

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1895.

ULTIMA RATIO REGUM.

The little Niagara unpleasantness proves that the nations, in even this Nineteenth Century, have not advanced so very far from the savage condition as many would like to believe. The Niagara was a case of bluff, reason, and expostulation and remonstrance were thrown away upon them. As long as moral means alone were used they surely and obstinately refused to make reparations for the wrong they had done British subjects. It was only when Great Britain showed that she was determined to use physical force to compel the Niagara to do her justice that they came to terms. If the British nation had not brute force to fall back upon, no matter how good her cause was or how flagrant and unprovoked the offence committed by Niagara, justice would not have been done in the present instance, and there could be no certainty that other and worse offences would not be perpetrated in the near future. If Great Britain had given the world reason to believe that she did not feel strong enough to enforce her claims, or if she, influenced by sickly sentiment, allowed Niagara to inflict injuries on her subjects with impunity, she would soon find that other and stronger nations than Niagara would presume upon her weakness or her love of peace and take occasion to flout her, to treat her with indignity and to do her serious injury. Moral force is very good and can do a great deal if it is well backed up by physical force, or by the reputation of possessing it and being prepared to use it when occasion requires. But we fear that moral force would not go far in maintaining a nation's rights, or in securing it from encroachment by ambitious and unscrupulous neighbors. Moral force, or the justice of her cause, in the absence of a powerful and well equipped army and navy did not avail China in her dispute with Japan and we fear it is the same with other nations of whom better things might be expected. The last argument of kings is as necessary now as it was ages ago.

A SPOILSMAN FAKE.

It will be remembered that a few weeks ago there appeared in the newspapers an account of a trial for murder in Kansas, in which evidence of hypnotic suggestion was taken. A man under hypnotic influence, so the story ran, killed one of his neighbors. Both the actual murderer and the alleged hypnotist were arrested and tried. The hypnotist was condemned and executed, while the man subjected to his influence, although there was no doubt about his firing the shot that killed the victim, was acquitted on the ground that he did not know what he was doing. All the particulars of the trial were given and the names of the parties concerned, including that of the judge who admitted the evidence of hypnotic suggestion, and who, on the strength of it, condemned the hypnotist and allowed his subject to go free. The story was an interesting one, and was considered so important that hundreds of editorials were written on it both in Canada and the United States.

The account of the trial was interesting, but unhappily the part of it that made it interesting and important was altogether false. It is true that Patton was murdered by Thomas McDonald, and that Anderson Gray was tried as accessory before the fact, but it was not true that McDonald pleaded that he had been hypnotized, and it is, of course, not true that the judge admitted the plea.

A letter from Judge Burnette, the judge presiding at the trial, appears in the American Lawyer, in which he says "the question of hypnotism was never raised, never insisted upon either in the evidence, the arguments or the instructions. In the opening statement for the defence one of the attorneys, in describing the relative responsibility of the two men, discussed the question of Gray's influence over McDonald, Gray being a man about fifty-seven years old and the owner of a large farm and a man of independent will and indomitable energy, and McDonald being a boy of easy-going disposition and about twenty-one years of age, and in the employ of Gray. In discussing the question before the jury, as I said, counsel for the defence said that 'we might almost say that Gray possessed a hypnotic power over McDonald,' and that was the only reference, either direct or remote, during the whole trial that was made to the question of hypnotism."

The account of this murder trial will not, then, be memorable as the first in which evidence of hypnotism was received, but as being a remarkable instance of the unscrupulousness and the audacity of the American newspaper liar. It was a most successful "fake," having deceived cautious and trained editors in all parts of the continent. The American Lawyer, in commenting upon this impudent newspaper lie, says that the importance of hypnotism and its relation to the administration of the law is in no sense impaired by the untruthfulness of the Kansas story.

TRUE BRITONS.

The accounts that reach us of the fighting that has lately been done in India show us that as soldiers the British have not degenerated. The expeditions that marched to the relief of Chitral had hard work and severe fighting to do. They had to penetrate a mountainous country, the commanding positions of which were in possession of an active and a courageous enemy. It is no fun to march through deep ravines, the sides of which are occupied by men who know the ground and who are fully aware of the advantage which their position gives them. To storm fortresses (sangars) situated on

the top of steep hills, which were defended by plucky fellows who had a strong force at their backs, was not the amusement of a picnic or a holiday excursion. It requires pluck and endurance of no ordinary kind, in the face of a watchful enemy, to march through a country in which there are no roads properly so called, and to carry baggage, provisions, ammunition, and even guns, over hills on which the mules could not get a secure foothold, and through snow-drifts that were too deep for the pack animals to wade through. But all through the arduous Chitral campaign the British soldiers showed that they are of the same mettle as the men who have made Great Britain the owner of an immense empire. The narrative of the taking of the Malakand Pass, which the reader can see in another column, must stir the spirit of any man who has a drop of English blood in his veins, and convince him that the race to which he belongs can, when required, fight as well, and as bravely now as did the Britons of former generations, who performed such prodigies of valor in every part of the world.

THE BURNING QUESTION.

It is becoming very apparent that the money question, or the silver question, has become the chief issue in American politics. The President's letter to the Chicago merchants has pushed it to the front, but even if Mr. Cleveland had remained silent it would have occupied the principal place among the public questions which command the attention of the American people. The American papers are now filled with discussions on bi-metallic and mono-metallic, and the ubiquitous interviewer is questioning public men in office and out of office, young and old, Republican, Democratic, Populist, about the currency. It is quite evident that a campaign of education on the money question has commenced. The silver party is strong. The advocates of the unrestricted coinage of silver are many, and they are exceedingly active. But it is beginning to be seen that the men who hold conservative views on the subject are also numerous, and they are waking up to the necessity of immediate and strenuous action. They are by no means confined to one party. The "sound money men" are of both parties, and so are the silver men. It is not to be supposed that, because the President is a believer in a gold standard, the Democrats as a party are monometallists. His most powerful and most active opponents are Democrats, and the Republicans are also divided on the money question. Among those who have been lately interviewed on the subject is ex-Senator Edmunds. The interview with him appears in the New York Times of the 26th ult. He takes the conservative view of the question, and as he expresses himself very clearly we reproduce a few paragraphs of the interview to give our readers a fair idea of the ground taken by the school of financiers to which this able statesman belongs:

"Do you agree with Senator Allison, that the adoption of the gold standard was a 'mistake'?" "I do not," answered Mr. Edmunds, with considerable emphasis. "The mistake lies in the fact that we have not stuck to it. The trouble lies in the fact that we have always been wavering and always will continue to be so. If there were no debt to pay there would never be a word said about the character of the currency of the country. Until human nature shall have been reconstructed, there will always be the struggle to discharge financial obligations at the least cost. If a man borrows \$100 this year, and being a farmer, must produce 100 bushels of potatoes to meet the obligation, if when the debt becomes due he can discharge it in a currency that requires but fifty bushels to secure, he will be very apt to use that kind of money."

"There is no witchery, no magical power inherent in gold and silver or either of them that takes them out of the category which includes all other metals. They are subject to the law of demand and supply, and the idea that by the expression of some body's will this condition can be changed is what makes trouble. The farmers of Vermont know that this year they raise a million more bushels of potatoes than they did last year, there will not be such a demand for them; that their crop, bushel for bushel, will not buy them so many barrels of flour, or pounds of sugar or pairs of shoes. So it is with gold and silver or iron and copper."

"You might just as well attempt to fix by law the relative value of iron and copper, without regard to the demand for each or the amount produced of each, as to attempt to fix the relative value of gold and silver under the same conditions. The United States has no doubt could coin silver and make it legal tender in accordance with the demands of the day, but we couldn't trade with anybody else on that basis. All this does not mean that silver should not be used as a unit; it is necessary to have a unit for the transaction of domestic trade, and will always be used freely for that purpose. I am not opposed to bi-metallic per se, if conducted upon the same basis that the metals practiced it. Increase the amount of silver in the dollar or decrease that in the gold dollar, so that they will approximate each other in value, and the objection will largely disappear. But the disadvantages of that are obvious—the shifting values would require almost continual legislation to keep the dollars at a parity."

This silver question is well worth the serious attention of the student of politics or of the active-minded newspaper reader who wishes to form an intelligent idea of the attitude of the people of the United States, and indeed of this Dominion, for whatever affects the condition of our American neighbors seriously, must of necessity have an influence more or less serious on us.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY.

The Hudson Bay Railway is an enterprise about which much has been said and written. If that road gives Manitoba and the Northwest Territories a short route to Europe that can be depended upon for commercial purposes, the wisdom of encouraging it is open to question. An enterprise that will bring that great wheat-growing region within an easy distance of the best grain market in the world is worthy of all the en-

couragement that the government of the Dominion can, in justice to other interests and enterprises, give it. The only doubt, it seems to us—and it is a grave one, and one that ought to be resolved satisfactorily before the money is spent upon the road—is whether the Hudson Bay route can ever be a reliable one for commercial purposes. Once let it be proved that Hudson Bay is navigable for five or six months of the year, that during that period the arrival and departure of freight steamships can be calculated with certainty, and all objections to the Hudson Bay Railway will speedily disappear. But this has not yet been, in our opinion, proved to the satisfaction of prudent and reasonable men. The experimental voyages made by Lieut. Gordon were, we think, not calculated to raise the hopes of those who are reasonably favorable to the scheme.

It is on the navigability of Hudson Bay, on its reliability as a commercial route, that the success of the enterprise wholly depends. It is to be presumed that the Government satisfied themselves on this point before they consented to advance so large a sum as \$2,500,000 to the projectors of the enterprise.

THE RELIEF OF CHITRAL.

The garrison of Chitral must have had a very hard time of it in every way. They were in the centre of a mountainous country surrounded by half savage tribes bent upon their destruction. Any expedition that came among the relief would have to march hundreds of miles through the roughest terrain imaginable—a region devoid of the facilities of travel. There are in it neither railroads nor highways nor bridges. It must therefore be months before they could, under the most favorable circumstances, be relieved. They were shut up in the little fort on the 4th of March, and they were not relieved until the 20th of April. They had, it appears, ammunition enough, but provisions were short. They were relieved by Col. Kelly, from Gilgit, sooner than they could have expected. Sir R. Low approached Chitral from the south, and Col. Kelly's route was from the east. Though at considerable distances apart the two expeditions co-operated and helped each other. The main expedition under Sir R. Low occupied the attention of the enemy and made the route comparatively clear for Col. Kelly, who, in the face of the most formidable obstacles from the weather and the nature of the country, pressed on to the rescue of the little garrison cooped up in Chitral. Col. Kelly and Sir R. Low knew that Dr. Robertson must be relieved with all possible speed. The garrison knew that their only hope was that the forces sent to their relief would reach them before their provisions were exhausted. They had nothing to hope for from the barbarous enemy who were threatening for their blood. Surrender meant to every one of them death. It can therefore be understood that the forty-seven days of the siege were to the beleaguered a time of the most cruel and the most wearing suspense. Fighting, except to hold the fort, would not avail them. They were as helpless as rats in a trap, and they had to await their deliverance with what patience and hope they could command.

JUSTICE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Premier when announcing to the Senate the changes that had been made in the Cabinet since the last session of Parliament, made these announcements: "The isolated position of Prince Edward Island renders direct representation in the Ministry desirable. Hon. gentlemen will, I am sure, agree with me that in the accession of the Hon. Senator Ferguson to the Cabinet, the people of the Island Province have every assurance that their interests will be safeguarded." This is true enough. Senator Ferguson is a capable man, and the Island Province will lose nothing that zeal and enlightenment regard for its interests can obtain for it. But we wonder that it did not strike the Premier that British Columbia in isolating it from the rest of the Dominion as is the narrow strait that separates Prince Edward Island from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. If isolation makes representation in the Ministry desirable, British Columbia has far greater claims to be considered when a Government is reconstructed than has Prince Edward Island. From a commercial and a financial point of view this Province is more entitled to consideration than any one of the Eastern maritime provinces. Its contribution to the Dominion revenue is greater than that of any one of them, and its foreign trade bids fair before very long to vie with that of the largest and richest province of the Dominion. Its interests therefore demand the closest attention and the most favorable consideration from the Government of the Dominion. But it cannot hope to receive that attention and that consideration as long as it has no representative in the Ministry. Giving every minister in the present Cabinet all the credits that is due him for largeness of view and provincial impartiality, it is not to be expected that the very best and the largest-minded of them will give the Province with which neither he nor any of his colleagues is personally connected the attention that would be given to it if they were in constant communication and association with a colleague who would be in duty bound to advance the interests of this distant province. No government, either Conservative or Liberal, would dream of treating Nova Scotia or New Brunswick in this regard as British Columbia has been treated. They are well represented in the Cabinet as a matter of course. Yet neither of them is of more importance to the Dominion than is British Columbia, and neither of them needs the care and attention of the central Government more than this province does. This Pacific province is much the youngest of all the provinces, and it is growing faster

than any of them. Its different services are necessarily in an important position, and the Government is not as well acquainted with its needs as it ought to be, and not as deeply impressed with the necessity for supplying those needs with the least possible delay, as it would be if there was in the Cabinet an able and an energetic British Columbian. We do not blame the Government for this want of knowledge, for it is one of the conditions of the position of the province, as being the most newly settled and the most distant from the seat of government. But it is time that British Columbia was better known, and its importance more highly appreciated in Ottawa. In the interest, therefore, of the whole Dominion as well as of this Province itself, it is necessary that the best man available in the Ministry by the best man available.

REPUBLICAN FAWNERS.

The Americans are republicans. They declare in their constitution that all men are born free and equal. They profess to believe that the subjects of a monarch are under a grinding tyranny and cannot call their souls their own. They theoretically scorn an aristocracy and affect to pity the unfortunate peoples who live under monarchical institutions, and who have to grovel at the feet of the nobles of the land and ask their leave to live; yet there are no people in the world who prize titles so highly as these same Americans, and who are so eager to obtain any title that may distinguish a man or a woman from the common herd. They very consistently worship a lord; the proudest among them would do almost anything to be noticed by a duke or a prince, and to be seen in the company of a man or a woman who bears an imposing title and who is known to be a member of the aristocracy of any European country.

This weakness for titles and this eagerness to catch a ray of the grandeur that is supposed to emanate from royalty, are noticed and commented upon by the Americans themselves. A rumor was lately raised that the Prince of Wales purposes soon to pay a visit to the United States. The Washington Post comments upon the rumor in the following strain:

"This is, perhaps, the only one of the great nations of the earth which a royal personage cannot visit without annoyance to himself and demoralization to his hosts. Albert Edward goes to Nice, or Hamburg, or almost any Continental resort, and enjoys a season of relaxation. His privacy is respected; he is not tormented by vulgar importunity, he experiences almost as much freedom as a private citizen. Europeans do not much mind his every turn, starting as if he were some frank of madness, and treating him with a loathsome and servile adulation. He is permitted to feel that, for a moment, at least, he is a human being. But we can hardly picture any such privileges here. We fear that he would be little more than a prisoner from the moment he landed at New York until he passed beyond Sandy Hook on his return. He would be besieged by curiosity in its vilest and most offensive form. He would be enveloped in an atmosphere of fawning and flattery, and would be obliged to smile and to smile thick enough to asphyxiate him or to drive him mad. He would be surrounded by a host of sycophants, and he would have to dine upon a daily with snobs and toadies looking on. He would inhale the odor of the parvenu with every breath. We are not at all sure that he would like him, and would spare him needless anxiety by long and tedious questions. He would be a prisoner from the moment he landed at New York until he passed beyond Sandy Hook on his return. He would be besieged by curiosity in its vilest and most offensive form. He would be enveloped in an atmosphere of fawning and flattery, and would be obliged to smile and to smile thick enough to asphyxiate him or to drive him mad. He would be surrounded by a host of sycophants, and he would have to dine upon a daily with snobs and toadies looking on. He would inhale the odor of the parvenu with every breath. 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