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M. Mercier's scheme may not be really a repudiation one, and is probably not so intended, but it is a questionable piece of financiering for questionable purposes, and is evidently so regarded in London, where it has aroused a feeling destructive of confidence in Canadian Provincial Stocks as investments. So strong is the feeling that a petition is urged to the Imperial Government to take steps for the protection of British investors.

There is no end or bottom to the credulity which gapes after every new quack nostrum put forth by persons with a fad. Someone has been prating about the efficacy of subcutaneous injections of strychnine as a cure for inebriate cravings. Sound doctors treat the idea with contempt. There is more force in the opinion of a Toronto doctor, quoted in connection with the discussion, "Plenty of beef tea, well peppered, with a good strong resolution to avoid the tempting glass."

A certain Dr. Sivartha, of Chicago, who, from his name, we suppose to be a Scandinavian, is working both in England and America on a project for the resettlement of Palestine. Plans have been formed to rebuild Jerusalem in "harmony with the prophetic descriptions of the Bible." No doubt Palestine could be resettled with advantage, the reports of its fertility being very satisfactory; but we do not often catch on the wing, so to speak, such an instance as is afforded in the words we have quoted, of the capability (well recognized by critics) of the acceptance of prediction as prophesy, to lead to its fulfilment.

The British Board of Trade has published a return, showing the total volume of British tonnage registered in 1887, as compared with the United States and other countries. This return, says the *Pull Mall Gazette*, shows very clearly the immense superiority of British merchant shipping over other countries, and the striking change in the position of America since the civil war. In 1860 the United States had registered for foreign trade 2,500,000 tons, while the United Kingdom had only 4,500,000. Last year the United States had just over 1,000,000 tons, and England had 7,250,000, while the British Empire, including the United Kingdom, had over 9,000,000 tons. The United States has, of course, a large fleet of lake and river steamers, the tonnage amounting to 3,000,000. The Continental countries have not varied much for some years past. Norway stands at the head of the list, with 1,500,000 tons, Germany next, with 1,250,000, and France with 1,000,000.

The Bishop of Manchester recently delivered at Cambridge a speech on Imperial Federation of a most stirring character, but also marked by the strongest common sense. Dr. Moorhouse, recently bishop of Melbourne, has the advantage of speaking with the thorough knowledge of Australian feeling belonging to a mind of the broadest grasp, eminently capable of looking well ahead. There is no doubt that Australia is knit to the Empire by ties stronger, or at least less interfered with by adverse influences, than Canada, of which, of course, the able Bishop knows little, but the following is the peroration of his masterly delivery. He thought "separation would be a calamity. Let England and the Colonies have Imperial Federation, that, as a great Empire, England, in conjunction with that other great Anglo Saxon Empire—the Republic of the West—might, allied in hopes and feelings, place the hand of strong repression on all autocratic and dynastic and ministerial ambition, and so lead the nations of Europe and the world into that great millennium of peace for which every good man must pray." Only we fear our southern neighbors don't see it in that light!

Mr. Chamberlain, after his visit to America, thus wrote to a friend:—"It is a fact, which would not be challenged by any intelligent American, that the power of the democracy in this country is now more direct than that of the democracy of America. Practically the suffrage is nearly as wide in the United Kingdom as in the United States, but the checks imposed upon the action of the democracy in the latter country exceed anything in existence here. In this country the House of Commons is really all powerful, and popular opinion acts directly upon it. In any considerable question the House of Lords is powerless to frustrate the decision of the House of Commons. In America, on the other hand, there are many coordinate authorities. The Houses of Congress and the Executive are each elected by the people, but at different times and under different circumstances. The constitution is a written one, and can only be changed with difficulty. The Supreme Court can and does declare illegal and *ultra vires* any legislation which is contrary to the constitution. It is seldom that the various bodies to be consulted are in agreement, and the action of any one of them is sufficient to nullify that of the others." Consequently many desirable measures are permanently shelved and defeated through the action of conflicting Presidents, Senates, and Houses of Representatives.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper, and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Labouchere has received from Patrick Egan, now in America, all the letters received by him from James Carey during his stay in France. This is all very well, if they are the letters; but it has been previously stated that they are copies, and if so, it will be very difficult to persuade the Commission of their reliability, considering the unscrupulous quarter from which they come.

There is no marplot to compare with the bigot and the man of one idea. Parson Burchard four years ago killed Mr. Blaine by his "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion." A Methodist Bishop named Vincent is now doing his best in this line for General Harrison. "Being a true Prohibitionist and anti-Romanist," he says, "I am a Republican." General Harrison will be about as pleased as the Liberal party of Nova Scotia have recently had reason to be in Cumberland and Colchester.

The *Sylvia Handy*, a United States sealing schooner, has been seized in Bearing's Sea, 17 miles from shore, for alleged violation of the rights of the Alaska Company. Judgment of forfeiture was given by the Alaska District Court, and the owners have appealed to the highest court of the Republic. The decision of that court will be watched for with interest. The Alaska company is an unscrupulous monopoly, exercising great local power, but it will probably make a good deal of difference "whose ox is go.ed"

There is some grumbling, and not a little fun about the Naval Manoeuvres. Towns are laid under contribution, and mail steamers are captured, while the actual combatants do not always yield when it is said they ought to do so. Every now and then something ludicrous turns up, but there can be no doubt that many defective workings are brought to light and doubled down, and that the wits of many officers will be sharpened by the mimic warfare. On the whole, though sham battles can never be quite satisfactory, they must do good. At all events, they are a bonanza for the reporters lucky enough to be attached.