

stantly passing between New York and San Francisco, from ocean to ocean. And the same train which starts from New York goes clear across the continent to the Pacific, the passengers not requiring once to leave the car in which they start, for food and every convenience are supplied upon it. It only requires to be added that the whole distance is run inside of seven days, to prove what an important event in the history of travel the opening of that railroad really is.

But our main object in commencing this article is to refer to the combination which has recently taken place between the New York Central, Great Western (of Canada) and the Michigan Central, to run an unusually rapid train between New York and Chicago, and distance within a few hours being upon thousands, and the time is set down on the table as follows:

Train leaves Chicago at	11 30 A.M.
arrives at Windsor	8 30 P.M.
" " London	12 15 A.M.
" " Niagara Bridge	3 40 A.M.
" " New York	6 25 P.M.

This must be regarded as very quick travelling for American roads. The whole distance between Chicago and New York being 936 miles is made in thirty-one hours. The rate of speed is thirty-two miles per hour, including all stoppages. When we consider that, in addition to the time required to supply engines with wood and water, the Detroit and Niagara rivers have both to be crossed over, the time made by this train is something extraordinary. It is known as the Special New York Express, and is, of course, the favorite with through passengers.

A humorous writer once said that if a machine could be invented which would throw passengers across the Atlantic from the United States to Europe, and if only one man out of every dozen managed to get safely over, he had no doubt that hundreds of Yankees would try the experiment, each certain he would be the lucky one. We fear there is a little exaggeration in this, but we have no doubt that if a train was advertised to run at a speed of fifty miles an hour—which would be very dangerous—the mania for quick travelling is so strong it would be well patronized. So far as this special New York Express is concerned, although its speed is greater than we have been accustomed to in America, yet it is not equal to the time made on several leading English roads, and is probably as safe as a slower train. All the three roads concerned—the New York and Michigan Central and the Great Western—are in capital order; they may probably be considered the best managed lines on the continent. Every precaution has been taken to ensure the safety of this fast train, and were we wanting to go from New York to Chicago, we fear the corps editorial would take the risk for the sake of the extra speed and convenience.

It is not desirable that our railway managers should cater into anything like competition in regard to fast trains. Great advances have been made in this respect of late, quite as much, we think, as the state of many of the roads warrant. Until the tracks and rolling stock approach nearer to the splendid condition which characterizes English roads, and more of them have double tracks, very rapid travelling must be dangerous. On many railways on this continent thirty-two miles an hour, including stoppages, would inevitably result in serious accidents, and it is only the superior condition of the three roads mentioned above which enables them to put on such a train with safety. At the present time, the speed on the majority of lines is quite as great as their condition warrants, and on some it would be well if the companies were compelled to go slower. We like quick travelling, but it is more important that it should be safe. That ought always to be the first consideration.

ENGLAND AND THE COLONIES.

LETTER FROM SIR F. B. HEAD.

To the Editor of the London Times.

SIR: As you have published a manifesto addressed "to the respective Governments of all the principal British Colonies, by the honorable Secretaries of" a meeting of influential colonists in England, held at the London Convention, on the 21st inst., you will perhaps, with your usual impartiality, be pleased to admit that your columns are this morning presenting a view of the imaginary grievances they complained of.

The plain facts of the case are as follows: Of the vast regions which England obtained by conquest and otherwise, those alone of Brit-

ish North America, according to Anson, amount to 4,109,636 geographical miles, of which the land portion contains nearly on-ninth part of the whole terrestrial surface of the globe.

About thirty years ago the cultivated portions of the best parts of this single region bore to the uncultivated proportions considerably less than those which the seams of a coal bear to the whole of its cloth.

Now while the seams were occupied by Colonists, and while the vast healthy wilderness, with superior title, was held by the British Crown as a Far West home for its redundant population, an unwelcome demand arose in England for what was and still is termed "Responsible Government." (responsibility a non-responsibility) and accordingly, under the fiction or pretence of conceding to the colonists, or owners of the seams, the right "to do what they liked with their own," England, like King Lear, surrendered to them the whole surface of her possessions.

But not satisfied with surrendering to a handful of colonists lands, lakes, rivers, railways, canals, public works, clergy reserves, &c., held in sacred trust for the British people, its Government resolved that their Colonial possessions, instead of being remunerative, should to a very large amount be made worth less than nothing. And accordingly, the "mother country" not only encouraged the people of our North American Colonies to borrow about twenty millions sterling, which England, in case they should become defaulters, bound herself to pay, but, as you have correctly stated, in the last session of Parliament an act was passed guaranteeing the purchase money (£300,000) of the Hudson's Bay Territory, in order that it might become a portion of that enormous federal union mysteriously termed "The Dominion."

By American statesmen and by the American Press these consecutive steps, although they have been greatly extolled in England, have long been designated "the a-s-born policy of the British Government."

As regards, however, only the future, the case is plain and simple.

The inhabitants of, say, the Canadian Dominion and of Australia have over-reached themselves and must now pay the usual penalty inflicted upon every greedy buy who swallows more than he can digest. By responsible, or rather, by irresponsible government, they have obtained not only honest possession of all that belonged to themselves, but unfair possession of all that belonged to the British people, whom they have moreover made answerable for their debts.

And in addition to all this, they now demand, not that England and all her colonies shall be equally bound by a lease of say 1, 14 or 21 years, (terminable at each period by either party,) under which, for the barren "allegiance" of certain colonies, England is to undertake, at any cost, to protect them; but that all the while they are casting in their mind's eye whether they will exercise self-government by becoming a free and independent nation, or whether they will subvertively join the confederacy of some great foreign nation, the English people, like landlords keeping in repair extensive premises for which they receive no rent, are to live on the brink of a sudden war that might utterly ruin them, simply to defend a people whose allegiance at any moment, with or without notice, can be terminated.

I deliberately submit that for the benefit of all parties, the "total independence" of any of our colonies should be simultaneously accompanied by a total cessation of protection by the empire from which, by their independence, they have virtually severed themselves.

The time was, when no one louder than myself cried out to our colonists and to Her Majesty's Government, "Hold fast!" in the particular case, and under the altered circumstances alluded to, I now calmly counsel both parties to "Let go!"

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. B. HEAD.

Croydon, Aug. 27.

Let them have their independence.—The latest intelligence from the coal mines may be summed up in the statement that there is a fair prospect that operations in the Lachrymose region will soon be resumed, while a new concession has occurred in the Leigh region, and a few of the Derbyshire mines have temporarily suspended on account of the difficulty of selling coal at the prevailing prices. It seems to be impossible, in late years, to have all these regions simultaneously at work during the summer season.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND HER COLONIES.

THE Times has the following article. We publish a letter to-day which marks an epoch. A certain number of gentlemen, described as influential colonists, resident temporarily, or otherwise, in England, met at Westminster Palace Hotel about three weeks since, and then and there recognized the changed bearing of the Imperial Government to what used to be called our dependencies. Despatches to New Zealand had spoken with no uncertain meaning. The resettlement of the Canadian Dominion had been made the occasion of something like a Proclamation of Independence. The colonists of the Cape had protested that they found themselves threatened by the Colonial Secretary with the fate of being left alone. Incidents like these coming, too, in quick succession, showed that the Executive Government of the United Kingdom, acting, as must be, in harmony with the Imperial Parliament, had resolved upon abandoning the old policy of tutelage, with its pretensions and responsibilities, and of urging the Colonies by gentle suasion to take up the freedom of their manhood. What may be thought of this change among the men who are themselves busy with the bustle and alive with the life of the Colonies, we have yet to learn, but the colonists assembled at the Palace Hotel seem to have taken flight at the prospect. They appointed a committee to confer with the different Colonial Governments, and the letter we publish to-day is, in fact, a circular which has been addressed by this committee to the several Administrations of Australia, North America, and South Africa, urging them to send representatives to a Pan-Anglican Parliament to meet at Westminster for deliberation on the relations of the Colonies to England and to one another, when the Home Parliament shall assemble next February.

If we may be permitted, without offence, to tender our piece of advice both to the colonists who have summoned this gathering for next session and to those who may attend it, we would assure them at the outset to beware of metaphors. We cannot do without metaphors but they are the most dangerous of allies. Invited for the purpose of expressing truth, they often unconsciously disguise it, and we are betrayed into infinite misapprehension, and consequent mischief, by the use of phrases whose meaning we do not carefully weigh. The circular addressed to the Colonial Governments by the colonists in London begins with a reference to the relations between the mother country and her colonies, and then describes the new policy towards the colonies announced by the Home Government as this: "That [except to the extent of partial protection in case of war with civilized powers] the mother country recognizes no responsibility for their welfare or safety, nor any obligation to help them, even in circumstances of great danger and genuine need." Now, what is meant by speaking of England as the mother country? What is to be understood by the description of Australia, Canada and the rest of her colonies? If, all that is intended is to remind us of the historical facts that the citizens of Canada, New South Wales and Victoria are mainly of English origin and descent, we shall not quarrel with the accuracy of the statement, although we may doubt the pertinence of the phrases. England is in this sense the mother country of Australia; and, just in the same way, some other land—without committing ourselves to the quarrels of ethnologists—we may say Schleswig-Holstein—is the mother country of England. Again, it may be observed that if Australia be the child of England, the United States are elder brethren of the same family. It is obvious that considerations like these, though extremely interesting in their proper relations, have no necessary connection with the mutual obligations of communities—that is to say, of societies of individuals banded together for purposes of government in different parts of the world. Let us then in the interest of truth and right conclusions discard altogether the phrase "mother country." In the discussions which are before us, let us even use with deliberation words apparently so innocent as "England" and "colony" and remember that what were called upon to weigh and determine as the proper relations of Englishmen, Australians and Canadians. There exist here at home some thirty millions of persons of like passions and infirmities with creatures of the same races elsewhere, and if inheriting much that is great from their ancestors, not a little burdened with some of the legacies they have received from them. Brothers and sisters of this community and of its preceding generations have crossed the seas and settled upon the waste places of the earth, and have claimed them for English-speaking men, receiving in their days of political weakness and growth the protection of their kinsmen at home. We are not disposed to question the policy of the obligation which the people who remained in England have punctually observed towards the nascent communities of their kinsmen. We are quite willing to admit that there was a duty on the part of ourselves and of our fathers to shield these pioneers from external danger, and that duty was honourably performed. The question now before us is totally different. Englishmen have increased and multiplied beyond even by millions. Every community among them possessing a distinct unity of its own has received the gift of complete self-government. They possess representative institutions. They tax themselves. They pass their own laws. They determine the forms of the several political organizations. With certain exceptions, which we shall mention, they treat Englishmen and Englishmen treat them as strangers are treated. We make no discriminations in favour of their commodities. They impose import duties on English as on any other goods. The only privilege which Englishmen at home retain is the privilege of service. Our Executive Government selects the persons to fill the anomalous office of Governor, and