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Next year our French-Canadian compatriots will have the chance of a little harmless self-glorification. Twelve months from now—October 16, 1890—it will be just two hundred years since sturdy old Frontenac repelled with scorn the summons of Sir William Phips to surrender his fortress. After hearing the Count's explanation of his position and principles, the envoy of Phips, somewhat disconcerted at his defiant tone, and hesitating to be the communicator of such startling language to his master, asked to have the reply in writing. "No," rejoined Frontenac, "I will answer your General only by the mouths of my cannon that he may learn that a man like me is not to be summoned after this fashion. Let him do his best and I will do mine." The messenger was then blindfolded and conducted over the barricades and by boat back to the fleet. The plan suggested to Phips for scaling the heights was the same which Wolfe afterwards adopted so successfully. But Phips delayed too long. The reinforcements from Montreal arrived, and, after some skirmishing and cannonading, in which the English had the worst of it, he weighed anchor and was gone. There was great rejoicing at Quebec, and, as on former occasions, the seasonable help, which was the answer to earnest prayer, was duly and piously remembered. The Church of Notre Dame de la Victoire (des Victoires, after the discomfiture of Admiral Walker) was the memorial of the victory.

Some time ago we drew attention to an approaching Ethnographical Congress, as a feature of the French Exposition of peculiar interest to men of science. It was opened on the afternoon of September 30, under the presidency of M. Jules Oppert. The races of mankind were well enough represented to furnish illustrations for one of M. Figuier's instructive volumes, and the manner in which scholarly men of the Semitic, Mongolian and African types expressed themselves in faultless French would seem to indicate that the dream of our Laureate was, like that of an earlier poet, not all a dream, and that something like a parliament of man (at least, in the province of science) is not quite an impossibility. General Tchong Ki-Tong, of the Chinese Legation at Paris, made a most telling and acceptable address. Though arrayed in the rich and not unbecoming costume of the upper classes of his nation, his language was that of an educated and enlightened son of La Belle France. He spoke of the remarkable movement now going on for the assimilation of the peoples of the earth. The word "foreigner" was every day losing something of its old repellent

significance. He referred to America as the destined bridge, in the time that was coming, between the nations of the East and those of the West. The latter might, perhaps, find, as its intercourse with the Orient widened and deepened, that it was not the Heaven-appointed guardian of all the knowledge profitable to mankind, and that there were some lessons which might with advantage be learned even from the "heathen Chinese."

The next speaker was a warrior with whose name and exploits the telegrams of the last few months have made us fairly familiar. General Legitime, who is, it appears, a full-blooded negro, spoke of Hayti as essentially French in sentiment and ideas. He lauded France for her open-minded demeanour to people of other races. She had made friends with the Arab, the American Indian, the Mongolian and the African. In the West Indies the French were respected, just because they respected others. Germany and England were also represented at the Congress, and India and North Africa were present by delegates.

If France's industrial progress has been remarkable during the last couple of decades, not less extraordinary is the proficiency attained in military matters. If the forecasts or menaces which have been so frequently made in recent years were to be fulfilled or carried out to-day, France could put into the field five armies of 200,000 men each, and two armies of 150,000 men each—all completely equipped for a long campaign and supported by ample reserves for garrison duty and the filling up of vacancies. This force is five times as strong as that with which Louis Napoleon entered the lists with Germany in 1870. The subject of railway transport has occupied the attention of experts, and no possible emergency in the movement of great bodies of men and munitions of war has been lost sight of in the arrangements adopted. The rolling stock is said to be most efficient—6,000 locomotives and 200,000 carriages and wagons of all kinds being available at any moment for military purposes. In fact, notwithstanding the division and conflict, the frequent changes of ministry and readjustments of parties, which have made the stage of French politics so kaleidoscopic, one question has been of common interest and paramount importance to all parties and cabinets—the reorganization of the army and the revival of France's military prestige.

In a recent report of the "Mineral Resources of the United States," issued by the U.S. Geological Survey, Mr. Charles A. Ashburner expresses the opinion that "the superior quality of the British Columbia coal from the mines at Nanaimo, which can be imported at San Francisco and compete with the Washington Territory coals in the open market, even after paying the duty, must always hold the development of the domestic Pacific Coast coals in check." On other phases of the question Mr. Ashburner adds the following considerations: "The Canadian Pacific Railroad and the entire districts to which it passes procure their supply of coals now principally from local interior mines which are rapidly being opened. Australia will continue to supply the Eastern countries and the islands of the Pacific with all the coals they may require, and England, having export freights from Chili and Peru, can send coal to these countries cheaper than they can be supplied from British Columbia, so that these circumstances will all combine to keep San Francisco the principal market for British Columbia coals. These facts

will always militate against the rapid and independent development of the Pacific Coast coals, particularly those of Washington Territory." The conditions on which the movements of any particular branch of commerce depend must be carefully studied before any rational forecast can be made of its direction and development. Works, like the one just quoted, which supply accurate data for such forecasts, are extremely valuable to the mercantile community.

The Press Bureau of Chicago has issued a circular to the journalists of North America soliciting their good will on behalf of the Western metropolis as the site of the World's Exhibition of 1892. The alternative choice, as our readers are aware, is that of New York. To which candidate should Canada's sympathies be given? Our enterprising contemporary, *Books and Notions*, makes the following plea for Chicago: "Chicago is the place which best suits Canadians. Visitors to the Exposition are there nearer our still roomy territories in the North-West than they would be in New York, and the enormous benefit of having those lands viewed by travellers from all parts of the world must weigh greatly with us. The choice of Chicago must also be to the advantage of our railways. Travellers can reach Chicago from either of our shores as cheaply through Canadian territory as they can through United States territory. We cannot but have a large share of both passenger and freight traffic. We are certainly more likely to be the better of overflow from Chicago than from New York." There is certainly some force in this argument. But, on the other hand, Chicagoans are not likely to inspire their guests with an overwhelming admiration for our North-West, and persons of the class of which the visitors from the ends of the earth would for the most part consist would as readily cross the border from New York as from Chicago. For our part we would rather fix attention on our own threefold celebration. The year 1892, it ought not to be forgotten, will be not only the quarter-centennial of the discovery of America by Columbus, but also the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Montreal by De Maisonneuve and the 25th year of the Canadian Confederation. Canada must surely have some commemoration of so noteworthy a coincidence.

Sir Edwin Arnold could not escape being interviewed and, though he evidently did not wish to give his opinions in that off-hand way on a variety of touchy subjects—some of them of entirely too personal a character for confidences to a mixed and largely unsympathetic, if not hostile, public—his courtesy and good nature won the day over the Englishman's reserve and the journalist's discretion. What he said of the distinction between the discipline of Oxford and that of Harvard was doubtless true—at least, in part. The former tends to foster respect for authority; the latter encourages independence and self-reliance. Few Americans will, however, admit that the average college-bred Englishman is more courteous than the average college-bred American. Such a pretension is enough to make Richard Grant White awake from his sound sleep. And then is it quite correct to say that in the United States there are no social distinctions?

It was rather hard on Mr. Gladstone to say that he knew he was wrong; that his reason for going over to the Irish Nationalists was purely political; that he wanted to strengthen his party and recover