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THE English still carry their natural conservatism to a remarkable length, even in trade, whence one would expect to find that competition had long ago banished it. Thus it has been found almost impossible to introduce a new article into the English market, because, however superior it might be to that which it was proposed to displace, *this* being familiar to dealers would hold its ground in spite of every effort to supplant it. It is, as it were, planted within a charmed circle, guarded by the whole trade, within which no outsider can penetrate. A natural result of this ultra-conservatism, working however in a different direction, has become manifest in the course of a visit made by the Colonial and Indian representatives to the manufacturing centres of the North of England. The Colonists were there much struck with the circumstance that, with all her vast resources, England still allows herself to lose ground in the Colonial markets in consequence of perfectly remediable causes. This circumstance, no doubt, explains also to some extent the decline of the general export trade of Britain; yet its almost sole cause is the neglect by the great body of manufacturers to find out what the Foreign and Colonial markets want, and their failure to apply themselves to the supply of those wants. The Englishman's practice is too much to manufacture what he has been in the habit of doing, and to send out to the Colonies what he finds he can sell at home; while the American studies the market, makes no stock at a venture, but adapts himself to the circumstances of the hour. To take a few instances, the Canadians prefer for forest work an axe much blunter and of heavier make than that employed in England. For years English axes were sent out without regard to Colonial tastes, and the result is that now in the Dominion it is the exception to meet with an English-made axe. The bulk of those used are from the States, not at all because English firms cannot make such axes, for they can and do, but because English slowness allowed the Americans, who watch the wants of their customers, to forestall them in the possession of the market. In New Zealand all the spades used come from America, because the Americans found out that in New Zealand there was a preference for a light handy spade, and made what was wanted, while the heavy spades which were sent out from England were unsaleable. On the eve, as we believe, of opening up a foreign trade, Canadian manufacturers should bear in mind these facts; as we again say, Canada as a junior partner in the British firm, has an immense advantage over the Americans in a free access to British markets, and wherever these have obtained a footing, there is nothing to prevent us from ousting them always.

SIR WILLIAM DAWSON delivered last week a noble inaugural address as President of the British Association for the current year. It was applauded by an audience of over two thousand persons, of a class of trained thinkers whose approval is highly valuable. The occupancy of so exalted a position, with such acceptance, by a Canadian, must redound greatly to the honour of this country, and is likely to draw the attention of the British people to us more strongly than heretofore. Already we hear the masses have begun to distinguish intelligently between Canadians and Americans; and perhaps after this it may come to be recognised generally that we produce something else besides Rebellions and Ice Palaces. To the enterprise of the *Montreal Gazette* of the following day we are indebted for a very full résumé of the address, which was delivered at Birmingham, England, on the 1st instant, and dealt with the geological history of the North Atlantic Ocean. We have no space to follow Sir William Dawson's argument; but there are two or three features of it that may be profitably noted, albeit in brief. As, for instance, where he says that since the dawn of geological science it has been evident that the crust of the earth on which we live must be supported on a plastic or partially-liquid mass of heated rock, approximately uniform in quality, under the whole of its area. This interior heated and plastic layer he regarded as merely an under-crust, the mass of the earth, its nucleus, being practically solid and of great density and hardness. Where vents or fissures form in the upper crust, the material of the lower crust is forced upwards by the pressure of the less supported portions of the former, giving rise to volcanic phenomena. Sir William rejects the theory of a mid-Atlantic continent, that dream of

the poets and Mr. Ignatius Donnelly, and maintains that the Atlantic has been always in the form of a shallow plate with its middle raised; the earth's crust, as we understand it, being forced up at the edges of the plate, where now are the continents of Europe and America, by several natural causes. The older mountains of Eastern America and Western Europe were the first to emerge, during the Laurentian period, and probably at this period the land was limited to high latitudes, and its aspect, though more elevated, must have been of the character still seen on the Laurentian Hills. In concluding his address Sir William said: "We cannot, I think, consider the topics to which I have referred without perceiving that the history of ocean and continent is an example of progressive design, quite as much as that of living beings. . . . The vastness and the might of ocean, and the manner in which it cherishes the feeblest and most fragile beings, alike speak to us of Him who holds it in the hollow of His hand, and gave to it of old its boundaries and its laws; but its teaching ascends to a higher tone when we consider its origin and history, and the manner in which it has been made to build up continents and mountains, and at the same time to nourish and sustain the teeming life of sea and land." And, we may add, no less eloquently does this human intelligence, dwelling in a mere clod of matter, surveying with clear insight from the Birmingham platform the remotest past and the process of construction of this flowery abiding-place for man—this nursery of immortal souls—speak to us of one purpose of His beneficent design.

IN an article on the "Abuse of Citizenship," the *London Times* says the abuse of American citizenship must inevitably form one of the most important points of discussion in the future diplomatic relationship of Great Britain and the United States. At the Chicago Convention the leaders of the Irish revolutionary and political clubs and societies in America met together to consult upon the best means of promoting the cause of rebellion and disturbance in every portion of the British Empire; this is but a repetition of what has occurred for some years; and the question that must be decided sooner or later is simply whether or not Irishmen naturalised in America can claim the right and privilege to aid and abet political conspiracies and felonies, designed to harass and obstruct the British Government, and bring about tremendous political changes in the British Constitution. Intrenched upon foreign soil, with a foreign treasure chest and foreign advisers, the enemies of England are allowed to hatch undisturbed their plots and schemes against the British nation; the Chicago Convention is the public expression of the intention of a certain section of American citizens to make war on British law in Ireland. By the law of the United States the Irish naturalized in America are citizens. Why is it, that alone, of all the twenty-two nationalities that supply immigrants to that country, the Irish behave like conspirators who have merely paid their one dollar for naturalisation in order to raise money for carrying out intrigues, and promoting crime and disturbance in the land of their nativity? Have Irish-born citizens of the Great Republic rights and privileges denied to native-born Americans? It would certainly seem so.

THE *Times* then puts a case by way of illustration, and believes that if an association of Americans descended not from modern Irishmen, but from the old Puritan stock, were to organise themselves into a body with avowed hostile intentions against any country friendly to the United States Government, that Government would take instant notice of the matter. And if those native Americans were further to subscribe money to carry on physical or financial operations against the laws of that friendly country, there would soon be an outcry which would create a strong public opinion against such an organisation, followed by very strong measures of repression. From the evidence adduced at the Anarchist trials, there seems no doubt that the Irish dynamite wing in Chicago are in active sympathy with the foreign Nihilists who flock to America; and this consideration, among others, sagacious Americans should well weigh in dealing with this question. The particular use which Irishmen have made of their citizenship must be allowed to every other nationality, and in a few years America will be the playground of all the aggressive nationalities of Europe, who may bring with them race antipathies or factious disputes, and domicile them permanently in their adopted land. But the *Times* points out, the opportunity now occurs to make the Irish in America understand that they are not the depositaries of the balance of political power. Whatever power they possess has been used to embarrass the diplomatic relations between England and America, and to advance the personal interests of their own "bosses." Already there is a growing feeling in the Democratic party that they have borne too long the yoke of the Irish voter. It is a statistical fact, and one thoroughly appreciated by