

resolved to continue the fight. In order to do so their first recourse must be, we believe, to the Manitoba courts by way of asking further injunctions, and thence by appeal, if necessary to the British Privy Council. The ultimate result can scarcely be in doubt, but in the meantime much more mischief may be done. It seems in the last degree unlikely that the Manitoba court can, in the face of the opinion of the Supreme Court, renew its injunction. In the absence of such renewal, assuming, as the Minister of Public Works is said to have intimated, that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council will now at once consent to the crossing and prescribe its place and mode, it is hard to see that the Canadian Pacific can find any other legal means of delaying the crossing and the completion of the road. The road once completed and in operation, further legal proceedings may be viewed with a good degree of equanimity, especially as a reversal of judgment by the British Privy Council, is, as we have intimated, in the light of other judgments, highly improbable. Meanwhile it may be hoped that the Canadian Pacific authorities may be better advised, conclude that second thoughts are best, accept the inevitable, and put an end to the trouble.

THE visit of Principal Grant to the Antipodes has evidently been not the least among the many influences which are just now drawing Canada and the Australian colonies nearer to each other. Dr. Grant, with praiseworthy patriotism, seems to have seized every opportunity to make the circumstances and resources of his own country better known to our cousins on the other side of the globe. We have no doubt that he will be equally zealous, and equally useful, now that he is again among us, in making us better acquainted with the resources and needs of our fellow-colonists. Dr. Grant's information coincides with that we are from time to time receiving from other sources, in reference to the growing favour with which the projected Pacific cable scheme is meeting in the Australian colonies. The anticipated visit of representatives of those colonies to Canada, at the invitation of the Dominion Government, will be an auspicious event. It may be hoped that it will lead to concerted action for the hastening on of the cable scheme. It would be intolerable in these pushing times if the projectors of the scheme should have to wait three or four years for the completion of the survey by a single vessel before they can begin to float the project.

THE fears in regard to the fate of Stanley and Emin Bey, which were intensified by the discouraging though doubted letter of Osman Digma to General Grenfell, have now been happily relieved, in part, by the seemingly reliable news that Stanley was safe and well on the 17th of August, having on that day reached the Arnwihimi. He had left Emin Pasha in perfect health and well supplied towards the end of May. This intelligence is unhappily not irreconcilable with the statement of Emin's capture, though it tends to discredit it. The statement of the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Suakin, to the effect that "the Khedive's letter to Emin Pasha, a copy of which Osman Digma sent to General Grenfell, was a State secret, and that no copy ever left Cairo," still further darkens the mystery of its possession by Osman Digma, and deepens alarm for the safety of Emin, though of course the letter might have been stolen from Emin by an attendant, or intercepted in the hands of a messenger. There seems every reason to hope that letters will soon be received from Stanley, though these may not decide the question of Emin's safety.

LATE cable despatches show that the recent victory at Suakin is producing its natural effect in England. There is undoubtedly much force in the assertion ascribed to the *Saturday Review*, that quiet will never be restored in North-East Africa until England has established civilized authority at Khartoum, though it seems incredible that the *Review* can have supported its opinion with the absurd hyperbole that it is "as certain as that the sun rose yesterday, and considerably more certain than that the sun will rise to-morrow." We do not know whether those who endorse the on-to-Khartoum policy explain how they will dispose of the pledges of former governments, or even of Lord Salisbury's recent assurances, which, notwithstanding the public incredulity alleged by the despatches, seemed unambiguous enough. In view of the difficulties thus suggested, and the perhaps more formidable physical and climatic obstacles in the way of a career of conquest, it may yet, perhaps, be thought worth while to enquire into the opinions lately expressed by General Adye in the *Times*, to the effect that the whole difficulty with the

Soudanese tribes in the former expedition, arose from their belief that the British were trying to re-conquer their country for the Egyptians, whose rule they detest, and that if only their minds could be dispossessed of this notion it would be easy to make peace and establish commercial relations with them. This seems to be, substantially, the view of Sir Lepel Griffin, though he would have as a preliminary the proclamation of a British protectorate over the Suakin region. It seems tolerably clear that England will have either to recede or advance, or in some way change her tactics. The present nondescript relations with the Egyptians and the native tribes cannot be perpetuated.

LORD DUFFERIN seems to have signalized the close of his brilliant Indian Viceroyalty by an expression of opinion that will cause his name to be long, if not gratefully, remembered by an influential class of natives. The occasion was a public dinner at Calcutta. In the course of his speech the retiring Viceroy cast aside the guarded language of diplomacy and expressed himself in the plainest terms in regard to the aims of the Native Congress agitators. Lord Dufferin saw nothing but mischief and danger in the movement. In his view there are but a few thousands of all the millions of British India sufficiently educated and intelligent to be trusted with a measure of self-government. The only safety for the "tesselated nationalities" is in the continuance of the despotic rule, which he admits still exists, by the one foreign nationality which "alone possesses the power and the will to weld the rights and status of each element of the empire into a peaceful, co-ordinated, and harmonious unity." These various races, he thinks, ought to feel that "there is no greater blessing to a country than the existence of an external, dispassionate, immutable authority." But do they feel it, or can they be made to feel it, and to recognize in British rule such an authority? The very existence of the movement which Lord Dufferin decries, and the fact that it is taking such a hold as it evidently is taking, not only upon the few thousands of highly educated natives who are at its head, but upon the millions of those who, though they may be classed as illiterate, are yet as shrewd and as capable of understanding their own interests and managing their own business affairs as multitudes of the enfranchised in England or America, shows that the blessings of beneficent despotism are not fully appreciated. Lord Dufferin may be right, but there is great danger that he may be wrong. It is impossible for self-ruling colonists not to feel some sympathy with the native aspirations. Putting aside all higher considerations, it is worthy of serious consideration whether the permanence of British rule, and the ever obtrusive interests of British capitalists and investors would not be better secured by encouraging and guiding those aspirations, than by goading the people to hatred and desperation by a policy of despotic repression.

THE Democratic politicians who control the United States House of Representatives, if not wise in their generation, are at least able to discern the signs of the times, and govern themselves accordingly. They have determined in caucus to favour the admission to the dignity of States, of Dakota, Washington, Montana and New Mexico. Dakota, which has so long stood vainly knocking at the door, is to be admitted either as a single State, or as two, as the people may decide. Of course the reason for this change of policy is not far to seek. The accession of the first three of the territories named is pretty certain to strengthen materially the Republican party. With a Presidential election looming on the horizon, the Democrats had no disposition to legislate new hostile forces into the opposing army. Now all is changed. The Republicans are coming into power, and one of their first acts would be sure to be to open wide the gates for the admission of these territories. The Democrats seeing this have cunningly resolved to make a bid for the credit of performing this delayed act of justice, and thus make what capital it is now possible to make out of the tardy concession. The Republicans can, of course, but help them carry out the measure when it is introduced. They may, however, take a different attitude in regard to New Mexico. The latter territory meets the condition so far as population is concerned, but, as the *Tribune* points out, its population is of a very different stamp from that of the North-western Territories. The latter are peopled largely by hardy farmers and others from the older States. They are enterprising, intelligent, prosperous. But, though New Mexico has been peopled for hundreds of years, and has been a Territory for forty years, it has as yet scarcely reached a higher grade of civilization than that of a century or more ago.

The people are largely of Mexican descent, and a few years ago five-sixths of the schools were taught exclusively in the Spanish language. It will be seen that there is really a wide difference between this applicant for the honours of Statehood and the others, but as New Mexico is in Democratic latitude, the Democratic leaders will, there is little doubt, insist on its admission, tacking the Bill to the other Bills, somewhat as the British Commons used to tack to their Supply Bill any measure likely to be especially objectionable to the House of Lords.

A NOVEL and somewhat ingenious defence of "Combinations" was offered the other day by a manufacturer before the Senate Committee of the State of New York. His argument was that when the products of all manufacturers are sold at the same schedule of prices dealers will naturally buy of the firm which produces the best goods. Manufacturers being thus forced to compete with each other in qualities instead of in prices, the tendency of the "combinations" is to improve the quality of products. The ready answer to this as a theory is that in cases in which such competition is possible, it would tend to defeat the object for which the combinations are made, and would not, therefore, be tolerated. The member of a "combine" who should improve the quality of his goods up to a point beyond the possibility of reaping the full, round profits which is its reason for being, would soon be brought to his senses by his associates. As a matter of fact the principle in question is inapplicable to a large number of products from their very nature, and inapplicable also to the combination itself in its most objectionable form—the Trust—under which all establishments are placed under a single board of management. Among interesting facts brought out in the course of the Committee's investigation were the following, viz.: That the Sugar Trust is now running half-a-dozen refineries, and has ten dead ones; that under the operation of the Cotton Bagging Trust the price of bagging has been raised from six and a half or seven cents a yard, to twelve and a half; and that the average wages paid labourers by the latter are from eighty to ninety cents a day.

THAT bribery and corruption in their grossest forms held high carnival during the late Presidential election in the United States seems established beyond all possibility of reasonable doubt. The more independent papers have ever since been crying out for an investigation. The *Christian Union*, one of the most influential of these, now admits, sorrowfully, that there seems little hope that any such investigation will be held. It sees, or fears it sees, in various circumstances, indications of a reluctance on the part of leading politicians in both parties to prosecute any vigorous inquiry. The investigation by the grand jury of Indiana is hardly commenced before the judge is called away, and the jury adjourned. The United States District Attorney undertakes the prosecution, and then suddenly resigns his post. In Congress there is no prospect of an investigation, because the session, it is said, will not be long enough. No one of those prominent party leaders who have been specially singled out and denounced as the high priests of corruption is clamouring for an inquiry. All keep suspiciously quiet under the imputations. A bill has, indeed, been introduced into Congress, disfranchising both bribe-takers and bribe-givers, but it contains no provision for the detection of bribery, and none for its effective prevention. That against which De Tocqueville warned the republic fifty years ago as its chief danger—the rule of a plutocracy—seems to be coming upon it, and the indifference with which the great body of citizens apparently look upon the aggression and usurpation of the gross and debasing power of money, is appalling. It is a wonder that both the United States and Canada do not adopt the simple and effective English expedient of limiting the amount of legitimate expenses, and requiring sworn accounts of the disbursements.

AGNOSTICISM and Positivism are the two wings of the great army of the Philosophical Scepticism of the day. It is hard to say which offers the dreariest and most unsatisfying substitute for the precious faith in a personal God, which alone can satisfy the heart hunger of humanity. But it must be interesting and encouraging to Christian thinkers to note how completely these two scientific substitutes for the Christian system antagonize and neutralize each other. Agnosticism is necessarily austere, stoical, fatalistic. To many it would seem that if it were at all logical, it should be the saddest of all forms of unbelief.