence; sometimes to sheer carelessness. An instance of a blunder of the later category is found in a work of more than average ability on the Constitution of Canada. The author, in treating of the method of appointing Lieutenant-Governors, gives what purports to be the form of commission issued on such occasions. It reads as follows: "Whereas we did by Letters Patent under the great seal of our Dominion of Canada, bearing date at the City of Ottawa, the ——— day of ———, in the ——— year of our reign, appoint A. B. to be Lieutenant-Governor of ———, for and during our will and pleasure, as upon relation being had to the said recited Letters Patent will more fully and at large appear. And whereas the said A. B. has since died and we have thought fit to appoint you to be such Lieutenant-Governor in his stead. Now know ye, etc." If such form were *de rigueur*, we fear that it would not be easy to secure statesmen to assume a position which, by implication, would be fatal to the incumbent. It is evident that the commission just quoted must have been issued under exceptional circumstances, resulting from the death of a Lieutenant-Governor in office. Two instances of the kind occur to us—the death of the Hon. Joseph Howe, while Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and that of the Hon. R. E. Caron, while Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.

A journalist who paid close attention to the late Paris Exposition from its opening till its close, makes the unexpected statement that notwithstanding its remarkable success as a popular attraction, it will leave hardly any trace of progress in the domain of industry and science. What he pronounces the most curious invention produced at the Exhibition is the artificial silk, made by Count Chardonnet out of cellulose, to which was awarded one of the grand prizes. The materials made from this ingenious product of inventive skill are said to be very beautiful and can hardly be distinguished from fabrics of real silk. The great advantage claimed for it is its cheapness—the cost being about the third of the genuine article. It has, however, corresponding drawbacks which detract considerably from its usefulness. It is excessively, indeed dangerously, inflammable, and is much inferior to silk in durability. Its chief rival in point of ingenuity is the Thorne type composer and distributor. An American machine of the same

kind has also attracted much attention and gained wide favour in England.

The quiet revolution in Brazil has attracted more attention to South America than the three-quarters of a century of revolutions, revolts and *coups d'état* that preceded it. It is to be hoped that the impulse which it has given to our interest in the America of the Tropics and the region beyond them will be quickened and enlarged. Save that most students of history read Prescott's works on the "Conquest of Mexico" and the "Conquest of Peru," it is surprising how little attention Spanish and Portuguese America receives in the northern half of the continent. Its trade relations are almost wholly with Europe. Even before Mr. Blaine had summoned his conference, the Canadian Government had sent a commissioner to treat with Brazil and the South American States, as to the diversion of a share of their commerce to the Dominion. What the result may be we cannot say as yet. There are other points on which inter-communication might be profitably established. Some years ago several of the South American Governments agreed to exchange their publications, so that each of them might be kept informed of the literary and scientific progress of every other. Now that the 400th anniversary of the great achievement of Columbus is approaching, all Americans ought to know what the New World has contributed to civilization, to art, to culture, to discovery, to the making of mankind better and happier.

The share of Mexico, Central and South America, in such contributions is by no means unimportant. Besides, several distinguished naturalists, historians, novelists and poets, Mexico has produced some praiseworthy artists. The painter, Fred. E. Church, called that country the "Italy of America," not only on account of the resemblances which he saw in its scenery and life, but also because the artistic faculty was so strongly developed among the people. The literature of Brazil has obtained recognition in Europe, and is marked by considerable originality as well as taste. The Argentine Republic comprises a large number of scientists, whose services in various fields of research have been thankfully acknowledged in Europe. Guatemala, Chili, Peru, Uruguay and the other States of Central and South America have also their men of science, artists and *littérateurs*, some of whom are not unknown in the learned circles of the Old World. Among the noted names may be mentioned the Vizconde de Bom Retiro, Arteaga, Parra, Quiros, Penafiel, Martiniano de Alencar, Velasco, Lacerda, Macedo, Cruls and the Emperor Dom Pedro.

We learn, through the courtesy of the consul of the Argentine Republic, in this city, that an International Rural Exhibition will be held in Buenos Ayres next year, beginning on the 20th of April. The classes will comprise live stock, horses, cattle, sheep, poultry and animal products and their manufactures, machines, implements, harness, models of rural architecture, fencing, gates, apparatus for the dairy and wine-making, etc. There are altogether thirty-five sections in the classification of the exhibits. The first ten enumerate various breeds of cattle; the next seven all kinds of sheep; then come horses, pigs, goats, dogs, fowls (including native and African ostriches), all kinds of grains, roots and vegetables, coffee, hops, tobacco, indigo, textile plants, medicinal plants, seeds of trees and flowers, fruits (including those dried and preserved), vegetable oils, sugar, yerba maté (Paraguay tea),

bridles, saddles, and other horse gear, ploughs and other implements (including mowers, reapers, etc.), wheelbarrows, and other vehicles, mills and other machines, wools, hides, pigskins, dried meat, meat extract, condensed milk, cheese, feathers, silk, honey, wax, and models of troughs, sheds, fowl houses, farm buildings, water reservoirs. These are only a few of the items taken from the sections, which comprise every imaginable animal, product or commodity that can in any way be associated with agriculture in its most comprehensive sense. The list of prizes is large, and the prizes are valuable. Four of \$2,500 each are offered for the best essays on the exportation of meat; the future of Argentine agriculture; Argentine vine-growing and wine-making, and the situation and prospects of sugar-making in the Republic. Applications for space should be made before the 1st of January next. Full particulars may be had from the consul-general at Quebec, or the consul in this city, Mr. Henshaw. This exhibition offers an excellent chance to Canadian manufacturers of agricultural implements to introduce their business into the most thriving of the South American States.

So much that is pessimistic in tendency, if not in actual statement, has appeared in recent economic speculation that any work which, while dealing honestly and lucidly with the present conditions of struggling and suffering humanity, finds justification for a hopeful outlook, merits a welcome from those who have not lost faith in the wisdom that rules the world. The Hon. David A. Wells, who, before publishing his "Recent Economic Changes," had travelled extensively in Mexico, Canada and the Old World, as well as in his native land, has found reason, after a comprehensive review of the last twenty-five years, to conclude that the movement during that period has been for mankind in general, upward, not downward, for the better and not the worse. Mr. Wells considers this generation as unparalleled in many ways in the world's history. Like every eventful epoch that raised humanity to a higher level, it has been marked by social disturbances of serious import, but these disturbances will be but temporary and their influence for evil infinitesimal compared with their beneficent effects on the world's population. Already the means of comfortable subsistence are more widely diffused than ever before, while they are secured without that exhausting effort which once left the majority "flaccid and drained" of all capacity for any intellectual or æsthetic enjoyment. He believes that the day is approaching when poverty will no longer exist save as the fruit of vice or idleness or physical disability.

Those of our readers who are concerned in the progress of our Pacific Province will find much to interest them in the admirable *resumé* of its resources and various progress which Mrs. Arthur Spragge furnishes in the present number. The whole series of contributions, entitled "Our Wild Westland," constitutes a valuable survey of British Columbia, its natural wealth, scenery and life, such as, we believe, cannot be found elsewhere. It has the great merit of being the result of actual observation, and Mrs. Spragge, as our readers know, is no common observer. These papers, with the accompanying sketches, have an historical importance. When British Columbia has in part fulfilled its great destiny, they will form a trustworthy basis for comparing its era of grandeur and power with the day of small things, which was its starting-point. Already, indeed, that starting-point is