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CURRENT TOPICS.

The (ase of the Canada Revue against Military Fabre, now on trial in the Maireal courts, involves very important Maciples and may become famous. The omplained of, the issuance of the circumstance tondemning the newspaper and prethe newspaper and public the newspaper and public the being read by the faithful, is thitted. That serious damage to the That serious damage we the serious damage we will be serious damage to the serious damage. The real tin we suppose, also certain. The real we suppose, also certain. The tables is, clearly, whether, as put butance by the Abbe Marie in his the Abbe Marie in the people assembled at the des Neiges cemetery, an archbishop or prelate of the Roman Catholic Church be made to answer before the civil lot an episcopal act. The reductio the view is so easily applied to the view that it is surprising to those b seriously held. Suppose, for the

sake of the argument, that the circular had been one inciting to murder or arson and that it had led to the commission of the crime recommended, could there have been any doubt whether the Archbishop was amenable to the civil law? If the case, however decided, is accepted as establishing a precedent for the Province of Quebec, the result, in its bearing upon the rights of the citizen, will be serious.

The records of Canadian public life contain few names more worthy of lasting honour than that of Sir A. T. Galt, who died last week in Montreal. Mr. Galt first entered the Canadian legislature in 1849. Nine years after, his abilities and influence had become so well recognized that on the resignation of the Brown-Dorion Government he was sent for by Sir Edmund Head and offered the position of First Minister, a responsibility which he declined to assume, though he accepted the position of Finance Minister in the Cartier-Macdonald Administration which was then formed This was the position for which his talents specially fitted him. He took a prominent part in the debates and negotiations which led to Confederation, and twice held the responsible office of Finance Minister in a Dominion Cabinet, in which capacity he rendered lasting service to the country. Sir Alexander was a statesman of a type which has hitherto been all too scarce in the history of the Dominion. So far as we are aware no scandal ever marred either his administration of public office, or his personal reputation. He seems to have been distinguished no less by his amiability and uprightness in private life, than by the business and financial ability which gave him so much weight in public affairs. He was the first Canadian High Commissioner in London, having been appointed to that office in 1880, and retired from it into private life three years later. Though the period which has since elapsed has been almost sufficient, in these intensely busy days, to cause his former services to become dim in the memory of the public, the announcement of his illness and death will have recalled them with sufficient vividness to awaken a very sincere regret at his loss and call forth deep sympathy with his bereaved

French republican enthusiasm and Russian autocratic diplomacy do not seem to pull well together. If it be true that the Russian Minister at Paris has attempted to wet-blanket the burning desire of the

excitable Parisians for a great demonstration on the cceasion of the coming visit of the Russian fleet, it is hard to see where the matter will end. Where is the great advantage of having reached a quasi understanding with the great northern power, if the fact may not be heralded to all the world in a great pageant, got up specially for the edification of the Triple Alliance? It is likely that some compromise may be reached which will still make the visit possible, and that the French love of theatrical display will find some means of gratification without ignoring the preference of the visitors, an act of rudeness which the polite Frenchmen should be the last to commit. But the incident serves to set in a strong, almost ludicrous, light the great contrast between the two peoples, and the serious difficulty which will always attend any effort at close alliance and harmonious co-operation between them. Such incidents tend, too, to make more manifest the inherent weakness of the Republic under present conditions, and to lessen the dread which she might otherwise inspire in her great antagonist over the border. The constant tendency to bluster and menace is in the end far less terrifying than would be the evidence of a quiet, resolute determination, which generally seeks rather to avoid than to attract attention while its plans are being matured and its forces collected for a desperate struggle. The progress of the naval visit will still be watched with a curious interest, but any effect it might have had as a significant manifestation of a close alliance between the two powers will have been discounted in advance by the hysterics of the republican partner.

The latest advices from Brazil seem to indicate that the revolutionary forces have received a check, and that their triumph may not be so near as was previously thought probable. One uncomfortable thing about these perpetual squabbles in the South American republics is that one never knows on which side his sympathies ought to be enlisted. There is a kind of satisfaction, when following the movements of armies, no matter how insignificant or remote the country, in being able to feel that some precious principle is at stake, and that one party or the other represents the cause of liberty and good government. It is very likely, in fact pretty certain, that in this instance, as perhaps in most other South American revolts, the uprising has really more or less of justification in the arbitrary

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