

think." In this Cuban affair the Americans imagine they are only dealing with Spain; but, in reality, they are risking an alteration in the relations of all Europe. On certain conditions, France was willing to assist Spain. Hence the Americans ran the risk of being obliged to face two nations in arms, besides endangering the independence of the South American States, over which the Americans claim a protectorate. Brazil has recently invaded French territory in Guiana. Should the French menace Brazil, and the Americans rudely protest against such menace, it is quite possible to imagine France offering to join Germany in a partition of Brazil. They could destroy the American fleet and then proceed to business. The United States would thus by its own acts be forced within the circle of European politics, and would be compelled to form European alliances. It would probably go on pleading the Monroe doctrine, all the same, says *The Spectator*, for "nations are never quite logical; but it would, nevertheless, be intervening in Europe in a way which would make that doctrine seem, in the eyes of international jurists, just a little absurd." Our eminent contemporary observes that a policy of isolation is no longer possible for the United States; and says rightly that collisions with European Powers are sure to arise respecting the attitude of the Americans towards Central and South America. If the Republic is really desirous of rivalling Europe, of being great in Europe, as *The Spectator* thinks, its people, and especially its politicians and journalists, must undertake to study European politics, and to defer to European necessities.

#### Canadian Apathy.

THERE never was a time in the history of Canada more critical than the present. The impetus which was given by Confederation seems to have stopped. The Dominion now extends from sea to sea. Except Newfoundland, the dream of those who projected Confederation has been accomplished. Wonderful, in most respects, has been the progress of the united British North American provinces. The large public works which have been completed were inaugurated to carry out the union of the Maritime Provinces to old Canada, and then of Eastern Canada with the great Northwest and over the Rocky Mountains with British Columbia. The opening up of the interior of Ontario and of the back regions of Quebec has been finished, as far as building communications to reach them is concerned. There Canada seems to have stopped. The large immigration which was fondly anticipated has not been realized. The influx of foreign capital which it was thought the undoubted capabilities of the country would invite has not been felt. These facts would be discouraging were it not for the reflection that the depression which has overtaken Canada has overtaken very nearly the whole of the more recently civilized world. Australia has had a terrible experience. Its former millionaires are, many of them, beggars to-day. The United States have had panic after panic, and their credit has been shaken in all the financial centre of the world. It is not wonderful, then, that Canada should also have suffered. But the older countries of the world, those who have their capital accumulated, have not suffered as the newer countries have done, who have lived on borrowed money, and who, led away by sanguine hopes, have anticipated their future. The material condition of the Dominion may be thus partially accounted for. It is bad enough, but it might be worse, and will probably be better.

But the remedy for material ills lies with the energy and business ability and reputation of the individuals who make up a nation. The more desperate the condition financially of the

country, the greater the necessity for a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull all together. That is where Canadians are decidedly wanting. They are sitting like the countryman waiting for the stream to flow by. But it rolls, and will roll on forever. If the countryman wishes to cross it, he must do it himself, or by a bridge. The large majority of the Queen's subjects in Canada have their hands full with their own affairs. They have their own financial difficulties to overcome, and they think that these come first, and those of their country may take care of themselves. What a mistake! Unless the country is properly managed—unless capital is invited—unless money is made to circulate—there will be, what there is now, stagnation.

Now, who is to make this change to come to pass? Surely, the people's representatives who are sent to Parliament for this very object. But they are and have been doing no such thing. Why, then, do not the people rise in their might and sweep those who are false to their trust out of the way, and put in men who will make Canada move on once more? The country is tired of marking time. It wants to be abreast of the march which is going on in Europe to-day. The fact is that the people of Canada have been worshipping false gods. In their city councils, in the local legislatures, in Parliament, who are the men who are selected? Why, the men who know how to pull the strings with ward politicians, lodge masters, Freemasons, worthy grands, sons of this, that, and the other, all honourable men of course, but all acting on the principle, You stand by me; I stand by you. What is the result? The men so chosen, when they get into Parliament, manage the affairs of the country on the same basis. The House of Commons has become a registering machine for the decisions of the caucus. No measure is discussed there now on its merits. The whole world knows that the course of action has been debated behind the scenes, and A, B, and C are talking as advocates to defend what X, Y, and Z, sitting behind them, will vote for, right or wrong.

Why do Canadians endure this state of things? Why do they not protest? They have the ballot. They can vote as they please. They are not responsible to any human being for their mode of exercising their franchise. Why, then, do they sell themselves to lodge masters and venal guides who make them vote the way they themselves are bribed or deluded into doing by other lodge masters or other venal guides of a wider scope? The people of Canada are losing their liberty. They are getting into the hands of the kind of men who have been the curse of the United States. They must awake! The most turbulent rioting is better than dull apathy. It shows that men have the courage of their convictions. One great misfortune is that the people have no newspaper guides but the party press. The consequence is that their education is one-sided and false. Their judgments are warped from the start. The Government papers teach them that the country is all right; nothing is wrong about it. The Opposition press says no; the country is all wrong, nothing is right about it. The result is ignorant and blind prejudice, and no fair, honest discussion possible. The danger to the liberty of Canada is more serious than the stagnation of her material condition.

Everybody knows that Canada is a splendid country, of great possibilities, and that its inhabitants are loyal, intelligent, and industrious. But they are hard to move. They are apathetic where their own interests are concerned; and they are too fond of being led by the nose by calculating individuals who fatten at the public crib. In the forthcoming election campaign no candidate should be returned who cannot point to some record of having assisted in or guided the material development of the country. The man, whoever he was, who