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the American mind with fears of disturbance, which, as was seen by the lurid light of the Pittsburg fires, would be most formidable in a country almost destitute of military force. The Anglo-American race itself does not increase; probably it dwindles, thanks to the prevalence among its women of ideas and habits which certain philanthropists are labouring to import into Canada. It is doubtful whether the element of the population in which the traditions of self-government resides will retain its ascendancy long enough to complete the training of the other races. A policy of industrial exclusion would scarcely be practicable or consistent with humanity; but it is time for the Republic to refuse to be made a dumping-ground for European pauperism, and to provide, if it be possible, that the naturalization law shall be strictly enforced.

In a little pamphlet by M. C. S. Salmon, the Cobden Club has shed light on the prevailing "depression in the West Indies." The mode of raising revenue largely by duties on food has some serious economic disadvantages, the chief of which is that a large part of the negro population is underfed. The writer rejects the theory that the negro can be kept in an effective working condition on a root diet. He rather implies than says that the negro performs little labour because he is underfed. By comparison with the negro of the Southern States he is underpaid, and the food which he would consume if he could get it is heavily taxed. It is unreasonable to suppose that a negro in the West Indies can be induced to work effectually for one-sixth or one-ninth of the wages paid to the liberated slaves in the Southern States. The proprietors, who are often not in a position to work their estates to advantage, are practically debarred from the only resources—loans on mortgage—from which relief could come. There has been in force since 1808 a rule founded on a decision of Lord Elgin by which a "consignee's lien" is allowed precedence over any other debt, even if it be secured by mortgage, or founded on a will or marriage settlement. It would be strange if this fatal rule had not worked ruin in the course of three-quarters of a century. There can be no return of prosperity to the West Indies so long as this rule deprives the proprietors of the chance of borrowing on mortgage the means of improving their estates. If it existed in Canada, many parts of the country would be turned into a wilderness in less than half the time it has been working mischief in the West Indies. The West India tariffs have, as a rule, not protection but only revenue for their object. A bad selection of articles on which to put duties is made, with the result that food is taxed as heavily as if the food of England paid twenty millions sterling a year. In Jamaica flour is taxed eight shillings a barrel, which on a low grade article is often equal to forty per cent. on the first cost. In one respect we read in the West India duties on food our own experience over again. "A duty on one breadstuff necessitates a duty on all of them. A duty was put on made biscuits, etc., to protect the revenue derived from flour. For the same reason a duty needs to be put on wheat." In the same way Sir Leonard Tilley is perplexed by the counter demands for protection for the farmer and the miller. Duties on exports, which are equal to a bounty on the produce of other countries, are still retained. If the West Indies produced something which no other country could supply, consumers might be obliged to pay its export duties; but when cane sugar is pressed with severe competition by beet sugar the exporters are fighting with a rope round their necks. Depression must continue to be the normal state of things in a country subject to the economic conditions which prevail in the British West Indies.

PULLMAN, as all the world knows, is the model village built by the Pullman Car Company for its workmen near Chicago, the rival of M. Godin's "Social Palace" at Guise and of Sir Titus Salt's Saltaire. All three are experiments in what may be called Millocratic Socialism, being alike attempts of great employers to erect ideal abodes for their work-people. To all outward appearances Pullman is a complete success. Every-thing about it is smiling and attractive. Every possible provision has been made for the comfort, health, instruction, and amusement of its denizens. Among the provisions for their amusement is one of the prettiest little theatres in the world. The cursory visitor goes away with the image of an industrial paradise deeply engraven upon the tablet of his memory; but a closer observer, writing in *Harper's Monthly*, after dilating through a long article on the fair outside of Pullman, ends by revealing to us that the model village is honeycombed with discontent. Nobody looks upon it as a home. Nobody can enjoy the comfort and dignity of freehold or even of secure occupation. The management in its arbitrariness is Bismarckian; the dread shadow of the Company is everywhere present; nobody dares to speak his mind or can do so except under penalties; and enhanced comfort does not to the American mind make up for the loss of freedom. There are complaints also that with regard to appointments and promotions in this ideal

society favouritism and nepotism prevail. The inhabitants of the Happy Valley are not happy. May it not be inferred that happiness is not very likely to be found in any Socialistic Utopia? In all of them alike individual freedom must be resigned and complete submission must be rendered to a paternal government which will distribute the employments and apportion the remuneration. Are the secretaries of Trade Unions and the editors of Labour Journals, when invested with supreme power by the Socialistic Revolution, likely to be less arbitrary, less addicted to favouritism, or more popular than the benevolent founder of Pullman?

THE silver interest at Washington is resolved that the coinage, which under the present law cannot fall below two millions of dollars a month, shall suffer no check. The President elect is, if possible, to be prevented saying anything on the subject in his Inaugural Message, over one hundred democratic members having in a written memorial asked him to pass over the subject in silence. While the mono-metallists in Congress have for some time past been putting their faith in a proposal for tacking a clause to the Appropriation Bill providing for the suspension of silver coinage, the bi-metallists have been trying to prevent any adverse action next session receiving an impulse from the sanction of the President. Meanwhile the increasing proportion of gold to silver may well create anxiety among thoughtful men. On the 1st of January, 1884, there were in the treasury one hundred and forty-two millions of gold besides the amount necessary to meet seventy-seven millions of outstanding gold certificates; a year later the net gold over and above what was necessary to meet outstanding gold certificates was one hundred and twenty-five millions. The outstanding silver certificates rose during the year from about ninety-seven millions (\$96,958,031) to nearly one hundred and fourteen millions (\$113,858,811) and the net silver over and above those amounts rose from twenty-six to thirty-six millions. Already the silver certificates exceed the gold certificates in amount. It is usual to represent the silver in the treasury as idle and useless; the greater part of it is certainly not idle, though it is undoubtedly mischievous. The one hundred and fourteen millions of silver in respect to which certificates have been issued is the property of the owners of the certificates, and while allowed to remain in the treasury as a safe and convenient place of deposit, it is not the less in circulation through its representative. And in this insidious circulation by proxy the real danger lies. The silver dollars themselves could no have gone into circulation; the silver certificate, which readily passes from hand to hand, puts one hundred and fourteen millions of silver in the place of gold. The total amount of gold in the treasury is two hundred and thirty-seven millions, and already the stock of silver reaches two hundred and ten millions. All this silver is token money to which a fictitious value is given above its intrinsic value. This would not be objectionable if the total amount were no more than is required for change—the proper function and limit of tokens—but when it is made to do duty so largely in lieu of gold the irregular interference with the standard carries with it a serious danger. And the evil is increased every month by the coinage of two millions more silver dollars. The Silver Ring counts on being able to keep its grip on the throat of Congress.

IN Egypt the scene shifts too swiftly for the comments of a weekly journal to keep up with the course of events. But surely, as we said before, the wailing has been excessive. Khartoum fell by treachery, and, saving its heroic commandant, there was not a British soldier in it when it fell. This was a misfortune, which, though deplorable in itself, neither brings any stain upon the British arms nor tends in any way to shake our faith in the prowess of the British soldier, which has everywhere been most gloriously displayed. The mistake, if civilians may venture to criticize, seems to have been in allowing an adventurer with whose heroism insanity evidently mingled, to take up a position far beyond the scope of regular operations. To send an army on a desperate expedition for his relief, when the miraculous influences and agencies on which he relied had failed him, might be generous, perhaps it was a point of honour; but evidently it was to court disaster. At Khartoum the Mehdi was on his vantage-ground, with all his fanatical hordes around him and with the desert in his front. Should he venture to advance, being, as he probably is, without regular commissariat or means of transport, the balance of advantage will be reversed. It seems that he is, unfortunately, provided with better arms than he was at first, and his movements are directed by foreign advisers. Yet there can surely be little fear as to the result of an encounter between him and Lord Wolseley in the open field. An expensive and protracted struggle is now in prospect, unless by some sudden turn of fortune the Mehdi should collapse, as barbarians and impostors are apt to do; but victory must in the end rest with the civilized power if the Government and the Generals are only allowed to conduct the war.