

return, gives notice of some claim in respect to lands which he intends to make on the Canadian Government—a claim which can be dealt with on its merits. There is no reason to look upon Riel's return as a possible element of disturbance.

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS, in the *Montreal Witness*, rejects the panacea of Imperial Federation, pronouncing it the most impracticable of all the changes that have been proposed. "It would," as he observes, "deprive the Canadian people of the regulation of their own fiscal policy, and would involve Canada in disputes in which Great Britain is almost incessantly engaged, not only in Europe but in other divisions of the globe." This is undeniable; and the objection to surrender a valued right and to assume an unknown responsibility must, in the end, determine the question. But Sir Francis cannot imagine any other ending of the present connection than through a violent quarrel. "The people of Canada," he says, "have no just ground of complaint against the Mother Country, and without such it would be simply impossible to induce a considerable number of them to join in an attempt to change their political institutions and to substitute a republic." But why should Canadian independence, when it comes, be the result of a quarrel? Violent separation is not the law of nature. In well regulated families, the son who has attained to man's estate does not leave the paternal roof in anger. He goes because to go is to follow the natural law, by which the succession of the race is regulated. Nothing can be more mischievous than to inculcate the idea that a violent separation is the necessary ending of the colonial connection. Violent separations, in the past, have been the result of mistakes which, with the experience of the past, it would be criminal to repeat.

THE distinguished Englishmen who are deliberating in Montreal have probably been astonished to read in the daily press of this country that the British Government is on the verge of hostilities with an allied France and Germany; that the attitude of Prince Bismarck is menacing; and that he is so angry with England that nothing less than her humiliation will satisfy that inscrutable personage. The feeling in official circles in Berlin is, we have been told, "intensely bitter against England," and one journal speaks glibly about "the Berlin cabal, of which France is now part," which is "holding the question of the Alexandria indemnities over England's head." This, and much more of the kind, equally false and absurd, has been appearing as "special" intelligence; but it cannot be too particularly impressed upon our visitors and upon Canadians that matter appearing under that caption is the least reliable of all published in Canadian or American journals. In many cases it is merely a proof of the inventive genius of the local editor, who, in a too-zealous desire to outstrip his contemporaries, allows his creative pen to magnify highly-coloured New York gossip into an alarming rumour. When it is remembered that almost all English telegraphic news comes by way of New York to this Dominion, and that a large proportion of the readers of the most enterprising journals in the Empire City are Irishmen, who, unfortunately, prefer to read anti-British screeds, a sufficient reason is made manifest for discounting the average "cable news." All the reports which, for two weeks, have been circulated about Bismarck's quarrel with Italy and Austria, and arranging an alliance with France, are simply false and ludicrous. In the sea-serpent period, with England and France at loggerheads upon the Egyptian fiscal policy, and Germany foiled in her attempt to include foreign matters in the strangled Conference, there was good material for alarmists and pessimists to work upon. Hence, even in Europe, there was mysterious talk in some quarters of France and Germany drawing nearer to each other; but, so far as that *rapprochement* was hinted at in Paris, the rumour merely expressed what French politicians wished. France views her lost prestige in Egypt with regretful eyes, and would gladly play off England against Germany in the hopes of benefiting by the squabble. But Mr. Gladstone has no mind to submit to this; and Prince Bismarck at heart appreciates, even better than the English people, the position taken up by the British Premier. "The annexation of Egypt by England," says the *Berlin Post*, "would mean neither more nor less than actually opening the liquidation of the Turkish inheritance, just as though by the will of all the Powers steps were taken for the compulsory dismemberment or partition of the Turkish empire." In other words, if Mr. Gladstone could be persuaded to annex Egypt—as Bismarck cynically advised—the whole Eastern question would be re-opened, and that would give the opportunity, so devoutly desired by Germany, of setting aside the treaty of Berlin. Prince Bismarck admits that England has taken the right course. "It goes without saying that no English politician of any discretion or judgment contemplates such a scheme (as the re-opening of the Eastern question), the danger of which to England is obvious." Moreover, he is the last man to throw away the

advantages which arise from the traditional rivalry between England and France in the Valley of the Nile; the best proof that his past policy of neutrality on this question was a wise one being the strenuous endeavours of France to induce him to abandon it.

THE sport of the current month includes some capital fixtures, and the results of the various contests will be looked forward to with much interest. The annual cricketing tour of the Canadian Zingari begins with a match at Boston on the 8th and 9th September, against the Longwood club. On the four following days the Eleven play in New York against the Manhattan and Staten Island clubs. Among those taking part in these games are half-a-dozen of the men who are to represent Canada in the International match to be played at Philadelphia on the 15th, 16th and 17th. The American International team is, with slight differences, to be the one which has just finished a rather successful attack on English cricketers upon their own grounds. The annual Lawn Tennis Tournament for the championship of Canada is to begin on Thursday, the 4th September, on the Toronto Lawn Tennis club grounds. This fixture has been placed somewhat later than usual in order to give competitors at the various tournaments in the United States, and more especially those who have just taken part in that of Newport, an opportunity of being present. It is hoped that several of the best men in the States will take part. We congratulate our Canadian players on the generous spirit which has made them open this tournament to all outsiders. It is impossible to understand why the committee in charge of the Newport tournament still persist in refusing to let any persons play at it unless they are members of a club belonging to the American Lawn Tennis Association. Such restriction seems a very petty one, and has met with many remonstrances among the more liberal players residing in the United States. The Royal Canadian Yacht Club are to hold their annual regatta for the Prince of Wales' Cup on Saturday next, and in the afternoon of that day the club will have an "At Home" in their Club House on the Island.

It is just as well that nobody has attempted to make out the late Duke of Wellington a great hero or a great statesman. He was simply, as an English correspondent plainly but not unkindly puts it, "a very shrewd, pleasant, fairly well read man, with a wide knowledge of life, a good eye for an anecdote, a good memory for its points, and a fine style in telling it." In all relations of life he bore himself with dignity. He did very many kindnesses, was thoughtful of others, and encouraged those who were familiar with him. But he was *great* only as a companion. He was the best man to talk probably in the whole House of Lords, though he was not much of a politician, hardly much of a party man. In his age he gave himself up to whist. He had his father's conscientiousness, a soldier's quick sense of honour, and a nobleman's courtesy; but he had no genius. He was proud of saying that his father always declared that the Prussians won the battle of Waterloo—his idea evidently being that such a declaration did as much honour to the Iron Duke as the winning of the battle itself. He had some old-fashioned ways, and at times one wondered whether he had served with the troops in Flanders; but he was at heart a noble gentleman. Everybody has heard a certain story about him—of the severe punishment which fell upon him in the East for a youthful escapade. At last he got an inkling of the tale himself, and demanded to hear it all from a friend. He laughed over it until he nearly cried. Did people really believe it? he asked. When told that they did, he laughed again; and then answered with a simple denial, the sincerity of which was undoubted. He did get into a scrape once in the East, but the consequences to him were not particularly serious.

APPROPOS of the late Duke, a London correspondent says: "The feeling of the Duke of Wellington, just dead, for the Iron Duke, his great father, is explained in story after story which enliven the dull season. The truth is that the son never shared the world's admiration for the victor of Waterloo. He who, whatever records leap to light, will not be shamed, great soldier as he was, middling statesman as he was, noble, high-souled gentleman as he was, had the faults of a martinet in his family; and the Marquis of Douro broke away early from the parental control, called upon his father to pay his debts, and never forgave him for his rebukes. Doubtless it was the great Duke's severity which made his son so little amenable to discipline, for the son (as the French say in all such cases) had a good heart. But the son's stories of the father, of which so many are now being told, must be taken with the qualification that the son did not believe in his father's greatness."

IN *The Theatre*, of London, for August were three short articles by Mr. Joseph Knight, Mr. Frank A. Marshall and Mr. J. Palgrave Simpson,