

manufactures in several parts of the world. English capital, no doubt, enables her to stand more adverse years than can be done in any part of America. England, as is suggested, possesses in her colonies, and in India, an outlet for her products, which makes the loss of the demand from the United States of trifling importance. And surely, this fact, which is unquestionable, ought to be suggestive to ourselves. The national resources of the United States are of course, almost unlimited. But a great part of her apparent prosperity has resulted from the stream of immigration which has flowed thither from Germany, Ireland, and other parts of Europe, for a number of years, and which has till now, found abundant openings. For the present at least, this has failed. The great steamers which used to bring into New York, a thousand or twelve hundred each, have for some time brought scarcely any. One of the largest of these not long ago, brought only thirty-seven. Until lately, the average annual number of arrivals used to be nearly three hundred thousand; and in one way or other, these were so many separate and independent sources of wealth. Now, there are as many go back to Europe as there are of those who come out. So much the better for the old world, but so much the worse for the new. The sailing vessels come over loaded with ballast, and for the last few months, they return with Indian corn.

It will always be a matter of considerable importance, to take particular care that industrial pursuits are properly directed. Some years ago, when a widely diffused depression existed among the factory classes in England, in consequence of no sufficient market for their goods, they were told that over-production was the cause, as well as the fault of their distress. A celebrated anti-corn law orator named George Thompson, who nearly lost his head in the United States, when lecturing on slavery, sneeringly proposed to change the term *over-production* to *over-industry*, in order to show what he considered its fallacy. A more accurate expression would probably have been *misdirected-industry*. Industry is no doubt, very commendable, when intended to supply a demand that either exists, or can be created; but is rather misleading than otherwise, when it has no such object.

If Canada is wise, she will learn from the condition of things in different parts of the world, that the best policy will be found in connecting herself as closely as possible with the mother country and her colonies; not forgetting that her first duty, as well as a great share of her interest, will be in cultivating most intimately, commercial and other relations with the different parts of her own Dominion. If we need a market for our productions, let us look to the West Indies, and the northern part of South America. In the estimation of those who, from a residence in those parts are very well able to judge, far more will be gained by such endeavours, than by the

best reciprocity treaty we shall ever obtain from the United States.

THE ALABAMA SURPLUS.

The Alabama claims have all been settled at last—a fair share of the claimants having been choked off, the whole batch of them in one way or other silenced, and now, a surplus of about ten million dollars is declared. What is to be done with so large a sum is hardly apparent just yet. Several proposals have been made, one of which is the endowment of a professorship of international law at one or other of the universities. If a spark of honesty could be found still existing in the *Great Republic*, at least the surplus would be sent back to the place from whence it came. But events now transpiring across the border indicate a character somewhat different from what we are accustomed to call by the name of honesty—honor being left out of the question; and it certainly appears very probable that the Centennial year will prove to be the most disreputable in the history of the United States, so far, at any rate as public virtue is concerned. It is very certain that this surplus is not rightfully theirs. It was awarded to them on the representation of certain claims which it was understood would amount to the sum granted by the Geneva arbitration. That representation, as might have been expected from all former precedent, is now seen to have been a false one; and although it is too late to rectify blunders committed some time ago, we cannot help turning our attention just now to the fact that if the British government had not been weakly accommodating, the question of compensation for damages resulting from an international quarrel of their own, would never have been entertained. And now, if the surplus in their hands were paid to Canada, as some little effort to atone for the injuries they allowed to be inflicted by the Fenian raids, although such an act of justice would be altogether new to them, some progress would be made towards obtaining the good opinion of the rest of mankind, and some hope might be entertained that a republican form of government would at least permit an occasional recognition of the just rights of other nations. Those raids altogether were an outrage the most wanton the civilized world has witnessed during the present generation. The destination and objects of the Alabama were exceedingly obscure and difficult to be proved; the whole question had to be decided in a few hours or rather in a few minutes, and no law, international or otherwise, existed on the subject. Whereas the Fenian outrage was openly planned and announced for months before; preparations for it were publicly made; and the United States government were in full possession of the intentions and proceedings of its promoters; and yet not an effort was made to prevent this most wanton and most disgraceful invasion of an unoffending people with whom they were at peace, until the inroad had been made

and some of the best blood of Canada was shed. No triumphs of the American Eagle, no material prosperity, or progress in art, science or literature among our neighbors can ever wipe out the stain of the abominable complicity, or at least connivance of the United States Government with such a band of assassins. Altogether the Alabama surplus will not be one of the least disreputable announcements connected with the Centennial year.

In a friendly notice in the *Brampton Times* of the article in the *Dominion Churchman* on "Prohibition," the writer states that the suggestion therein made has been put into practice in England, and has met with considerable success. We are glad to learn this, as we were not aware that the plan had been tried. Our contemporary says it has been adopted in the neighborhood of some of the dockyards and other public works, in order to keep the working men out of the public houses and gin palaces. It is suggested also that in localities where the population is large, and where artisans congregate, these houses might ultimately be made remunerative. In Canada no doubt, Temperance Houses however comfortable and however well conducted, outside our cities and along our roads, would hardly prove successful rivals to existing hotels and taverns. Our object in referring to the subject, was however, to provide the accommodation, when prohibition should have made a substitute for existing arrangements necessary. Before this, the advocates of total prohibition might be taking steps which would convince the public that the proposed scheme may be safely relied on.

SOME of our neighbours across the border are calling out for a new standard of ethical and political science, as the only thing calculated to save the republic. One of their number claims that they are just as honest there as anywhere else, only that they have a different standard of honesty. In order to raise the standard, however, some of them are bringing forward the system of General Jovellar, who is now endeavoring to govern Cuba according to a new set of principles. His fundamental axiom in politics seems to be that officials who take bribes or who tell lies are guilty of treason against the state. It is urged that conventional practice up to the present time will hardly support the General, although it is believed that the principle is correct enough; because the faults specified are morally disloyal, and the dividing line soon becomes lost between any kind of disloyalty and open treason. It is recommended that his interpretation should be accepted by the United States, so that the offenders should be tried by courts-martial; and it is distinctly understood that "the ways of these tribunals with the guilty are such as would speedily purify even a worse civil service than theirs," if it be possible to find one.

APRIL

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