

States of their own sole motion to restrict for this purpose the freedom of Behring's Sea, which the United States have themselves in former years convincingly and successfully vindicated, nor to enforce their municipal legislation against British vessels on the high seas beyond the limits of their territorial jurisdiction.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government are, therefore, unable to pass over without notice the public announcement of an intention on the part of the interference with British vessels navigating outside the territorial waters of the United States, of which they have previously had to complain.

The undersigned is in consequence instructed formally to protest against such interference, and to declare that Her Britannic Majesty's Government must hold the Government of the United States responsible for the consequences which may ensue from acts which are contrary to the principles of international law.

The undersigned has the honour to renew to Mr. Blaine the assurances of his highest consideration.

JULIAN PAUNCFOTE.

The next paper of importance is the following from Lord Salisbury:—

Foreign Office,

August 2, 1890.

SIR.—I have received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 1st ult., forwarding a copy of a note from Mr. Blaine, in which he maintains that the United States have derived from Russia rights of jurisdiction over the waters of Behring's Sea to a distance of 100 miles from the coasts transferred to them under the treaty of the 30th March, 1867.

In replying to the arguments to the contrary effect contained in my despatch of the 22nd May, Mr. Blaine draws attention to certain expressions which I had omitted for the sake of brevity in quoting from Mr. Adams' despatch of the 22d July, 1823. He contends that these words give a different meaning to the despatch, and that the latter does not refute, but actually supports, the present claim of the United States. It becomes necessary, therefore, that I should refer in greater detail to the correspondence, an examination of which will show that the passage in question cannot have the signification which Mr. Blaine seeks to give to it, that the words omitted by me do not in reality affect the point at issue, and that the view which he takes of the attitude both of Great Britain and of the United States towards the claim put forward by Russia in 1822 cannot be reconciled with the tenor of the despatches.

Lord Salisbury then reviews the history of the north-western possessions in North America. The Emperor Paul I., in 1799, granted by charter to the Russian American Co. the exclusive right to hunt, trade, etc., from Behring's Strait to 55deg. N. lat., and even further south; and in 1821 a Russian ukase was issued granting exclusively to Russian subjects "the pursuits of commerce, whaling, and fishing, and of all other industry on all islands, ports, and gulfs, including the whole of the north-western coast of America, from Behring's Sea to 51deg. N. lat., and prohibiting all foreign vessels not only from landing, but from approaching within 100 Italian miles under pain of confiscation of vessel and cargo. Against this ukase the British and the United States Governments at once objected, and a long correspondence ensued between the Russian and American Governments, Mr. Adams going so far as to assert that "the United States can admit no part of these claims." On this declaration Lord Salisbury lays special stress. He adds that Mr. Adams "clearly meant to deny that the Russian settlements or discoveries gave Russia any claim as of right to exclude the navigation or fishing of other nations from any part of the seas on the coast of America, and that her rights in this respect were limited to the territorial waters of certain islands of which she was in permanent and complete occupation."

A Harlequin's History.

His Political Exploits Recounted—Quite a Procession of Events Recalled.

The Richmond Guardian has evidently given some attention to the Hon. Mr. Mercier, and in an article in which the Opposition in the next Legislature is admonished to be true to its duty, Mr. Mercier's political career is thus summed up:

But the past record is the subject of declamation and a subject of stigma only where the other side is not bound by it. "Like master, like man"—they will follow their leader, and so long as he legislates in unison with their caprices and by any and every means will

keep out the "accursed Tories," he will have carte blanche to borrow and spend to the full bent of his inclinations and his necessities. He has been educating his party with a vengeance, and they can now jump Jim Crow to perfection on the lines which his own record discloses. But success covers every previous malefaction; still his record is written, and low as political morality has become since Mercier assumed the leadership, there are still left men who are ashamed that there is a Prime Minister in Quebec who is abashed by neither his antecedents nor his policy since he came into power. He is verily a man of contrasts. In 1862 he was a Conservative. His speeches and writings were furious diatribes against the then Liberal party, led by A. A. Dorion; in 1867 he recanted and enrolled himself in the fold of that same Liberal party; and, vehement by nature, no one of the party, Eric Dorion excepted, excelled him in the denunciation of Conservatism. In 1872 he broke away again and went so long a way ahead of the Dorions and Laframboises that he was ostracized as a dangerous agitator; then he drifted back again and became as mild as a sucking dove. For a while he was out of public life until 1879, when the death of Mr. Bachand opened to him St. Hyacinthe and a portfolio. Mr. Joly's defeat sent Mercier once more back into the ranks, and five or six weeks after he was preaching coalition, and would have given his eye teeth for a seat in Chapleau's Cabinet. From 1879 to 1881 he oscillated between the in and out, and exasperated his party by voting with the Government on measures diametrically opposed to the policy of Mr. Joly's late administration, or else ran away to Montreal when the vote was coming on,—as in the case of the division on the sale of the North Shore Railway to Senecal. When the general elections came on in 1881, Mr. Joly went to the country with a platform in which "No Coalition" was inscribed, and Mercier sulked—threatened to abandon public life altogether, and consented to his reelection for St. Hyacinthe on the condition that he should be a free lance—to hover now on the fringes of the government and now on the fringes of the Opposition. The session of 1882 saw him hob-nobbing with Mr. Chapleau. The North Shore sale broke the Conservative party into two parts:—there had been vote after vote taken on the proposal, but Mr. Mercier was away every time, and Mr. Chapleau stated that he favored the sale and would thereafter support the government—provided the bargain with Senecal was consummated. When Gagnon's vote of want of confidence in the Government was taken Mercier boldly voted against it. So he did on the Legislative Council speakership, and again for the increase of the ministers' salaries from \$3,000 to \$4,000. These were pet schemes of Mr. Chapleau, and there is no doubt there was a secret understanding between them—the price of Mr. Mercier's support being a seat in Mr. Chapleau's Cabinet,—the abandonment by him of the Terrebonne election petition, in which \$3,500 went loose, was probably part of the bargain. But Mr. Chapleau suddenly withdrew and went to Ottawa. Mercier was stranded, and Mousseau became premier. His election in Jacques Cartier was supported by Mercier, who then, once again, tried for a coalition with the new premier, using Senecal and Dansereau as his agents; but it did not work, and then he came out suddenly as a fierce opponent of the man he had tried to form a partnership with. Dr. Ross, the succeeding premier, would have none of him, and he continued to fight, not for a principle but for power. Riel's rebellion and death on the scaffold gave him his opportunity; he seized it, but still doubting the strength of his grip on his party he offered Chapleau a sum of money and the leadership to destroy the Conservative party. The bait was not taken and then he became a Frenchman of Frenchmen—more pronounced than the Pope himself; and abandoning all his old time liberal traditions he waged a war of extermination against *English* and *everything English* from the Crown downwards, and fell prostrate before the ecclesiastical power which it had been the time-honored policy of liberalism to keep in check.

Withal he is an able man—a remarkably able man; we don't regard him as a bad man. We think he is possessed of average good instincts and that he has a fund of good nature despite the vindictive vehemence of his utterances against those who differ from him; but if ever there was an inconsistent and unstable man it is Mercier. We unearth his harlequin record here only because we desire to show how dangerous a leader he is likely to prove, if, in addition to the public misfortune of

there being no loyal opposition to check him—the 50, so-called Liberals so far forget their record as a party as to permit him to continue his reckless financial course, and his hostile attacks on the English minority.

Characteristics of Englishmen.

"Poor Old England."

New Zealanders have for some time been running down their colony, but that field being exhausted, some of them have extended their range of vision, and now predict the downfall of the British Empire. This is very sad, but in the face of present and historic facts it is also silly. One writer goes so far as to say that Englishmen of the present day are unable to utter the grand proud words of their fathers, "I am an Englishman," without provoking a smile or a sneer. This may be, but there is this peculiarity about the British race, that whether they proudly boast of their origin or not, they are quite unable to conceal their identity, for they are at once recognized as Englishmen wherever they may be found. A French writer, commenting upon this, said, "You cannot always distinguish a Frenchman from a German or an Italian or Spaniard, or vice versa, but an Englishman you would confound with none other. At Paris or Berlin, at Rome or at Madrid, you can pick him out from among ten thousand, so distinctive are the marks of his person, and of his character; every child of Britain has its nationality stamped upon its brow." If the French writer be correct, there is no necessity for Englishmen of the present day to go about uttering the grand proud boast, as each man is a living witness to the truth of it.

Napoleon's sneer at the nation of shopkeepers was very forcibly replied to in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo. He found that Englishmen could fight as well as trade. Nearly all England's battles by sea and land have been fought with either France or Spain, the very large majority with the former. Between the years 1346 and 1815 Britain gained no fewer than 254 complete victories over those two powers, and in the same period only 83 over other nations. The Germans do not call us a nation of shopkeepers; on the contrary, they say you can easily distinguish Englishmen, as they all carry themselves, and walk like soldiers. The Englishman's walk is as pronounced a characteristic as are the features he bears. He walks with his head erect, and plants his feet firmly on the ground, and every movement and attitude is redolent of the phrase "I am an Englishman." He cannot help it; it is not "side," it is natural to him. The late General Grant, after his return to America from his European tour, was discoursing upon the various continental armies. In his travels the various nations vied with one another in presenting to the great American general the grandest military displays at their command. He gave their armies all credit for their soldierly appearance, their wonderful organization, their perfect drill, but he said, "that in all his travels, and in no part of the world, did anything, to his mind, approach in martial bearing the appearance of a British regiment on the march." "They marched," he said, "with the swing of victory."

Those who talk of the decadence of England know not of what they speak. Loyalty to the Queen and submissive reverence to the Supreme Being are characteristics deeply rooted in the hearts of most Englishmen and these characteristics will not only cause the national ship to be guided through safe channels when the new democracy takes the helm, as it will do, but they will also ensure a peaceable solution of those great social problems which, under different conditions, could only by revolution, anarchy, and bloodshed.

Foreigners are our best critics, and of all foreigners the French opinion may be looked upon perhaps as the most unbiased. Montalambert says of England: "It is in England that the nobility of man's nature has developed all its splendour, and attained its highest level. It is there that the generous passion of independence, united to the genius of association and the constant practice of self-government, have produced those miracles of fierce energy, of dauntless vigour, and obstinate heroism, which have triumphed over seas and climates, time and distance, nature and tyranny, exciting the perpetual envy of all nations, and among the English themselves a proud enthusiasm. England is still young and fruitful; in her veins the sap swells high to-day, and will swell to-morrow. In spite of a thousand false conclusions, a thousand excesses, a thousand stains, she is, of all modern races and of all Christian nations, the one which has

best preserved the three fundamental bases of every society, which is worthy of man, the spirit of freedom, the domestic character, and the religious mind."

More extraordinary still is the eloquent utterance of another great Frenchman, Victor Hugo:—"Stretched on the rock—but not like Prometheus—with no evil bird to rend his side, rests the genius of England. He waits his hour, but he counts not the hours between; he knows it is rolling up through the mystic gloom of the ages. Dare I murmur that the mists will not clear for me, and that I shall not hear the wheels of the chariot of England? It will come, it is coming, it is come; and the whole world, aroused as by some mighty galvanism, utters a wild cry of love and adoration, and throws itself into the bounteous bosom of England. Henceforth there are no nations, no peoples; but one, indivisible will be the world, and the world will be one England."

The nation which can extort such generous praise from an alien race must be a progressive and not a decaying nation, and its excesses and stains will in the long run be atoned for or remedied through the medium of those more overpowering characteristics—the spirit of freedom, the domestic character, and the religious mind.—Banner of Israel.

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