

men, whose patriotism should be like the virtue of Cæsar's wife, above suspicion, have not, we are sorry to record, proved the purity of their sentiments when such were put to the test by Mr. Chamberlain in his proposed bill to reduce the pay of the Members of the House of Commons. Retrenchment and economy are virtues which every tax-payer would be delighted to see practised in the administration of public affairs; fifty thousand dollars a year may possibly be a large sum to pay the Governor sent to us from England, but that sum is about all we are called upon to expend for the protection extended to us by the British Government, and the vast sums spent by it in defences of our country; besides, to secure the services of an eminent English statesman, as our Governor-General, we should be prepared to offer sufficient inducements. But, if we pay a large salary to her Majesty's representative, we should have a person whose position and talents should offer at least some equivalent in return. To secure such a Governor, a liberal salary must be allowed, but when such liberality does not secure that end, it is, perhaps, as well to rate the services rendered at something like their approximate value. On the same principle should the services of Members of Parliament, as well as those of clerks and messengers, be considered and rewarded; but in this instance, the sauce which so well applies to the goose does not seem to be equally good for the gander. While we congratulate the members of the House of Commons upon having saved for the country a few thousand pounds, by reducing the Governor's salary, and phlebotomizing the Civil Service, we must at the same time, make a note of their unwillingness to apply the commendable principle to their own case. It is a notorious fact that many individuals, remarkable for not being remarkable, who, from the accidents of family connexion, think they have a right to lead the lives of gentlemen, come to Ottawa to foist themselves upon the country, which unfortunately has already to support too many of the same stamp. Over the heads of such we have no objection to see the scolding-knife of economy flourished, inasmuch as their usefulness to the country bears no proportion to their ornamentality to the saloons of Ottawa. For the proper carrying on of the business of Government many talented and educated gentlemen are employed in the Departments of the Civil Service, such are of necessity required, and of course, must be remunerated according to their value, these are altogether different from the class above mentioned, and are every way worthy of their position, which it would be false economy to lower to any serious extent. The organization of the Militia and the erection of fortifications required by the Home Government, we also perceive, are to be made subject to the economy-man, at present so fashionable, but we sincerely trust

that these vital questions will be dealt with in a spirit more becoming our position, and with a just appreciation of the duties we owe to the Mother Country; and while we condemn all needless extravagance, we strongly deprecate pushing the principle of economy to such a niggardly extreme as will render us tempting y liable to foreign invasion, and contemptible in the eyes of the people of Great Britain.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

This tedious struggle which has been carried on so long without any apparent advantage to either party has at last produced an event worthy of particular attention; we refer to the brilliant feat performed by the Brazilian ironclad squadron in the passage of the Humaita. The Buenos Ayres *Standard* in a special edition dated February 25th, says:—

"The cannon of the Brazilian Ironclads, as they forced the passage of Humaita, has re-echoed over this continent, and will reverberate through Europe. No event of equal importance has occurred in this part of the world during the present generation; and to the high honor of the Brazilian flag, it must be said that the naval victory achieved is every way worthy to rank with Aboukir or Trafalgar. Brazil may well be proud of her victory, for not only will it give her the complete command of the Paraguayan river, and crumble the greatest bulwork of Paraguayan strength, but it has given a birthday to her naval power which posterity will revere. Party feeling and political rancour may seek to strip this great naval victory of its magnitude, and attribute the success less to the bravery of the Brazilian sailor than to the worn-out and exhausted condition of the enemy; but we have it on the best authority that the guns of the fortress were fired with the most incessant rapidity, and such was the terrific effect of this awful discharge of heavy artillery that 'the earth shook at Itapiru, a distance of seven or eight miles from Humaita, and the river dashed in billows on its banks. This proves that the guns of Humaita were well manned, and that, notwithstanding the immense delays, the enemy was well prepared to dispute the pass. Experienced American and English and French naval officers who had seen Humaita, inspected the position, and gone through the batteries, all unanimously agreed on its extreme strength. For three years the greatest squadron ever known in these waters has ridden at bay below range of the guns; the difficult navigation of the river, the constant bends in the channel, all tending to convince a doubting and possibly jealous public that Humaita would never be passed by a Brazilian fleet. But Brazil has at last vindicated her honor, and established a naval reputation before which the rest of South America must bow. The passage of Humaita is equally a triumph of science, and we commend it to the attention of our naval men at home, that three Brazilian ironclads, all built in England, survived for 42 minutes the combined fire of 180 guns, and this for at least half the time within pistol shot range. We have nothing previous in naval history to equal this; on the contrary, naval men since the memorable battle of Lissa have lost faith in these ironclads; but we hold that the battle of Humaita establishes for ever their suprem-

acy, and Europe may take a lesson from the engagement. No light in North America, no engagement in the open seas, can be compared with this memorable battle. The ships had to double the projecting headlands to make the canal, when they at once came within range of a raking fire from the London battery. They had to push on under this fire and hug the very shore where the finest artillery in South America were splendidly mounted to riddle them; up almost to the very mouths of the guns they had to steer all the while, enfiladed by 140-pounders from the opposite bank. Doubling again a slight bend in the canal, they came where the chains lay in the river, and the chain batteries facing on the left bank. Iron plates have indeed asserted their supremacy, when, for the space of 42 minutes, three monitors could live under such a fire. And let us take nothing from the bravery of the officers and men who dared almost certain death to carry their flag triumphant in such an hour. No, the Brazilian commander has proved the bravest of the brave, and he and his men merit the highest recompense their country can afford. The fortress of Humaita is not of yesterday's formation. If it took three years to humble, it took ten times that to erect. The earnings of a whole nation—the wealth of a country, aided by the best engineering talents Europe could afford—have all been brought into subserviency to render Humaita impregnable. None who have ever seen the place have questioned its strength. Old President Lopez had such implicit faith in its impregnability that he believed even if a Xerxes attacked Paraguay he could not pass Humaita. The same implicit confidence in its strength was inculcated in the minds of the Paraguayan people. Their watchword was 'Humaita,' and possibly to the exaggerated idea of its strength by the President Lopez may be traced to grave political errors which step by step led this unfortunate man from the cautious policy of his father to become the great champion of River Plate equilibrium."

THE EASTER REVIEW IN ENGLAND.

The great success which attended the Volunteer review at Portsmouth during the present year has been the cause of much gratification to the English people. The gathering of Volunteers on that occasion was by far the largest ever made, there being upwards of 30,000 Volunteers present at the great sham battle. We regret that want of space in the present issue compels us to hold over an account of the interesting occasion. The moral to be deducted from this display of the Volunteer strength of England is peculiarly striking and instructive; and we believe there never yet was an occasion when the glorious liberty of British institutions was better displayed in reference to their stability thus representatively upheld by the Volunteers. No other nation in the world could offer a counterpart to such a display, and the people of England may well be proud of possessing such an army of citizens. Contemplating the possibility at some future day of an invasion of the soil of Great Britain, an effort was made on this occasion to demonstrate the practicability of concentrating at 24 hours' notice 30,000 or 40,000 troops at any point