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videnced by this, that in effect they said :
"We empower you to make this change in
whatever way you deem proper, and moreover
you can afterwards alter the arrangement if
it doesn't suit you, so long as you submit such
future alterations to Her Majesty in Council
before they become legally operative." Some
few years later, South Australians desired to
alter the constitution of their Assembly and
an Act of their own legislature was passed for
the purpose, imperial intervention apparently
being deemed unnecessary. Doubts however
were raised as to the validity of the colonial
Act and thus the whole matter came before
the imperial authorities with this result, that
in the year 1865 an Act was passed by the
imperial Parliament by which it was enacted :

"—Every representative legislature shall,
in respect to the colony under its jurisdiction,
be and be deemed at all times to have had
full power to make laws respecting the consti-
tution, powers and procedure of such legislature."

A veritable charter of colonial enfran-
chisement! Apparently it was thought that
the time had arrived for giving the colonies
full control over their legislative machinery,
and that the power of disallowance would
efficiently safeguard imperial interests.

Note the date of this Act—two years prior
to the passing of our present constitution-
al charter, "The British North America Act,
1867."

Those who take the position that the
Parliament of Canada has not the power "to
make laws respecting the constitution, powers
and procedure" of the Parliament of Canada
must admit that the words of the Imperial
Act of 1865—known as the Colonial Laws
Validity Act—are sufficiently wide to confer
that power unless it clearly appear upon an
examination of the terms of the B. N. A. Act
that its provisions are inconsistent with the
existence of such a power in the Federal Par-
liament at Ottawa, in which case of course the
B. N. A. Act, being of a later date, must over-
ride the general provision of the Colonial Laws
Validity Act. The whole question turns on
this. Its importance is such as to merit a
careful examination of our constitutional
charter in the light of recognized principles
of legal interpretation.

In view, however, of the length to which
this discussion has already run, I must defer
the examination for another paper.

W. H. P. CLEMENT.

PARIS LETTER.

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Till after the 13th October, all will
be cock-a-whoop here respecting Rus-
sia. There will be lots of fun, plenty
of originality and exchanges of "eter-
nal friendship" will be sworn to. But
as the part of Russia, there is the Quart
et de Rabelais to face; they must
give the French an official assurance that
there is an alliance, signed, sealed, and
delivered, between the two govern-
ments when executing the "Russian
system" and the "Marseillaise." As was
generally expected, Russia presents her
case to grind, to try the French on
a little money; it is not a loan,
but a conversion of public debt from a
higher to a lower rate of interest, and
the millions that will result, if the new

stock be floated, will constitute the
cash in hand for the Russian Treasury.

The last Russian loan was only cov-
ered to the extent of three-fifths of the
sum demanded; this may be laid at the
door of Russia herself, who did not de-
clare outright she was the treaty ally
of France. She must be explicit this
time, if not, the French will be pain-
fully disappointed, and more the pity,
for when the alliance would be an ac-
complished fact, the world would be
better able to take stock of all the
peace-makers. Beneath all the flow of
enthusiasm, the French feel the taunts
of the foreign press, that the Franco-
Russian alliance is something between a
myth and a mystery. It may be ac-
cepted, that the French will put all
their ingenuity, skill and heart into the
welcome to be extended to the Russian
fleet, and so far as they are concerned,
there shall be no doubt as to the sig-
nificance of the reception. Madame Adam
proposes that the ladies of France—
mothers, wives and daughters shall wear
—a sprig of forget-me-not in jewelry,
with the colours of France and Russia
on two of the branches, having the mot-
to, "Cronstadt" on the tricolour, and
"Toulon" on the Russian bird o' free-
dom.

"Germans you are, and Germans you
will remain." That recent saying of
William II. has sunk deep into the
French, and rankles the old wound. But
they do not undervalue or scoff at the
terrible weapon His Majesty yields,
and which is every year becoming more
terrible, due to the numerical superiority
in population of Germany over
France. The presence of the Prince of
Naples at the side of the Emperor, was
also gall and wormwood, so much must
be allowed for the present condition of
French feeling. Perhaps they nurse
their wrath to keep it warm. Of course
these are not accepted as indications of
peace. Note is duly taken of the Ital-
ian fleets quitting the lagoons of Venice
and getting into the deep waters of the
Mediterranean—when there is gunpow-
der in the air, as the Arabs say, it is
best not to be caught napping.

All eyes are kept steadily fixed on
England. Three ideas have taken root
in the French mind: that whatever be
the secret conditions of the treaty
of the triple alliance, the English
will never remain separated from the
Italian fleet; that England
has cut and dry to officially join the
triplice, and last, not least, that she
and China are one. There is an agree-
able lull in the game of nagging Eng-
land; perhaps it was perceived, the
amusement was becoming serious; that
the Lion was getting ready to growl,
and had indulged in a few whisks of
the tail. Not an allusion now is there
to the evacuation of Egypt! As for
Siam and "buffering," where are these
questions at present?

"Iceland" is demanding a revision of
her constitution, like a party of the
French. In brief, she wants "Home
Rule," and since the year A.D. 1262, has
been claiming that; there is still hope
for Ireland then. It was the novelist,
and later Academician, Pierre Loti, that
discovered Iceland for his countrymen,
as did Dumas pere, the Mediterranean.

The Iceland Parliament is the oldest
institution of that kind in the world;
it met for the first time in 928. The
Commons consists of 30 members, and
the Senate of 12—for an upper house
was considered necessary to act as a
break on the representatives of iceberg-
land. Belgium, after 23 years of agita-
tion, has reformed her rotten borough
franchise; the constitution never was
tinkered since it was framed in 1831, and
it has progressed by a leap and a
bound. From an electoral roll of 120,-
000 voters, it has now 1,200,000, and of
the latter total, 500,000 have plural
votes, so that in round numbers the
grand total of suffrages may be accept-
ed as 2,000,000. The voting is obliga-
tory. In France, not more than a good
half of the electors vote—so it is an in-
novation, like the New Zealand Parlia-
ment, authorizing women to go to the
poll. The plurality vote is curious, and
in the future is likely to "catch on" in
case undiluted democracy runs wildish.
In Belgium every man aged 25 has a vote
—this is the simple manhood suffrage;
then, if he be married, have a fixed
amount of property, belong to a profes-
sion, etc., he will be entitled to a separ-
ate vote for each; but in no case can he
plump more than two plural votes, thus
making three in all. Australia has been
dabbling in this scheme also. And in
France the "freak" is likely to take.

An echo of the elections: the Cham-
ber of Deputies has a haunted chair; the
seat occupied by Milleroye—the deputy
who acted as the mouthpiece for the con-
spirators of the forged documents al-
leged to have been stolen from the Brit-
ish Embassy—can find no new occupant.
It will remain as a pilory. At Venice,
when a Doge sinned, his official portrait
was suspended in the gallery of historic
paint and covered with crap, like the
Israelites, who keep a ball spot on the
walls of their drawing-rooms, to remind
them of their captivity days. That vac-
ant chair ought to be some consolation
for M. Clemenceau in his defeat. After M.
Wilson, the most curious new deputy is
the "cannon-man," he has a crank for
gunpowder, howitzers and carronades,
and at one time actually performed in
a Music Hall, holding a carronade on
his shoulder, while it was being fired off.
Did not Roman Emperors descend to the
arena, to have tussles with the gladi-
ators? The Solon in question, though
pledged to vote the separation of Church
from State, ought to deal kindly at least
with the "cannons."

The death, or next to death, as the
telegraph announced, of General Mirabel,
deprives France of one of her best sol-
diers. He was regarded, like "Grand-
father" Carnot, as the "organizer of vic-
tories;" it was his department of the
War Office that had charge of the con-
centration of the troops, to catch the
enemy or to escape being caught; and
also of the food and fighting supplies.
Gambetta had the highest opinion of his
ability; and though an anti-republican
he dabbled, it is said, in MacMahon's in-
tended coup d'etat, he appointed him to
the highest functions on patriotic
grounds. And the ex-patriot suffered in
popularity for so doing. Mirabel was
sixty years of age, rose from a sub-lieu-
tenancy to the highest grade; his spec-