

attaches, it is not to Mr. Joly. The De Boucherville Government and the Commissioners cannot escape condemnation, and Mr. Shanly's award is quite open to criticism.

WHEN I ventured awhile ago to speak of the panic under which our soldiers were slaughtered at Isandula, I was met with a storm of abuse from many outraged Englishmen who were silly enough to talk of my want of patriotism and such like nonsense. One gentleman in Toronto—a lawyer—used some very violent language to an old man about it; but I would call the attention of those irate correspondents to what the *Globe* says about the matter, and ask them to transfer their wrath from the Editor of the *SPECTATOR* to the Editor of the *Globe*. Here it is:—

"The day at Isandula was lost by a panic; if the men had stood their ground they would have saved themselves or died close together on the field; they were slaughtered instead over nine miles of country. The Zulu formation was such as to surround them, but they broke up before the arms of the savage army had been closed around them, and were killed in the attempt to escape. Competent authorities consider it probable that the maintenance of battle order, the formation of a square, would have kept the Zulus at bay."

BUT when the *Globe* talks of the Prince Imperial having lost his life "in consequence of the cowardice of his escort," the *Globe* talks absolute nonsense. The Prince Imperial had no escort; he was simply one of a party told off to reconnoitre the enemy. There the blunder came in; but after that he could not be the object of his comrades' particular care. The rule in a reconnoitring party is "each for himself." They have not to attack, but simply to get all the information they can, and having got that, it is their business to take to their heels when the enemy appears in sight. The *Globe* says, in the same article I have quoted: "A rally of five seconds' duration would have enabled the Prince to mount, but the troopers and their officer seem to have been lost to every sense of what was due to a comrade, though in this case the comrade was a guest." Worse nonsense than that can hardly be uttered by even the *Globe* itself. Ignorance has run off into angry and unjust accusation against an officer who did his duty.

I CONFESS to a desperate longing to have this Zulu War brought to an end. I am Englishman enough to have the fullest confidence in our soldiers and in their ultimate victory; but the odds are so terribly against them that one can but be sorry for them. The fighting they have to do is so utterly unlike all they have seen or heard of in war that it is no wonder they show a lack of steadiness now and then. Cetewayo now has a large army strongly entrenched at Umlassi, and it looks as if he will give Lord Chelmsford more than he is capable of doing there. For that reason it is to be hoped that peace will soon be concluded.

I am still the happy recipient of letters anent the remark "annexation is a popular and foregone conclusion," which I gave as the sentiment of our political leaders when talking in private circles, and which my correspondents insist upon regarding as my own sentiment. Again, let me state that I did not speak for myself, nor for this journal, but only what I hear from day to day. It would be worth while publishing the letters if they had been written with less evidence of bad temper; but couldn't we have a fair, calm discussion of the question which was put the other day to some gentlemen and got no answer:—"If the N. P. fail, what then?" The British loyalists can surely afford to be patient when talking of British connection. I am loyal enough to keep cool under such a discussion.

THE champions of Free Trade in England are getting considerably alarmed at the evident change which is taking place in public opinion. Free Trade has not made the rapid and resistless progress Mr. Cobden predicted it would make. Early in the Corn Law struggle it was demonstrated that Free Trade would be best for all parties; that it was the true ideal after which nations should strive, and, as "Eusebius" shows on another page of this journal, is promotive of a real and religious brotherhood. Those theorists were right in the abstract. But the world has not advanced far toward the abstract right; and while the United States and Germany, and even the British

Colonies, are bent upon maintaining Protection, it must be hard for English traders to persuade themselves that they ought to starve themselves in the support of a beautiful abstract theory.

THERE is a very serious storm in the camp of the English Liberals, which threatens to ruin the future of the party. The Radicals have been kept well in hand during the last five years, and have been content to give the form of obedience to Lord Hartington and the reality of it to Mr. Gladstone. But Mr. Chamberlain has assumed the offensive at last and declared in the House of Commons that a number of the Liberal party have broken away from the leadership of Lord Hartington. It is a disaster, happening just now; for if the Liberals could have gone to the elections united under a leader, and in a policy for the better administration of home affairs, they would have carried the country with them. But this division will reduce their chances of success greatly, unless meantime Mr. Gladstone should again assume his right place as leader of the party. That is the only possible chance for the Liberals.

THIS reasoning in the *World* is so good and sound that I give it in full:—

"If Free-trade be so excellent a thing that we benefit humanity by applying it, irrespective of the measure other countries mete to us in its regard, how can it be justifiable to resent the short-sighted folly of which others are guilty by refusing in a spirit of revenge to grant them what might otherwise be given? Here is the Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, at the very moment he is deep in the universal aspect of things, putting in a paltry threat of a selfish order. Our Canadian fellow-subjects are sending over a deputation to solicit from England her guarantee of a loan to pay for the construction of the Pacific Railway. It may be a good or bad thing to grant their petition; but it is not made either the one or the other by what Canada has done regarding her tariff, unless we have a right to expect a certain kind of tariff from her, which we have not, according to modern ideas. Yet Mr. Baxter allows himself so utterly to forget his sublime principles that he would meet the Canadian deputation with a peremptory order to return whence they came to revise their tariff before he would listen to their prayer. What is this but a demand for Reciprocity, which the Cobdenites are so eager to scout? They decline to consider a proposal on its merits, because as to something altogether different Canada has taken up a hostile attitude towards our trade. Let her first change her attitude to one of friendliness, and then we will see whether or not we can do her the friendly turn she requires at our hands. This is common sense, though it be neither Cobdenism nor Internationalism. And if we have still statesmen who look beyond their noses, advantage may be taken of the opportunity which such an application affords for a readjustment of the relations as to trade and commerce between the mother country and her spoiled pet, the Dominion of Canada. By throwing the reins of authority on the necks of our Canadian fellow-subjects, and telling them to do as they pleased without dread or interference from us, we encouraged them to leave our interests wholly out of account in their tariff arrangements. They have acted accordingly, and we find their action hurtful. We do wisely, then, to try whether we cannot resume some influence over them. We have the opportunity of doing it through this proposed guarantee of a new loan—a proposal that may be made the starting-point for a return to a better system, in which Reciprocity will have acknowledged sway, and steps may be taken towards founding something like a Colonial and Imperial Customs' Union that would be infinitely advantageous to all its members."

LONDON is the easiest place in the world to gather a mob—a staring, unmanageable, good-natured mob. Talmage has long had an English reputation for being more eccentric than any other ecclesiastical eccentricity heard of in this age, and now he is reaping his reward. They have thronged the streets to see him, and the big Agricultural Hall to hear him. But while he is the prince of sensationalists, he is undoubtedly an earnest man, and so we may well hope that some real and lasting good will come of it.

*Sic transit gloria*—but one is sorry to see it happening in the case of Prince Bismarck. He has made of Germany a great nation, among the first, if not the first of European Powers; but now Germany is slipping away from the Chancellor. The Empress has always disliked him, but never ventured to show it openly until a few days ago, which may be taken as an indication that his popularity is on the wane. The strange thing about it is that the Emperor, who has done nothing but obey Bismarck, is gaining public favour as Bismarck is losing it. The men who follow are usually better treated than they who work for society.

EDITOR.