

as the prime minister of a great nation and one of the best and wisest reformers of his day.

The only other foreign event of the month, which appears worthy of special mention, is the inauguration of General Grant a second time as President of the United States. The occupation of the Presidential chair by a man of his stamp, while such men as Sumner, Greeley and Seward sought in vain for an opportunity of filling it, is a species of satire on the democratic sneers so generally indulged in against a hereditary monarchy. It is quite true that a monarchy furnishes no guarantee against a fool becoming heir to the throne; but Responsible Government can at least tie his hands so as to prevent him from doing serious mischief. If a Charles I. or a James II., or even an Elizabeth found it impossible to assert their individual views too strongly, it is not likely that the better understood and more scientific maxims of constitutional government, as practised now, will ever tolerate interference with popular rights hereafter. So much can hardly be said of a system which elects a Chief Magistrate by dint of conventions and wire-pulling, and then places in his hands a kind of semi-despotic political power during his incumbency. President Grant's *penchant* for annexing territory crops out even in his inaugural address. He admits the right of the people to judge of the expediency of annexing new dominions to those already acquired; but, even with this reservation, it may well be questioned whether any real statesman would, at the present juncture, think or speak of annexing more territory at all. It is a soldier's talk, and the talk of a not very intelligent soldier at that. Surely it is time that this insatiable craving after territory should give place to the appreciation of a higher and nobler destiny among our neighbors. It is true that sensible men repudiate the manifest destiny dream, and the absurd Monroe doctrine; but if they want foreigners to believe in their sincerity and live on amicable terms with them, they ought to instruct their Chief Magistrate to eliminate all such visionary nonsense out of his state papers, whatever his private views may be.