

survive anything but final consumation, so we need not be over much astonished that the revolutionary government at Madrid did not see cause for alarm in the Cuban insurrection. However, the "Universal Yankee Nation" in the person of General Sickles, towards whom we will be charitable and say nothing has rudely awakened the *Hidalgoes* to a sense of the fact that revolution is not a game a *solitaire*, but one at which many can play successfully. There can be no doubt if we are to believe all or a part of what we hear concerning this Cuban affair, but it is time some outside influence was exerted to put a stop to a state of affairs which is a disgrace to the Spanish nation. We know that much of the trouble in Cuba has been caused by the intrigues of Americans who have long looked with covetous eyes upon the fair Queen of the Antillias, but the heads of the newly constituted rulers in Spain were too full with matters nearer home to be able to pay much attention to the colonies. The American ambassador has dissolved the mist by his proposition to acknowledge the insurgents as belligerents. This is the first open approach which the United States have made to secure possession of the Island, and, with all deference to the transcendent abilities of General Sickles, we believe it to be one of the most clumsy and ill judged of diplomatic moves, when we consider that annexation of the island to the American Republic is the object aimed at.

Like the majority of United States officials who have been pitchforked into positions of honor and trust, this redoubted general has made a fool of himself, by carrying into the high toned circles of European diplomacy that characteristic roughness of which his own career furnishes so apt an example. Some American papers are already clamouring for his recall, and we hope, for the credit of the Republic, their demand will be complied with. The utter incapacity of the man, leaving aside his villainous antecedents, should debar him from any office of responsibility under the state.

Philosophers declare that "self preservation is the first law of nature," but, like all rules, it has its exceptions, therefore we hear of suicides among individuals either by sudden violence or by the slower process of dissipation or evil habits continued for years but which are sure of bringing the inevitable result. There is a homely adage to the effect that there are more ways of killing a dog than by choking him with butter, and the radical administration at present ruling the destinies of England are fully aware of the practical value of the observation, at least we may be permitted to give them credit for endeavouring to accomplish the ends they have in view by ways sometimes unexpected but nevertheless effective. The changes brought about by the lapse of time with the decadence of old and the establishment of new interests in the comity of na-

tions have not been without their effect upon the relations existing between England and her colonies. This is a subject which has been pretty fully canvassed both by the British and Canadian press, but it has been done more with reference to governmental and commercial subjects than with regard to the military aspect of the question, which is the point to which we now wish to draw attention. Although we believe the world is rapidly learning the folly of going to war, except as a last resource in defence of national rights, yet, this being the only condition in which Canadians would be compelled to enter the field, it behoves them like other people to prepare for such an event. If we are to believe the leading men and newspapers of Great Britain different sentiments actuate them to what distinguished former generations. And although these former generations created and consolidated British power in every quarter of the globe, it may be possible that their wisdom of the past would not suit the present.

This is the age of iron hard, cold, practical. Our fathers built bridges of wood and stone for their lumbering old stage coaches we build them of iron and ride over them with the iron horse, and having become so exceedingly *ironical* we are apt to regard their policy and opinions with something akin to contempt. "British Connection" for instance, has long been the cry of the best, most loyal and self-sacrificing class of Britons in America. They, having fought for the principle through many generations, are not inclined to lightly give it up. It is a cause that numbers its martyrs by the thousands, and many still live amongst us holding it dear who have received their baptism of fire and blood in its defence. But this we are told by a party in England, which has admirers amongst us, ready on all occasions to repeat its utterances, that this has all changed. That "British Connection" shall no longer be a watch cry in America, and that we must seek out a new principle by which to guide ourselves. That the old sentiment which animated our fathers was all very well for old fogies, but is now exploded. It certainly requires time to heal the soreness caused by the breaking off from old ties and associations, but we think it will require a long time to heal the wound which would be caused by severance from the mother land. People however can learn to become indifferent to traditions although they may not forget them, and future British statesmen may find with regret how much easier it was for their predecessors to pull down than it will be for themselves to build up.

The worst enemies of England must wish success to the colonial policy of the present home administration, for, should it be carried out, a blow will be struck at British power and prestige from which there will be no recovery.

By withdrawing the troops from Canada her Majesty's advisors have plainly intimated that we must undertake the burthen of our own defence, and the question naturally arises, how are we prepared to maintain the responsibility? The answer is plain. We are unprepared or so shabbily that it is not worth mentioning. Of course we can always rely upon a brave, hardy and patriotic population, but if we are to have this new idea thrust upon us, it is necessary that we should become aware of its full gravity and prepare to carry the burthen. If the Gladstone administration remains in power we may safely look to a change in our relations with England; when that time comes a well organized and efficient military force of some kind will be a necessity. That force must be either regular or militia, our poverty will prevent us having the former, and on account of our peculiar population the latter must be made as attractive and least burthensome as possible. By wise management Canada can always have a large and thoroughly efficient Volunteer force. A little encouragement from Government and the people themselves will do the rest.

But it is not among British statesmen alone that we are told a change has occurred. There are those amongst us who draw deductions from the actions of our own ministers which would seem to indicate a revolution of sentiment, but they are a very small minority and unfortunately for the success of their opinions belong to a section of the people which has long been affected with chronic discontent. The Volunteers, however, as a class are not of these, therefore, when they complain it may safely be presumed that they have some cause. The Volunteers of Canada are a necessity and must be maintained in some shape, much better than to have them contented and efficient than dissatisfied and disorganized.

The following, which we find in the columns of the *Hamilton Times*, is perfectly horrible. We earnestly recommend it to the admirers of republican liberty in England.

"The probability of Prince Arthur being assassinated in case he visits the United States has, to the disgrace of that country become a matter of discussion in its newspapers and public meetings. *L'Echo d'Italie*, the organ of the United Italy party in New York, is edited by Signor G. F. Secchi de Casali, and is a highly respectable and reliable journal. In its issue of Friday last it says:

"At a Fenian meeting held in this city on the 26th ult., one of the orators (*post-prandium*) publicly stated that an Italian had offered himself to murder Prince Arthur, the youngest son of the Queen of England, whether to ingratiate himself with the Fenian leaders or for a monetary consideration, we are left to conjecture.

"We denounce the charge as a base falsehood and an infamous stain on the fair-famed Italian nation.

A party that did not shrink from hiring a villainous assassin to slay D'Arcy McGee,