

# The Chronicle

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**A Gallant Gentleman.** War may be entrancingly pleasant to the imagination; but the facts of it are not so pleasant. Britain is seldom without a little war on hand, and the official report of the Tirah expedition enables us to judge what sorrow the recent British campaign in India must have caused in many homes of the United Kingdom. The killed and wounded exceeded one thousand men, and a large proportion of these were young officers. War may be the surest and speediest road to renown; but it is very costly in blood and treasure.

And now, from another part of the world, comes the news of the approaching finish of one of Britain's little wars. The Madhists have been thoroughly routed, and those who lamented the loss of General Gordon may soon enjoy the satisfaction of hearing that the British standard has been raised at Khartoum. But the triumphant march of Sir Herbert Kitchener is not being made without serious losses to the Anglo-Egyptian force, and the death of Captain Urquhart brings the misery of warfare home to many a Canadian friend of that gallant gentleman. His last reported words have the right ring to them: "Never mind me, lads; go on." The brave utterance of this Cameron Highlander shows the survival of the same spirit which animated the officers and men who fought at Inkerman "shoulder to shoulder."

**An Important Meeting.** Now that the war spirit in Congress and press has risen to fever heat, although they cannot find anything to fight about, public attention is being drawn to the great importance of the coming negotiations between Canada and the United States on the many matters in dispute between the two countries.

It is reported that the conference will be held at Ottawa, and that the British and Canadian representatives will be Sir Julian Pauncefote, Sir Richard Cartwright and Sir Louis Davies.

The topics to be discussed are of the utmost importance, and it is highly desirable that a friendly agreement should be arrived at. It is proposed at the meeting to settle the following questions:

Revision of the Behring sea sealing regulations; the fishery laws; the alien labour law; transportation of troops of either country through the territory of the other. Another topic of great interest will be that having for its object reciprocity in trade "without unnecessarily disturbing any existing industry in either country."

The last is a good big subject for the plenipotentiaries of both nations to wrestle with.

## Grim Humour.

To any one whose sense of humour enables him to find a source of harmless merriment in such a grim subject as war, there are phases of the Cuban question as presented by others which are bound to excite mirth. Surely even the countrymen of Mr. John Dillon will be entertained by the report that, in regard to Cuban affairs, he thinks the United States should mind its own business. It is not surprising that the Independent League object to his thoughtless utterances, and desire to be known as being in sympathy with a country which, if content to obey Mr. Dillon's high behest, would never have become the main support of agitation in Ireland.

The bulletin boards of newspapers are also, at times, perhaps unintentionally humorous in reporting the progress of Cuban affairs, which are sometimes given like the details of a prize fight. Thus, on Tuesday last, the public were informed that the House committee of foreign affairs had gone to sleep; but a strong resolution would probably be presented on their return—a sort of to-be-continued-in-our-next announcement, which provoked lots of smiles from interested readers.

## The Insolvency Bill.

The measure introduced by Mr. Fortin, for the proper distribution of bankrupts' estates, may, as we predicted in a former issue of THE CHRONICLE, be found to contain many objectionable clauses. But every effort for the past quarter of a century to introduce insolvency legislation has met with strong opposition, and the objections now being lodged against Mr.