

Richer, riper, softer fruit cannot be found anywhere for table purposes, and as for making into wine there can be no doubt that the day will soon come when the wholesome blood of Canadian vines will give zest to the meal and prove a grateful tonic to the drooping system. The further consideration of profit is not to be lost to sight, because fruit is much more an article of food among the poor than the most of us are aware of, and there is no natural production of the earth that is more in demand, coming, as it does, within the taste of all, without ever palling.

THE PRESIDENT'S LEFT WHEEL.

We are loathe to put a literal interpretation on the behaviour of the President of the United States, and set it down as a coarse political "dodge" to revenge himself on the Republican Senate that balked him of the glory of the Fisheries Treaty. But after waiting, a couple of days, for the opinions of the leading American and English papers, we find no other course open to us. We have never looked upon Mr. Cleveland as a great man, and not even as a great President, but we always thought him an honourable man, above all political trickery, and the embodiment of whatever is best in American common sense and fair play. His recent message, however, is more than enough to tear this trust into shreds, and, while there is a bare possibility that events may be shaped of themselves so as to render this instrument comparatively harmless, the mind of the President will remain none the less a reproach and a warning.

There are two or three things that call for comment in this precious document. In the first place it is such a glaring piece of stultification that one wonders a cool and collected man like Mr. Cleveland could be guilty of it. Since the signing of the Treaty, in February last, the President has had occasion, in partial messages to Congress and other public utterances, to speak of the Canadian claims in terms of an appreciative and diplomatic courtesy, admitting that we had better ground to stand on than was known to Americans before the sittings of the High Commission, and that we had generally enforced our claims with becoming moderation. Now he suddenly turns on the left wheel, and, in terms of lofty insinuation, charges that his people are tired of our interpretation of the Treaty of 1818, which has been pressed with needless harshness, forcing upon the Americans the policy of retaliation if we venture to insist on even the code of the *modus vivendi*. And this last is the bitterest joke of them all. Only a few days ago, after the final vote of rejection in the Senate, Secretary Bayard vouched the information that the *modus vivendi* need not necessarily be dropped till its full term had expired, while President Cleveland, with one stroke of his pen, cancels all chances of a compromise.

The second point to be observed is the cool, insolent way in which Canada is being toyed with by these American politicians. First we had the vulgar abuse and inane threats of the venerable majority in the Senate, and now it is the turn of the Administration hangers-on to keep up the game of perfidious hostility. Of course, Canada will not be unduly heated. We can afford to look on for awhile, and see how far a great people can go in pursuance of paltry partisan ends. We shall be treated to a still more amusing sight, for, if the new policy is carried out, it will be found to

act like a boomerang, hurting the American carrying trade far more than the Canadian. Nay, it will consolidate our lines of travel and traffic which are strong enough financially to stand even American boycotting. If the President and the two political parties of the United States imagine they can hoodwink or frighten the Canadian people, they will soon find out their mistake.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

In my first article I briefly stated the origin of the "Monroe Doctrine." In this I shall sift it on its merits, at once laying down the proposition that, as an universal principle or lasting system, it is untenable. As a special principle of policy, however, it is justifiable, which I shall prove in the first part of my paper. The other will be shown in the second part.

I.

The cession of Louisiana is a case in point. The threat it held out is clear to any well-read man, after the lapse of five and seventy years. The American people were only recruiting from the Revolutionary drain on all their resources. The country was growing westward. The valleys of the Ohio and the Cumberland were being filled up. Kentucky was swiftly settled. The Western Reserve was already giving tokens of what it is today. All the tributaries of the Mississippi were swelling with a rising trade. It was needful to push this progress and remove every obstacle that might threaten it. Mr. Jefferson judged that the occupation of New Orleans and of the whole right bank of the Mississippi, as high as St. Louis, by French settlers, would prove baneful to the west. No such fears were entertained of the Spaniards, who were feeble and unenterprising. In addition, the Indians were withdrawing toward the setting sun. Many of these, mindful of the Canadian days, were friendly to the French and hostile to the "Yangeese." An alliance of these two elements might have crushed that whole western settlement. Indeed, with New Orleans, the western key to the ocean, in the hands of a bold military power like France, an alliance with the Western and Lake Indians effected, and the Atlantic ports blockaded, no one can tell what might have happened to the young Republic. And in proof that Mr. Jefferson was not wrong in his forecast, that scheme was precisely the one adopted by the British in the war of 1814-15. From the day that the great Tecumseh sallied forth from his tent, in the valley of the Miamis, travelling north to Lake Michigan, and south as far as the Alabama Creeks, to group all the Indians into one vast confederacy against the United States, it became an object with the English to secure him as their ally. They succeeded in this after the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1812. Thenceforward their plan was to bombard Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington, Charleston, and seize New Orleans, ascend the Mississippi and, joining their savage auxiliaries, hem the Americans in a fiery belt from Quebec to the Delta. What General Jackson averted, in 1815, by his cotton bales, below New Orleans, that did President Jefferson forestall, in 1803, by his diplomacy.

The case of the Spanish-American provinces is equally clear. In 1822-25 the Holy Alliance undertook to meddle in the affairs of Spain and her American colonies. In this *bund* were the three despotisms of Russia, Prussia and Austria. England, with characteristic pluck and foresight, engaged the United States to join her in resisting this aggression, in so far as Spanish America was concerned. President Monroe met Mr. Canning half way. It was a memorable time. The shout of freedom was ringing from the tops of the Andes to the banks of La Plata. South America was shattering her bonds. Mexico had broken her yoke. Old Spain was reaping the accursed fruit sown by her Pizzaros and her Cortez. She was powerless to beat back her colonies into submission, and it is believed that the Holy Alliance offered her their help to do it. To prevent the Western hemisphere from

being overshadowed by this despotic influence, it is no wonder that the action of the American Cabinet was prompt. The Sage of Monticello was consulted by his disciples, and, on his unequivocal reply, Mr. Monroe issued the message, from which I cited in my first article. Henceforth the Monroe Doctrine became an integral portion of the Democratic creed.

The Monroe Doctrine, in these cases, was a *special* principle, made lawful by circumstances, and, as such, worthy of approval. In all similar cases, and under equivalent circumstances, it is unquestionable that the doctrine is right, and the American people should maintain it.

JOHN TALON-LESPERANCE.

LA SALLE AND THE GRIFFON.

Coasting along the northern shore of Lake Erie, with favouring winds, Cavalier de La Salle reached the mouth of the Detroit River on the 10th of August. Here, awaiting the arrival of the Griffon, they found the Chevalier Tonty, and the others, to the number of twenty, whom La Salle had previously sent forward with others to rendezvous at the mouth of the river. Taking these on board, the Griffon continued her course through the river, sailing on the 11th between *Grosse* and *Bois Black* islands. On the feast of St. Claire, August 12th, they entered and crossed the lake, on which they conferred the name of that saint. Detained in the St. Claire River for several days by head winds, they entered Lake Huron on the 23rd of August. On the 26th, encountering a furious storm, they were compelled to send down their topmasts, lash fast their yards, and drift at the mercy of the winds and waves. Some idea of the violence of this storm may be gathered from what Father Hennepin relates. He says: "We had been accustomed, during the entire voyage, to fall on our knees morning and evening, to say our prayers and sing some hymns of the Church. But the storm was now so violent that we could not remain on deck. In this extremity each one performed his devotions as well as he could."

On the evening of the 27th, rounding Pointe St. Ignace, they cast anchor in the placid waters of the Bay of Michilimakinac. To their great joy they found here a settlement composed of Hurons, Ottawas and Frenchmen. Here, too, they found the Jesuit mission church and minor chapels for the Hurons and Ottawas. Remaining here about two weeks, they resumed their voyage on the 12th of September, and after a prosperous run of about forty leagues, they landed on an island, since known as Washington Island, situated at the entrance of Green Bay. Here they found a part of the detachment of fur traders which had been sent forward the year before. These latter had already secured large quantities of furs to the amount of 12,000 pounds. Embarrassed by debts, incurred presumably in furtherance of his enterprise, and anxious to appease and satisfy his creditors, La Salle promptly freighted the Griffon with the furs thus obtained and despatched her back again to the Niagara, the vessel and cargo together being valued at 60,000 francs. Thus laden, on the 18th of September, the Griffon set sail on her return voyage, and here all positive knowledge of the Griffon ends. Her subsequent fate is shrouded in mystery. The accepted theory in regard to her was, and is, that being driven ashore in a gale, her crew were slaughtered and her cargo plundered by the savages.

Plausible stories were extant, some forty years ago, of the finding, at a very early period of this century, of an anchor; of large quantities of wrought iron, which evidently had been removed from some vessel, and of two pieces of ordnance, bearing French inscriptions, all being much worn with rust and age, deeply embedded in the soil, and overgrown with forest trees, varying in thickness from six to twelve inches. These were found on the Ingersoll farm, in the neighbouring town of Hamburg, a short distance below the mouth of the Eighteen-mile creek, and hence many persons have concluded that it was here that the Griffon was lost.