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All articles, contributions, and letters on matter pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The acknowledgment from time to time in the city papers of sums contributed by citizens in aid of the Sons of England Life-boat enterprise, reminds us of the obligation under which the city is laid by this generous and humane undertaking. It is not often that a private club or corporation is found volunteering in this way to perform a service for the general benefit of the city, and of no more advantage to the volunteers than to any other citizens. As a benevolent institution, the Sons of England club, in common with other similar societies, is doing a noble work in aid of poor and destitute individuals and families. In the particular sphere of life-saving, which it has made its own, it is making itself a public benefactor. It is to be hoped that in so doing it

will receive freely not only the meed of gratitude which is its due, but also such financial and other aid from citizens as will afford the most practical proof that its self-sacrificing efforts are appreciated, and will enable it to procure the most approved appliances for the service it has undertaken, and prevent the possibility of embarrassment from lack of funds for all necessary purposes. The least that citizens can do is to provide freely and amply all the funds necessary for carrying on the work of saving life in the most efficient manner.

The election of a Democrat as United States Senator from North Dakota has settled the question of Democratic control of the Senate, and removed one great obstacle which threatened to obstruct and retard the work of tariff-reform, to which President-elect Cleveland and his party are pledged. So long as a Republican majority ruled in the Senate there was, to say the least, great danger that the efforts of the other two branches of the Government might be persistently frustrated by the opposition of the third. Mr. Cleveland will go into the White House to-morrow with power to redeem the party promises, and with the added responsibility which is involved in the possession of such power. The most serious hindrance to rapid reform of the tariff will be the state of the national finances, which is such that a very large revenue must at once be had. But, even so, it is evident that there must be many of the more highly taxed necessities and comforts of those commodities sure under any circumstances to have a large sale—the duties on which can be brought down to the revenue-paying point, with positive benefit to the treasury, as well as to consumers and to trade. Other large and perplexing questions the Cleveland administration will undoubtedly have to settle; but the silver question, which is the most important—next to that of the tariff—is not a party question, as that of a revenue tariff versus a protective one now undoubtedly is.

If it be true that the Orange societies in the North of Ireland are preparing for forcible resistance to a Home Rule parliament, the fact might easily be made the ground for a strong argument in favour of Home Rule. It might be said with a good deal of force that the existence in the Island of a comparatively small minority, who are unwilling to entrust the management of local affairs to a Legislature in which they will be fully represented; will have special guarantees against any infringement upon their rights, civil or religious; and will, from the nature of the case, be pretty sure to hold the balance of power, proves that such minority are unwilling to grant equal rights to their fellow-citizens, and will be content with nothing less than the rule of a minority constituted of themselves, such as, it is alleged, they have hitherto exercised. However painful it may be to go on with a measure which is

threatened with armed resistance, it would be pusillanimous for the statesmen and members of Parliament who believe their measure to be just and right, and essential to the prosperity of the country, to waver because of such threats. As a matter of fact Mr. Gladstone and his supporters seem to be very little perturbed by the sanguinary utterances of Col. Sanderson and his friends. Whether they refuse to take those utterances seriously, or are actuated by a quiet determination to uphold the supremacy of Parliament and enforce the legislation it may enact, does not yet appear.

In a recent discourse on the "Orient and Occident" Mr. Mangasarian, of the Chicago Ethical Culture Society, paid the following eloquent tribute to the Anglo-Saxon.

"As the family is Roman in origin, religious liberty is Saxon. Freedom was born in England. England was the first country to grasp the deeper meaning of the word liberty. The French, in spite of the great revolution, have never been able to seize the genius of liberty as their Saxon neighbors across the channel. It was in England that Voltaire found an asylum, having escaped from the Bastille in Paris. George Fox, with his glorious doctrine of "The Light Within," could have had no hearing in any other country. The immortal cargo of the Mayflower could have come only from England. Liberty, religious and political, is Saxon in its origin."

And yet they are Anglo-Saxons and members of a distinctively Anglo-Saxon organization in Toronto, who are threatening to ostracize Mr. Goldwin Smith for exercising what he regards as the right of free speech, and in regard to whom he recently had occasion to say to the members of the St. George's Society of Washington:

"I will defend the right of Canadian citizens to freedom of opinion and speech on vital questions against those who seek to impose the gag. I will defend conscientious conviction generally against repression by the social penalties, to which in default of the old instruments of persecution tyrannical intolerance resorts. This I will do to the extent of my power and resources; and I feel confident that I shall be found to have done nothing as an Englishman to forfeit your esteem."

It need surprise no one that the promised revision of the Electoral Franchise Act has resolved itself into a few amendments in the mode of preparing the lists, which leave the principle of the measure untouched. The whole system is not only enormously expensive, but radically unsound, as is every system which, under party government, puts the preparation of the lists and the control of the electoral machinery so completely in the hands of the Administration of the day. It would be too much to expect that the Government should, save under pressure of a public opinion on their own side of the House much weightier than has yet been developed, deprive themselves of a weapon from which they have undoubtedly derived very great party advantage, if not an actual extension of their term of office. Should the Opposition ever come into power, there will