

and unjust rule of the person or party against whom it is directed. But even when we believe this to be the case, our sympathy with the insurgents is generally chilled by the reflection that should the adventurer who leads the revolt succeed in gaining the supremacy, he will almost surely adopt the same obnoxious methods, rendering necessary in a few months, or years at most, another uprising to rid the country of him in his turn. The result is that we get into the habit of regarding with an indifference which is really unfeeling the sanguinary struggles that are almost perpetually taking place amongst one or another of these strangely restless peoples, and fail to realize what an amount of misery to multitudes each conflict must entail. Present indications make it probable that Argentina, which for a time bid so fair to outstrip all other South American countries in the arts of peace and to constitute a notable exception to the general unprogressiveness, is about to enter upon its period of self-destructive anarchy. Can anything short of the entering in and mastery of a new race ever bring peace, order and prosperity to the southern half of this continent?

From one point of view—a purely non-political one—the exceedingly warm and even enthusiastic reception which has been accorded to Mr. Laurier, and the equally cordial one which is being accorded to Sir John Thompson, are peculiarly gratifying. Both gentlemen happen to be members of the Roman Catholic Church. To this is added, in the case of the former, the further disadvantage in the eyes of many that he is a French-Canadian, while Sir John labours under a disability which appears to some even greater, in that he is a Protestant turned Catholic. In consideration of the strong convictions of multitudes in this intensely Protestant section of the Dominion, it is no small thing that we should be able to say that not only has no discourtesy been offered to either visitor, but that Protestant seems to have vied with Catholic in doing honour to the men and giving respectful attention to their addresses, irrespective of any question of creed or sect. This is all the more pleasing in view of the fact that we have unfortunately in the Province an association which is said to be by no means insignificant in point of numbers and influence, one of whose expressed objects is to prevent the election or appointment to civil, political, or military office, of any one who professes allegiance to the Pope. That any considerable body of citizens could take such a position in a country in which two-fifths of the inhabitants are adherents of the proscribed Church almost passes belief. Yet the fact seems to be beyond question. That there is much in the dogmas, teaching, and discipline of the Church of Rome which restricts the intelligence, energy, and many freedom of its adherents we deem de-

monstrable both by reasoning and by observation and history. But for a little more than half the citizens of a country to attempt to prescribe politically a little less than half, on the ground of creed, or at any rate by means of a creed test, would be a policy worthy of the dark ages. It would be the signal for the upbreak of the Confederation, in all probability for civil war. The manner in which these two representative members of that Church have been received in Ontario may be regarded as a satisfactory assurance that the great body of the people understand those principles of religious toleration which are one of the glories of British civilization.

There is an unconscious humor in the coolness with which the American newspaper of a certain class can discuss the most absurd project for national aggrandisements such as that which has of late been seriously treated by some of the California papers for the purchase of British Columbia. The part of the performance which would be most amusing to one cynically disposed, is the utter absence in the writers of any suspicion of one-sidedness of vision in assuming that the fancied interests and convenience of the Great Republic must necessarily not only outweigh, but obliterate all other considerations, such as the preferences or prior claims of other peoples. Take, for instance, the San Francisco Call's argument that British Columbia is "a necessary complement to the territory of the United States on the Pacific." This must mean, we suppose, that as the United States possesses the southern coast and has also purchased Alaska, it is in the fitness of things that it should obtain the intervening strip. This would remove any inconvenience or awkwardness arising from the present arrangement, and would complete the symmetry of the Republic on the West. Of course no account is to be taken of the inclinations of the people who now inhabit the coveted strip. By parity of reasoning, if Great Britain or Canada could only by some means get possession of the peninsula of Florida, she would have an excellent claim for the ownership of the whole Atlantic coast down to that point, as a necessary complement to the Maritime Provinces, especially since the continued retention of the intermediate territory might be construed in to a menace to Canada, as the retention of British Columbia and the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway are to the United States. By the way, cannot the Call see that as the thing now stands, the way in which the North-Eastern corner of the United States juts into Canada is most unsymmetrical and is a serious inconvenience to us. The addition of the New England States and New York, with perhaps a corner of Pennsylvania would be, if not absolutely a necessary complement to the Dominion, at least a great convenience and benefit to us. When the Washington

Government is negotiating for the purchase of British Columbia, would not the Call support a counter proposition, by way of facilitating the business, for the transfer of this little corner of United States territory to Canada?

In the Open Court of September 14th, Mr. Edward C. Hegeler suggests a plan for the settlement of the silver question in the United States which is, to say the least, worth thinking about. He proposes to meet the views of both the gold-standard and the silver-standard advocates by coin- ing the gold-standard currency as now for those who wish to use it, and a silver standard currency for those who wish to use it, without attempting to fix and uphold any ratio between the two. In order to meet the initial difficulty he would have all money coined up to the time of the adoption of the new method, and all paper money issued, based upon that, redeemable in gold, and all obligations and contracts entered into, subject to the gold standard in which they were contracted or which was in force at the time they originated. He would have both standards of money treated alike by the Government, which would also issue fractional and paper currency for each standard independently. Other practical difficulties which readily suggest themselves in connection with the relation of the Government to the matter are provided against in the scheme. There is some basis in Mr. Hegeler's view that it is the business of the Government to coin for the people both gold and silver money, but not to fix a ratio between the two. But when he decries the un-republican "paternalism" involved in the latter course, and presages the danger of sectionalism and disaffection as the consequence of attempting to force the gold-standard upon those who do not believe in it, the question arises, would the plan he suggests be more acceptable to the advocates of the silver-standard? We throw out. It evidently would not serve their purpose. They would foresee, as Mr. Hegeler himself foresees, that the gold-standard money would win. Apart from the question of intrinsic values, which he would have equalized at the outset, so long as foreign nations maintained the gold-standard, foreign business would be done on the gold basis, a fact which would of itself have a powerful influence in giving that the better reputation. Then the complication and consequent confusion, the facilities for fraudulent dealing with those not well informed in such matters and other grave difficulties which would arise in practice, are at once suggested. But the fatal weakness of the scheme would be, that it would quickly reduce silver to its intrinsic value as measured by gold, which is the very thing the silver standard men do not want.

Sir Charles Tupper has taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by a banquet