

tion of Italy, Germany, and our own Canadian commonwealth. Yet Norway has determined to cut loose from her larger and wealthier partner. It surely would have been better to have formed a union with Denmark. The smaller countries are always in peril of their predatory and unscrupulous larger neighbors. Having gobbled up Finland, Russia may attempt to make a meal of Norway to secure an Atlantic port. Germany has already taken Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark, and menaces the independence of Belgium. Probably, however, the arbitration treaty which refers all future causes of difference to the Hague tribunal will enable Norway and Sweden to get on better as independent kingdoms. Sweden has acted with great self-restraint, and what might have caused a bitter and fratricidal war has been happily adjusted in peace.

#### A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

The retirement on account of ill health of Sir William Mulock, after nine years' public service as Postmaster-General, will be a matter for public regret. No man has served the people with greater devotion than he. He will take rank with Rowland Hill as a statesman who, by cheapening postage, has strengthened the ties of family affection and linked the far-flung members of the British Empire in closer bonds of union. It is well known that he discharged his onerous duties and made his long journeys to the very antipodes when suffering severely from rheumatism. Though a man of wealth, he has toiled like an office clerk. We hope that he will be able to serve his native country in some less exacting line of duty. His retirement at this juncture is more to be regretted, as there seems to be an earnest purpose to have penny postage throughout the whole Empire. We believe the reduction of the newspaper postage as well would greatly aid in the development of the imperial spirit throughout the forty colonies of the great "mother of nations."

#### A VETERAN SENATOR.

The death of Senator Wark removed the oldest parliamentarian in the world. He was born in Ireland in 1804. His life spanned the long interval of over a century—to be exact, one hundred and one years and a half. He lived in five reigns, those of George III., George IV., William IV., Queen Victoria, and King Edward. What changes in the realm of science, politics, art, civil and religious progress and civilization the old man witnessed. He continued almost to the last to discharge his parliamentary duties, and was alert in both body and mind. His long life and good health are largely attributable to his strict temperance habits, to his principles which safeguarded his health of body and mind. He was deeply interested in all social and moral reforms, an active and earnest member of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an ornament.



SENATOR WARK—HE WAS THE OLDEST LIVING LEGISLATOR IN THE WORLD.