

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1895.

## A FOOLISH DODGE.

It is amusing to see the Grit newspapers blaming the Conservative press for repeating Mr. Laurier's devout eulogium of thanksgiving with respect to the Orangemen. At Chicoutimi the Leader of the Opposition was moved to thank the Lord that there were no Orangemen among the Liberals. The devout expression appeared in the report of Mr. Laurier's speech taken by a Liberal reporter and published in a Liberal newspaper. It was brought into prominence by La Patrie and other Liberal newspapers, and was then, as was natural, repeated by the Conservative papers. It suits the Ontario and Maritime Province Grit papers now to declare that the story is a lie. Well, if it is a lie, it is beyond question a Liberal lie, and we ask is it likely that the Liberals would invent and circulate such a lie about their leader? We, at any rate, think that it is in the highest degree improbable. The innocent reporter most likely took down the expression of thanks, believing that by reporting it he was doing Mr. Laurier and his party a service, and it was repeated by Liberal papers in Quebec with the same motive. It was not until it was seen that Mr. Laurier had made a very serious blunder in letting the cat out of the bag in such a rash way that the story was denied. But when the Grit authorship of the report is so well known and has been proved so clearly it is indeed funny to see the Grits denounce it as a "Tory lie."

## "TRANSPANTED ENGLISHMEN."

The Springfield Republican evidently believes that the English-speaking nations of the world should be more closely united than they are. It sees in their union and co-operation immense possibilities. It said in a late issue:

We have no precedent in history for the situation that now confronts the English-speaking world. What race have we knowledge of which, split into great and powerful self-governing halves, has occupied these relative positions? The problem of advancing the standards of the race as a whole, without plunging it into continuous self-destructive fratricidal conflicts, must, therefore, be solved without such guidance as history frequently affords. We are more or less in the dark as to the future, yet that the instinct of solidarity, which is planted deep in the breasts of the English-speaking peoples, is the true guide for the statesmen of both nations is too evident for dispute among sane men. Now, if the English people desire to maintain genuinely amicable relations with the people of the United States they ought to squarely face this fact: Americans are transplanted Englishmen, and have inherited the grim old English passion for power and wealth.

When we see American journalists writing of Englishmen as being irredeemably bad from a national point of view, and telling their countrymen that the English are their natural enemies, against whom they should be constantly on their guard and whom they should oppose and thwart on every conceivable occasion and in every part of the world, it is hard to realize that any of them regard Americans as "transplanted Englishmen." But this is what a very great many of them undeniably are, yet they are so stupid and so shallow as not to see that when they are abusing Englishmen they are vilifying themselves. "Transplanted Englishmen" is good, but it is a pity that the result of the transplanting is often to develop disproportionately what is unlovely in the English character.

## THE STOKES OUTRAGE.

It is satisfactory to find that robbery and murder cannot be committed even in the wilds of Africa with impunity. The "execution" of Mr. Stokes in Central Africa appeared even from the first accounts to be most suspicious. Captain Lothaire, an officer in the service of the Congo Free State, arrested Mr. Stokes, who was peacefully trading with the natives and who had in his possession a considerable quantity of ivory. The unfortunate merchant was summarily tried by what Lothaire was pleased to designate a court-martial, convicted and, without giving the prisoner a chance to appeal to a higher and regularly constituted court, executed. The whole proceeding, even if Mr. Stokes had been a notorious offender, was arbitrary and irregular in the extreme. But the murdered man was not a lawless character; on the contrary, he had the reputation of being an honest and a humane man who was doing a legitimate business in a lawful way.

As soon as the news of the execution of Mr. Stokes reached the ears of the British authorities, inquiries were made, and explanations demanded of the Government, whose servant Captain Lothaire was. It is evident now that the Congo authorities discovered that the execution of Stokes was an act that could not be justified. They as once offered to pay, as compensation for the irregularity of the procedure, the sum of 150,000 francs—\$30,000, to order the restitution of all property connected with the estate, and to instruct their officials to settle the estate in concert with the British Consul General in the Congo State. They also offered to give an engagement that Captain Lothaire shall be brought before a court competent to throw light upon the whole question, to adjudicate on the accusations brought against Mr. Lothaire, and to inflict punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offence in the event of his guilt being established.

Lord Salisbury considered these offers fair as far as they went. He accepted them and intimated that the British Government awaited further information as to the character and composition of the tribunal before which Captain Lothaire is to be tried. The 150,000 francs was paid on the 9th of last month to Sir F. Plunket, and duly acknowledged by Lord Salisbury on the

13th. This was certainly prompt. But the British Government are far from being satisfied. They are determined that the trial of Lothaire shall not be a mere sham. The Times says: "We can hardly claim that Captain Lothaire shall be brought to Europe to be tried. This would be for many reasons the most satisfactory course, but it would be tainted with illegality. The Congo Free State is no part of Belgium. It is a separate country, with its own officers and its own appointed tribunals. Captain Lothaire must, we suppose, be tried within the confines of the state itself. Who then are to be the judges? With a strong set of local opinion in his favor, it would be no difficult matter to find a local tribunal constituted entirely to his satisfaction, before which he could stand with no disagreeable doubt as to the personal consequences to himself. We need, therefore, an assurance which we have not yet received, that there shall be no mockery of justice as this. Captain Lothaire will be tried, we presume, before the High Court at Boma, and though we have had hitherto no resident Consul at Boma, or at any place nearer to it than Luanda, a Consul has now been appointed who will shortly proceed to Congo. His presence at Boma will insure that the trial shall be a reality, and that for an admitted outrage on the person of a British subject justice shall be done on the parties, whoever they are, who are finally found to have been responsible for it."

## THE OPPRESSED ARMENIANS.

The accounts from the East are literally sickening. Every mail brings us news of murder and brutal oppression of Christians in the Sultan's dominions. It does not appear that the condition of the Armenians is better now than it was a year ago. The intervention of the European Powers seems to have the effect of exasperating the fanatical Mohammedans. While negotiations have been going on in Constantinople Christians have been murdered and robbed and outraged in many cities of Asiatic Turkey. At Erzerum more than a thousand Christians were murdered in cold blood, at Kharput 800 persons fell victims to the cruel Turks, and the buildings in which the Armenian missionaries lived and labored were sacked and burned; at Garm, in the vilayet of Sivas, 4,000 Armenians are said to have been massacred by the Kurds. There were rioting and bloodshed at Marash, Hadyni, and at Orfa the slaughter of the defenceless and innocent inhabitants is said to have been horrible. The accounts are such that the following description of the condition of the oppressed Armenians does not appear to be overdrawn. The New York Times says:

Although in their mad eagerness for plunder the Kurds and Turks have spared some lives, it is a simple fact that the wealth, intelligence and character of the Armenian people all over the empire have been almost entirely destroyed. The principal cities in every city, including merchants, school teachers and leaders of thought, were singled out for murder, and those who have escaped have been reduced to abject poverty. But it is not merely the cities that have suffered. The farming regions are desolated and flock and herds have been carried off, so that, according to the best estimates, at least a quarter of a million people are in immediate danger of starvation. Meanwhile the story of massacre grows worse instead of lighter. A second massacre in Marash, accompanied this time by the destruction of Armenian school buildings, and rumors of massacre in Aintab and Van, make up the latest list. These are three of the most important cities of Northern Syria and Eastern Turkey. Van is the seat of English, French, and Russian Consuls. In Aintab the Armenian population, long noted for exceptional intelligence and corresponding influence, has always been on friendly terms with the Turks. For these two cities to be ablaze shows that the conflict has in all probability gone far beyond the power of telegraphic orders from Constantinople to stop it, and proves that the central Government has not merely been ignorant of the outrages, but has distinctly incited and encouraged them. The story is the same everywhere—the Armenians plead only pleading for protection; the authorities promising the fullest protection and ordering the shops to be opened, and then the Turks going to destroy them, and coming out and falling on the Christians like a whirlwind, the Sultan degrading the commanding officer. Under such circumstances to believe a word that either the Sultan or his officials say or accept a single promise is both farce and crime.

The enemies of the Armenians assert that they have brought these dreadful evils on themselves. They are tricky, turbulent and unscrupulous and when they find that they have with them the sympathy of the Christians of the West they are ready at any moment to commit rash acts with the deliberate intention of provoking retaliation in order that they may have a complaint against the Sultan and his Mohammedan subjects. But there are no reliable grounds for these accusations. Some Armenians, it may be, driven to desperation, have acted rashly, but every allowance must be made for people who have been oppressed and harassed as they have been. The only excuse that can be made for their not being in open rebellion is their weakness, and the utter hopelessness of organized resistance to the Sultan's Government. The way that they have been treated by the Government that should have protected them, made rebellion, if there was the remotest chance of its being successful, a duty. To contend that they should be humble and submissive, that they should kiss the rod that smites them, is to assume that they have the spirit of slaves, and are not worthy of freedom.

It is to be hoped that the interposition of Christian nations will have the effect of putting an end to the oppression of the Armenians and other Christians in Turkey. So far that interposition has done little or nothing to alleviate the condition of the oppressed Christians. It is to be feared that when the fanatical Mohammedans find out that the Sultan has not the power to treat the Christians as he pleases they will despise the authority of his Government and wreak

their vengeance on the defenceless Christians. The average Turk believes the Sultan to be all-powerful, and it is hard to tell what he will do when he finds that the potentate whom he believes to be the ruler of the world has been forced by Christian Powers to adopt towards the hated and despised Christians a policy of humanity and strict justice. There are indications that the end of the Turkish Empire is at hand. The sooner its dissolution takes place the better for mankind.

## A WAR OF TARIFFS.

It is amusing to read what the American jingoes write about the "dread" with which England regards unfavorable American tariff legislation. If England could be provoked into a war of tariffs, which is unlikely, but by no means impossible, the people of the United States have far greater reason for "dread" than those of Great Britain. Great Britain's market is the whole world; the market of the United States is chiefly Great Britain. Agricultural products of many kinds are the chief exports of the United States. Its export of manufactured goods is comparatively small. Even with the British market open and free to the American farmer and stock raiser they have not been of late years particularly prosperous. Prices have been very low and the demand dull. Close the British market to the products of American farms and pastures and there would be literally no demand at all for a very large proportion of the breadstuffs and provisions produced in the United States. The bad times in all the agricultural states would then be infinitely worse than they are now or ever have been, and the whole nation, and not the tail-twisters alone, would be the sufferers. The Americans who gloat over the idea of a war with England are nothing better than fools. They cannot see an inch beyond their noses. Such a war would be a suicidal war, it would be an unnatural war, and it would be an inquiry of monstrous proportions. The wickedness of it is simply appalling to those who are intelligent enough to form an idea of some of its unavoidable consequences no matter what the ultimate result might be. There could be no gain in such a war. Both nations would lose more than could be readily conceived, and the world would lose immeasurably when the two nations that should be the leaders in all that advances and ennobles humanity were using all their powers to ravage and destroy each other like two bands of heathen barbarians.

## LED AS TRY.

As a great deal of interest is just now taken in Venezuela it may be well to learn from an intelligent United States citizen, who lately visited that South American Republic, how the Venezuelans regard the matter in dispute between their country and Great Britain. The American visitor is Richard Harding Davis, and he has given his impressions of Venezuela and masters Venezuela in a very interesting article in the Christmas number of Harper's Magazine.

"The Government of Venezuela," Mr. Davis writes, "at the time of our visit to Caracas was greatly troubled on account of the boundary dispute with Great Britain, and her own somewhat hostile action in sending three foreign ministers out of the country for daring to criticize her tardiness in paying foreign debts, and her neglect in not holding to the terms of concessions. These difficulties, the latter of which were entirely of her own making, were interesting to us as Americans because the talk on all sides showed that in the event of serious trouble with any foreign power Venezuela looks confidently to the United States for aid. In expectation of receiving this aid she is liable to go much further than she would dare go if she did not think the United States was back of her. Her Government is entirely sympathetic of our Government, its basis on many friendly acts in the past."

All of these expressions of good-will in the past count for something as signs that the United States may be relied upon in the future, but it is a question if the policy of looking at it, for according to the point of view, the Monroe doctrine is expected to cover a multitude of sins. President Monroe said that we should consider any attempt of the European powers to extend their system to any part of the hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety, and that we could not view any interference for the purpose of oppressing their governments that had declared their independence, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power in any other light than as a manifest violation of an unfriendly disposition to the United States. He did not say that if a Central American Republic banished a British consul, or if Venezuela told the foreign ministers to leave the country on the next steamer, the United States would back them up with force of arms.

Here we have the secret of Venezuela's obsequy in persisting to prefer claims that are perfectly groundless. She believes that no matter how unreasonable her demands may be the United States will make her claims its own. The tone of a part of the United States press and the speeches of many American politicians give the Venezuelans good reason to believe that the American people will eagerly seize upon any disagreement that may arise between Great Britain and Venezuela about boundary lines as a pretext to pick a quarrel with the British Government. The foolishness of the Yankee talk talks would become unpleasantly apparent if they by their violence and their insolence provoked a war between the two countries. In such a war the United States would lose more in a single campaign than the whole generation of tall talkers and their backers can form any conception

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## FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM.

A Victorian Returned From Cuba Tells About the Causes of the Revolution.

While Paying Enormous Taxes the Cubans Have Practically No Share in Governing.

"Cuba shares with Java the distinction of being the most fertile islands on the globe," said Mr. Arthur Garesche yesterday in speaking of the war that is now being waged by the Cubans against Spain for their independence. Mr. Garesche is an old Victorian who has lived in Cuba for years, but now that the war is raging business is at a standstill and he will wait until the war is over before he goes back to Cuba. Last year Cuba, with a population of a million and a half, raised for export natural products valued at quite \$75,000,000, yet the condition of the people is anything but a prosperous one. The reasons which the Cubans give for the present war are primarily that the bulk of the population have no representation in the Cortes and that the taxes are so heavy that the people are impoverished. In the first place Cuba has no representative government, but is ruled from Spain. True, the island sends some representatives to the Spanish Cortes, but while the 140,000 Spaniards resident in Cuba have sixteen of these representatives, 1,000,000 native Cubans have only eight. This is brought about by giving the commercial class, which are all Spaniards, a more liberal franchise than the Cubans. Then comes the taxation. Cuba pays the expenses of all the Spanish legations in America, the expenses of the old war in San Domingo, even for the Spanish invasion of Mexico, for the former revolutions in Cuba and other war expenses, footing up a debt of \$200,000,000. This war debt has since the present troubles broken out increased by fifty millions, making an expenditure of over three millions a month. Add to this \$200,000,000 for the national government and \$13,000,000 for municipal government, and altogether the public debt of the island has to provide for is \$115 per head. Compare this with \$10 a head, the debt of the island of Jamaica, under the British flag, and it will be seen what an enormous burden the Cubans have pressing upon them. To meet this, taxes of every kind conceivable are imposed. A man is taxed \$25 if he owns a cart; a man cannot even register in a hotel without paying a tax; a rancher has to pay \$3 for butchering one of his own cattle; even before he can paint his house a Cuban has to pay a tax for permission. Then, while all the officials are appointed by Spain, the Cubans have to pay the salaries, and the Governor-General has the arbitrary power of interfering even in provincial councils and dismissing members of these councils, half of whom are appointed by the Spanish government. The whole scheme in effect puts the Cubans at the mercy of the small Spanish population. These are the chief causes that led to the present fight for independence.

The revolution broke out on February 27. The beginning was so small that the Cubans who started it numbered only 400. Indeed Mr. Garesche passed through Ibarra, where, simultaneously with Santiago de Cuba, the first blow was struck, on the very day the rebellion broke out, and nothing unusual seemed to be going on. Since then the fighting has spread over three-quarters of the island, and the Cubans are practically masters of all the eastern half of the island and are gradually forcing the Spaniards westward. There are 75,000 men in the Cuban army and they are being continually reinforced. These men are all armed and there were more arms to supply them than force of the revolutionists would be even larger. For twenty-three years the Cubans had asked for responsible government of their own, but without effect. Just when Mr. Garesche left the Spanish government said they were willing to grant this, but it was too late. The Cubans having taken the field will not now be satisfied with any partial measure of self independence.

Hard fighters as they are, the Cubans have not proved themselves vindictive. Instead of butchering their prisoners, as has sometimes been charged against them, they uniformly have treated captured Spaniards well. Mr. Garesche says: "When they capture Spanish soldiers they take their arms away and turn the prisoners loose. An instance of this was shown in the following incident. The Cubans had captured a Spanish officer and a Cuban officer of the same rank being held by the Spaniards as a prisoner of exchange was made by the Cubans. Mr. Garesche says: 'The Spanish commander, refusing to take the prisoner, said he would have the Cubans could kill the Spanish officer for all he cared. The Cubans, however, set their prisoner free, and so disgusted was he at the heartlessness of the revolutionists that he joined the Spanish commander and fought against his old comrades.'"

The Cubans have contended themselves with overrunning and controlling the country, but do not attempt to capture the towns as owing to their lack of artillery they could not hold them against the Spaniards. While the revolutionists are sturdy men the Spanish army in Cuba is composed of immature, young recruits—mere lads of from 16 to 20 years old. They are three or four months behind in their pay, and many are now becoming disgusted and are deserting to the Cubans. The revolutionists are playing a waiting game, hoping that the climate will work in their favor, for while 2,000 Spanish soldiers have been killed in battle, 20,000 have died from fever and dysentery. There are a number of American sympathizers fighting with the revolutionists and among other foreigners the son of

## MR. HAWKINS' SUM.

TO THE EDITOR:—Mr. A. H. Hawkins, of Langley, makes a very queer calculation about oats and oatmeal. In the little sum which he works out for the edification of your readers he makes out that a ton of oats are sent into the market by the farmer makes a ton of oatmeal. Did the gentleman ever see a bushel of oats? If he did he would know that in that bushel of oats there is a great deal besides what is ground into meal.

In the first place there is a lot of dirt which is not good for either man or beast to eat. This must all be taken out before the oats are made into meal. Then, the kernel of the oat is covered with a thick shell or husk. This husk weighs a good deal in proportion to the bulk of oats even the best quality. The husk must be taken off before the meal is made. Then, inside the husk the kernel is covered with a substance that looks a little like down. This does not weigh a great deal, but it must be taken off before the oats are made into meal. If Mr. Hawkins had ever seen a mill in which oatmeal is made he would have seen lying about huge quantities of husks and piles of dirt that is taken off the oats while they are being manufactured.

And this puts me in mind of a very important part of the process of making oatmeal. The oats as they come from the field are put into a kiln and dried. They are much lighter when they leave the kiln than when they were put in it to dry. When the ton of oats is screened to take the dirt out of it, dried in the kiln, the husks and pile of dirt that is taken off the oats will not be a ton or anything like it. I doubt if it will be half a ton; certainly not a great deal more.

What reliance is then to be placed on a calculation in which the calculator makes a ton of oats yield a ton of meal. I knew better than that many years ago, when I found that although it took a good many bags to hold a fair quantity of oats going to the mill, very few were required to take the meal home. And then the meal was nothing like so clean as that which is sold in the Victoria groceries.

## COUNTRY BOY.

MONTREAL, Dec. 5.—A company of American capitalists is said to have made an offer to purchase the Windsor Hotel. The offer made is fifty per cent. of the capital stock and bonds, amounting in all to three quarters of a million. Harry Southgate and Mr. Sweet, both former managers of the Windsor, are said to be interested.

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the English consul at Nuevitas has joined their ranks. The insurgents have forbidden the grinding of sugar cane in the plantations, for the purpose of cutting off from Spain part of the revenue which helps to carry on the war. The insurgents submit chiefly to cattle, of which there are great numbers on the island, and sweet potatoes, and as they control so large a part of the island, there is no likelihood of their being starved into submission.

CAPTAIN LEWIS HOLMES, the Beaver Harbor sardine canner, is contemplating the establishment of a factory on this side of the continent, the reports made to him as to the supply of suitable fish having been eminently satisfactory. The possibilities of the sardine industry have often been talked of in Victoria, but as yet nothing has been done in the direction of utilizing the multitude of fishes available at certain seasons of the year. Captain Holmes says that he is shipping 500 cases of sardines monthly to Toronto, and that wherever his goods go they find a ready sale.

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Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was under a medical order for Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE, the whole story of the defendant Freeman that it had been sworn to in 1894, July 19, 1894.

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