

cost of which is daily increasing and inflicting upon their energy and industry, fresh burthens and evils which must, in the natural course of events, reach a culminating point which will be either war or disarmament. To judge by the present aspect of affairs, the former seems the most likely, although the latter is most spoken of. The great accession of strength acquired by Prussia in her victory over Austria, has roused the fears and jealousy of France, and we honestly believe the Emperor only awaits a fitting opportunity to make an attempt to humble the pride of his now great rival. There can be no doubt but the singular success of Prussia is owing in an eminent degree to her wisdom in keeping her army up to the requirements of the age, and by freely making use of, and applying the lessons of progress to the once considered unprogressive Germans. While Austria, wedded to the obsolete trammels of the past, was bewildered and defeated almost before she was well aware the fight had begun. And, like that famous campaign which culminated at Koeniggratz, we venture to predict, would be the war, should such occur, between France and Prussia, though we hardly think either party will be so completely upset as was Austria. Terrible disaster and ruin there would be, but neither fortunately possess sufficient money to carry on a protracted campaign, one or two battles, if they did not end the matter, would, at least, cripple both to such an extent as to render peace a necessity, and put another bridle, in the shape of debt, upon the jealousy and ambition of their tyrants. But Napoleon, who does not even yet feel secure upon the throne which cannot be denied he has filled with great power and ability, has a wholesome dread of consequences, and, being commercially astute, he knows well the ruinous effects of unproductive wars. Germany, on the other hand, being so recently welded together, and with the sound of the blows which accomplished the union still ringing in her ears, is hardly prepared for another war, although the ambition of a King and the arrogance of a minister may at any moment hasten the catastrophe. Should these two powers become embroiled in war, Italy, panting for the full realization of her dream of Freedom, will be sure to aid either one which will assist her in that object.

Still the great armaments must be maintained with an ever increasing expense, for science, with extraordinary energy, is every day bringing the art of destruction to greater perfection, and, as the means of increasing havoc are multiplied, the chances of war are rendered fewer; and we have heard it fairly argued that one or two more wars is all that is necessary to convince the European powers of the terrible cost and utter uselessness of war for mere aggrandizement.

However the chances go it is pretty certain England will not be mixed up in the dispute,

for as far as it is concerned there could be no possible object gained in aiding the success of either of the contending parties.

By a telegraph from San Francisco, dated 3rd inst., we are made aware of another of those instances by which the Officers of Her Majesty's Navy make the name of Great Britain feared and respected in the most remote and lawless parts of the world, and render the very name of Englishman a passport and the British flag a sure and safe protection.

It appears, from what we can gather, that Her Majesty's ship *Chanticleer* while in a perilous position off the coast of Mexico fired signals of distress, a pilot came to her assistance and she was finally got out of danger and proceeded to the port of Mazatlan where the Collector of Customs seized one of the officers of the ship under suspicion of smuggling specie and searched his person and did, it seems, find some gold upon him. Upon learning this outrage upon his officer the Commander of the *Chanticleer*, Captain Bridge, went ashore and preemptorily demanded satisfaction for the insult. A hot dispute followed which culminated in the arrest and search of the Captain himself, after which that Officer went aboard the *Chanticleer* and notified the inhabitants of Mazatlan and the different Consuls that he would bombard the city in return for the insult offered to the British flag. Considerable excitement ensued and a long but unsatisfactory correspondence followed between Captain Bridge, General Corona and the civil authorities; at length on account of representations made by Mr. Sessions, the United States Consul, the British Commander declared he would not bombard the city, but simply blockade the port until such time as an answer could be received from the Admiral commanding at Victoria. The latest advices state that the Admiral fully endorses Captain Bridge, and it is very probable the whole Pacific coast of Mexico will be blockaded by the British fleet.

There can be no doubt that in taking these summary measures to repay insult, the Commander of the *Chanticleer* was perfectly justifiable; the world is well convinced by this time of the recklessness of Mexican officials in dealing with foreigners, and it is high time they were taught a lesson in civilized usage. All the foreign consuls at Mazatlan agree to uphold the action taken by Captain Bridge, and have addressed a note to the American Charge d'Affaires at the City of Mexico, strongly condemning General Corona and the Customs Collector; and so the affair stands, the port is still blockaded, and an opinion is expressed that this is only the first move in a long premeditated British interference in Mexico.

The decision displayed by the British Commander is thus commented upon by the *New York Herald*:—

"The promptitude with which the com-

mander of the "*Chanticleer*" has resented the insult to the British flag comports well with traditional English spirit and policy. Unfortunately we must add that it contrasts discredibly to us with our forbearance in view of Mexican insolence. In this very case of Capt. Bridge the representatives of Great Britain and Prussia pay a respect to the American flag which only the Mexicans seem not to have learned to feel. So long as the Mexican authorities are not called to a strict account for their recent numerous outrages to American citizens—such, for example as the assassination of Colonel Becker and the imprisonment and flagellation of several American merchants at Monterey—it is, perhaps, not surprising that the authority of the American flag should fail to be respected. Is it not time that the Mexicans should be taught to respect it?"

'Tis thus by upholding the honor and dignity of the British flag, as we said before, that the officers of Her Majesty's forces have made the name of Great Britain feared and respected throughout the world; and a lesson like that taught to Abasco will not, we apprehend, be thrown away upon the Mexicans.

The long expected Presidential proclamation granting an unreserved amnesty to the so-called rebels of the South, was issued on the 4th inst. We suppose that day was chosen to give more *clat* to the ninety-third anniversary of American Independence, and perhaps there might have been just a little of an electioneering dodge about it, as the Democratic Convention met to choose their candidate for President on the same day. However as it is a just and popular measure we will not quarrel with the mode of its promulgation. It removes from such men as Generals Lee and Joseph Johnson the disabilities under which they have labored since the close of the war, and is indeed about as fitting a celebration of the Fourth as the President could give. There can be no doubt but the days of the Radical Congress are numbered, and in each fresh instance we see hopes of a return to a wiser and kindlier policy. The people of the United States inherit too much British blood and instinct to desire to trample upon a fallen foe. Whatever the result of the coming election may be, we feel it will be beneficial to the country at large, and go far towards ending the troubles of the unhappy South.

The *Pictou Gazette*, as quoted by the *Bellville Intelligencer*, gets off the following:—

"Col McDougall took occasion a few days ago, in a speech at Toronto, to have a fling at Major Powell, for having as a member of the House of Commons, moved and carried a resolution to prevent the increase of the salaries of officers belonging to his staff, of whom Col. McDougall is the Chief."

We would like to know when Major Powell assumed the dignity of having a staff, and also when Colonel MacDougall became chief of Major Powell's staff. The gallant Adjutant General will no doubt be as astonished as ourselves at the new position which he is now made to occupy.