

would be immense. The impulse that would be given to many trades would be very great. Moreover, the occasion might be one for encouraging a friendly feeling with our neighbours to the south of us, among whom, with a few unimportant exceptions a genuine respect for the Queen has been in many instances apparent. There is a good deal in ceremonial observances if they are properly carried out and we trust that this will be distinctly the case in 1897.

The President's
Message.

As we have predicted in our columns more than once the President's Message to Congress brings into prominence the financial position of the United States. His warnings and advice will probably be thrown away. His political opponents are in the majority of the audience he is addressing. But we cannot believe that the level business heads of the Americans will not see that the President is right. Protection was resorted to in order to build up American manufactures. The result has been so wonderful that free trade England stands amazed, and the faith of its manufacturers at all events has been shaken. But American manufactures now have been established on a solid basis. The population to sustain these manufactures is now forthcoming and foreign competition need not be feared as formerly. Hence a high tariff with its attendant evils may be dispensed with. The President, however, in laying down this doctrine, is as yet we fear beating the wind. But on this point history will do him justice. Again on the necessity for restoring the currency to a gold basis, and of wiping out the dishonest and unsecured silver and paper promises to pay which the Union now circulates, he sounds no uncertain note. Can it be possible that a shrewd, straight dealing business country will not soon admit that the President is right? How low will they see their gold water mark sink before they agree with him? Do they want gold again to be at a premium, and their whole business disorganized? The President has never appeared to better advantage than in this part of his Message and if the Americans ever can find it in their hearts to re-elect a man for a third term Cleveland should be that man.

The President on
Venezuela.

It is a great pity that so sensible and, in many respects, so great a man as the President is, and as we have described him, should have considered it necessary to introduce into a weighty state paper like a message to Congress, his reference to England's dispute with Venezuela. Either he does not mean what he says or he does mean it. If he does not he is playing to the gallery for votes, and it is not what ought to come from a man with Mr. Cleveland's record. He wrecked his chances for election in the time of the Harrison contest by his honest and plainspoken adherence to principles which he would not disavow even to hold the Presidency. His whole career since his first election has been manly and dignified whenever he has dealt with internal questions. Why should, then, this same man be considered to act otherwise when he deals with foreign questions? The only conclusion is that he does mean what he says and it is not mere flap-doodle. The sum and substance of what he does say to England with regard to Venezuela is: *Hands off*. Disguise it in any words whatever, that is what the message means. We will now see how England will take this challenge. The good people who go about saying, Hush! will say as they have always said: "This is an act of the American politicians, not of the American people." They will cry as usual Peace, peace, when there is no peace. We are very much mistaken if the English people will tolerate any interference whatever. They are very much degen-

erated from what they were if they allow any so-called application of the Monroe doctrine to stand between them and their lawful rights. These questions have a vital interest for us in Canada. We must be wilfully blind if we do not take warning in time. A pleasant self-delusion may be enjoyable while it lasts, but the awakening is bitter.

Sir William
to the Rescue.

On Saturday last an influential deputation waited upon Sir William Hingston, M.D., and presented him with a monster petition begging him to accept the nomination to serve in the House of Commons in the room of Hon. J. J. Curran who has been elevated to the Bench. It is a matter for general congratulation that Sir William was sufficiently impressed by the earnestness of the deputation and by the magnitude of the requisition to admit that he could no longer decline the nomination. Montreal Centre has now the opportunity—a rare one indeed—of electing as its representative a man whom the whole country delights to honour, whose character is above reproach, and whose ability and public spirit are both conspicuous and unquestioned. The contrast between the two candidates in this constituency is so marked as to be ludicrous. Mr. James McShane is little else than a vulgar joke. Sir William's dignity of character is, as the Montreal Witness truly says, "in complete contrast to the indecorous, indiscreet, and self-flattering character of Mr. McShane." Mr. McShane has forced himself upon the Liberal party in Montreal Centre. The Liberals who disapprove of his candidature—and there number is large we are glad to say—find their sentiments and opinions vigorously expressed in The Witness, which, sturdy old champion of the Liberals though it be, will support Sir William unless Mr. McShane is repudiated by the party, and one more worthy to bear the banner is brought into the field.

The
Contest.

Though the contest between Sir William Hingston and Mr. James McShane appears so very unequal it cannot be taken for granted that Sir William will be elected. It is almost impossible to think that Montreal Centre would stultify itself by rejecting so able and uncommon a candidate as Sir William, but it must be borne in mind that many of the electors are quite unable to appreciate the radical difference between the two men, and that to the lower element Mr. McShane's attractions appear to be irresistible. When, a few years ago, Toronto had the rare opportunity of electing for a Mayor a man of such pre-eminent financial ability as Mr. Edmund Osler it rejected him and made itself the laughing stock of the Dominion in doing so. Montreal Centre may do the same. We hope that such a calamity will not come to pass. The Liberals may say, and with some truth, that it is measures that are under question not men, and that personal preference should not turn the voters from the consideration of the main question submitted to them. But upon the party rests the responsibility of seeing that its good principles are not nullified nor its measures frustrated by bad or incompetent candidates.

The First
Charges.

How much some of the electors in Montreal Centre appreciate the importance of the measures they are called upon to consider may be seen in the first charges that have been brought against the candidates. Some years ago when Sir William Hingston was Mayor of Montreal the local Orangemen indulged in a church parade, with, it is whispered, his Worship's permission. This terrible charge, however, is not likely to multiply the votes for Mr. McShane, as an equally