

An International Exchange of Pleasantries. In the cultivation of familiar intercourse with our American neighbours, we have often had to note their friendly and civil interest in our affairs. As a proof of their goodwill, they recently sent a messenger boy to President Kruger with assurances of the sympathy of some dear souls in Philadelphia with the cause of the South African Republics. We should be sorry to see our people remain insensible to such kindness, and we are glad to hear that some Montrealers are talking of sending a message to Aguinaldo by Harry, the diminutive King of the Newsboys. Lest this action should be regarded as an unwarrantable interference in matters which concern us not, the message will first be submitted by Harry to President McKinley and Mr. Bourke Cochran for approval.

In Honour of the Queen's Visit.

We have received a copy of a special number of "The Finance Union," which has been issued "in honour of the Queen's visit to Ireland, and in memory of the brave Irish soldiers who fought and died at the front." The Journal, which comprises twenty-four pages, is printed throughout in emerald green, and contains on its first page a stirring poem entitled "The Glorious Flag of Britain." The poem, which has been written specially for "The Finance Union," is prettily set round with a border of shamrocks, on the four corners of which are artistically designed harps surmounted by crowns—an Irish emblem of loyalty. The following is the last verse of the poem, which is copyright:—

"In Africa, six thousand miles o'er ocean's wide expanse
The soldiers of the Empire war, with gun and sword and
lynce.
Proud wearers of the tartan kilts! True to their ancient
fame,
They have added brighter lustre to Scotia's noble name;
But in the forefront of the fight are men of Irish race,
Where shell and shot are thickest, 'tis there you'll find
their place;
And where'er is praise for valour, there too are lusty
cheers
For the dashing Inniskillings and the Dublin Fusiliers!
And the Queen, to do them honour, in dear old Dublin
town
Will place a sprig of shamrock with the jewels of her
crown."

The Welland Canal Outrage.

Whatever may be the result of investigation into the causes leading to the dastardly attempt to disable the Welland Canal, there would seem to be good reason for the belief of persons living in Clifton and the neighbouring Canadian villages that the dynamiters were simply agents for Buffalo grain shovellers, who desired to prevent the passage of grain from Port Colborne to Montreal. We hesitate to believe this. Yet Buffalo has been the headquarters of so many unprincipled scoundrels intent upon any mischief, from an invasion of Canada to serious injury to our trade and commerce, that we cannot help giving some credence to this story, told, as it is, in the New York "Commercial Bulletin" of Monday last. If the three,

men charged with blowing up Lock No. 24 at Thorold are proved guilty, we would like to make their punishment fit the crime by chaining them to the Lock they attempted to destroy.

The Presidential Campaign Commenced.

We are already approaching that somewhat exciting time when our neighbours make a display of fireworks in the conduct of their periodical presidential election campaign. English papers are warning their readers to be prepared for anything and everything, as political expediency may lead both Republicans and Democrats to assume a very hostile and unfriendly attitude to the British Empire and to evince much passive sympathy with the so-called republics of South Africa. The first indication of the pandering to every possible "vote" in the coming campaign is the sudden announcement of a resolution on the part of the United States to seize some territory from the Sultan of Turkey, unless a claim for indemnity for American mission property destroyed a long time ago is promptly paid. Some American papers are ridiculing the sudden spasm of indignation against the Turks, and do not hesitate to describe the demand for indemnity as being made for the sake of the "church mission vote" in the forthcoming Presidential struggle.

The Philadelphia "Ledger" has a story to the effect that the United States Government has no idea of collecting an indemnity from the Sultan, and that the Sultan never promised to pay it. The N. Y. "Commercial Bulletin" does not like this reflection upon the conduct of the government, and says that Minister Straus received a promise from the Sultan of Turkey that the \$100,000 claimed would be paid; that the pressure being brought to bear is genuine, and the situation critical in consequence. It deals with the "Ledger" story in the following fashion: "the story is that the United States induced Abdul Hamid II to use his influence with his eminent colleague, our distinguished fellow-citizen, the Sultan of Sulu, whose name we regret to say has escaped us, to accept the sovereignty of the United States, by assuring the Constantinople gentleman to whom Poet Watson and Preacher Parker applied an imprecatory word that we would never press that claim for indemnity for mission property destroyed if he would induce His Majesty of Sulu to accept American citizenship. The 'Ledger' is very hostile to 'imperialism,' and it would cheerfully believe a story that could hardly fail to make all the missionaries and their church friends in this country indignant at being sacrificed to facilitate the extension of the American flag in the Philippines."

Let the merry war wage ever so fiercely until November next, we must not forget the extraordinary dodges to which our neighbours resort in the effort to secure the support of both saints and sinners.

Probably the best and most thoughtful men on both sides of politics realize that Turkey, unlike Spain, would prove a very difficult mouthful to masticate. Intervention in European affairs means the assumption of very serious responsibilities.