

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1896.

THE GRITS' BUGBEAR.

The return of Sir Charles Tupper to the political arena of the Dominion is most distasteful to the Grits. They know that he is an astute politician and a powerful debater. He is, besides, a man of great force of character. They see already that he has given new life to the Conservative party, and they are consequently angry and disappointed. They have not sufficient self-restraint to conceal their feelings. Sir Charles Tupper is spitefully attacked by the Grit speakers in the House of Commons, and the Grit newspapers have set up the old chorus of vilification. These latter ought to know by this time that they are disgracing themselves and lowering the tone of the press of Canada in vain. If detraction and vilification could have killed a statesman of Sir Chas. Tupper's character and ability, he would have been a dead man many years ago and more. Sir John A. Macdonald and he were for many years the best abused men in British North America. Before confederation the Liberal stump orators and newspapers in Nova Scotia were never tired of slandering "Dr. Tupper" and the Reform politicians and the Reform press directed a constant stream of vilification and detraction against John A. Macdonald. After the union these two eminent statesmen were the targets on which Grit scribblers and Grit speakers in all parts of the Dominion tried their skill. But the two veterans survived all the attacks of all their enemies, great and small. More than that, while they were the objects of measureless abuse and calumny, they grew in reputation and increased in influence until they were admitted on all hands to be the two foremost men of the Dominion. Do the evils-speakers, liars and slanderers of the Opposition expect to prevail against a man who has won a great reputation and climbed to the highest position in the state while he was being fiercely assailed on every hand by enemies of all calibres, sorts and sizes? If they do their minds must be so disordered by political hate and partisan prejudice as to be incapable of reasoning.

Would it not be better for them, for their party and for the reputation of Canada if they would make up their minds to behave themselves decently in the presence of Sir Charles Tupper, and use language with regard to him that respectable Canadians would not be ashamed to hear and to read. Discourtesy and incivility have hitherto been worse than useless in destroying Sir Charles Tupper's reputation and in retarding his advancement. Why then not try politeness and civility?

NOT A MASCOT.

It is no wonder that Sir Richard Cartwright is feared by his friends and bitterly hated by his opponents. His acrid criticism makes enemies of men who might by fair speech and good treatment become friends, and his ill-timed gibes and malignant sarcasms increase and intensify the antagonism of opponents. His abuse of Nova Scotians on the other day is worth a thousand votes to Sir Charles Tupper, and will do more to damage the cause of the Liberals in Nova Scotia at the coming general elections than all the smooth and flattering speeches of Liberal orators can do to recommend it to the people. He said that Nova Scotia is the dry nurse of bootlers. There is hardly an elector in the province who will not regard that taunt of Sir Richard Cartwright as a personal affront.

Sir Richard is no friend of the small and distant provinces. He has spoken of them as shreds and patches of the Dominion, and has shown a great unwillingness to do them justice. The consequence is that there is no man in the Dominion so cordially disliked in the smaller provinces east and west as the Knight of the Dismal Countenance. There was an unpleasant scene in the House of Commons on Friday, the 17th inst., chiefly caused by Sir Richard's libel on Nova Scotia, and his unjustifiable personalities.

ANOTHER DODGE.

It is evident that the demand for a commission to inquire into the Manitoba school question is nothing more than a pretext for delay—a dodge to enable Mr. Laurier and his followers to put off deciding themselves on the question until after the general election. The Government of Manitoba have declared that the minority suffer no injury and they refuse positively to even consider their case. Will a commission of inquiry enlighten them on the subject? They know all about it already. It has been before them in different forms for more than five years. The ignorance of the Manitoban who is not now posted on the school question of his province must be indeed invincible. Yet without the consent of the Manitobans nothing can be done towards settling the question amicably.

Even if the labors of a commission should result in placing more information before the people of the Dominion outside Manitoba than is accessible now, which is very questionable, what good would it do, what useful purpose would it

serve? According to the non-interference party nothing can be done in the matter without the free consent of the people of Manitoba. But they have already made up their minds, and they have signified their decision very clearly. The findings of a commission, even if they arrived at a finding, would have no effect on them. If the Manitobans were willing to compromise, if they were ready to make concessions to the minority, it would not have taken them five years and more to make up their minds as to what those concessions should be and how far they should extend. But they have as yet made no sign; they have been very far indeed from holding out the olive branch to the minority. They have done just the opposite. They have taken a stand and have said as plainly as words and actions can say it, "Here we are and here we intend to remain."

In view of all that has been done and all that has been left undone, it is plain to every unprejudiced person that Mr. Laurier's talk about a commission is nothing more than a device to gain time. If he can postpone taking decided action until after the general election he will have scored many points in the game which he is playing.

A LEVEL HEAD.

One of the best informed and the most capable of the journalists of the present day, in either Europe or America, is Mr. George W. Smalley. He is a close and an acute observer of what is going on in the world, and is perhaps as capable of discerning the tendency of the time as any newspaper man living. Mr. Smalley, hearing the cry that was lately raised about the isolation of Great Britain, and seeing the predictions that were ventured by a host of excited journalists and politicians, did not join in the uproar and was not moved by the agitation and the clamor in the slightest degree. He kept his head and was able to reason coolly and dispassionately on the situation. The conclusions he arrived at were very different indeed from those which the quidnuncs and the alarmists had formed in such hot haste. It is evident from his tone that he regards the men who were doing their utmost to disparage England and to raise a war scare with good-humored contempt. This is how he expressed himself in a letter to the New York Herald when the alarmists were busiest and when the enemies of Great Britain were loudest in their expressions of dislike and detraction:

There has been a great deal of positive talk during the week of a Continental coalition against England. The evidence of such a coalition is still to seek. It is not enough to allege that England is disliked. No doubt she is disliked, as any strong and successful Power with a continuing and string and successful foreign policy is disliked. But combinations of Continental Powers are not based on likes or dislikes. They are based on interests, on calculation, on the probability of attaining by that means some particular object.

Politics of sentiment or politics with a missionary purpose are not practised in Europe. The motto of Bismarck, "Do at Deu, which may be rendered "Nothing for Nothing," holds good for all the continent. A coalition to crush England would be a crusade. It would be an attempt to dismember the British Empire. Before it could be started each Power concerned would insist on a definite agreement with each of the other Powers as to its own share of the spoil. There would be long negotiations. It is not probable that they could long be carried on in secret, or that, if they could, an agreement would be reached. In short, the probabilities against a coalition are so many that nothing but evidence would convince any student of European affairs that such coalition had, in fact, been formed.

It is seen now that Mr. Smalley, writing a fortnight ago, took a correct view of the situation. It is now known that Great Britain is not an Ishmael among the nations, and that the British people have lost none of their warlike spirit or their bull-dog tenacity. The British nation is still regarded as a formidable foe or a most desirable ally.

STILL IN THE DARK.

The Times dances about on the school question like a pea on a hot griddle. It jumps from one position to another in the most capricious manner. Having found out that we have never asserted that Manitoba is bound to provide separate schools for the Roman Catholic minority, it says: "Our neighbor should be able to see that if the Province is not bound to provide separate schools, the Dominion Government is not bound to step in and provide them when the Province refuses to do so." What we do see is that the Province of Manitoba is bound to carry out the terms of the Federal compact as far as the denominational minority is concerned, and that it should not, when that minority exercises their right of appeal and when Parliament is asked to consider their complaint, to howl "coercion" or to try to make the people of the Dominion believe that the provincial rights are invaded. The present aspect of the Manitoba case is so simple that no one need make any mistake about it who does not want to be perverse and is not willfully stupid. Here it is: The Manitoba minority consider themselves ill-used by the school legislation of the province. They have the right to appeal from that legislation, and they have appealed. Parliament is the tribunal appointed to decide upon the appeal and to provide a remedy, if, in its opinion, a remedy is required. The reference to Parliament is about to be

made. The representatives of the people of the whole Dominion, as the constitution of Manitoba provides, are to consider the complaint of the Manitoba minority. There has been nothing wrong or unconstitutional in the whole procedure. No decision has yet been pronounced. Yet the Manitoba majority and their friends are raising a terrible uproar. Why? Because the minority have taken the steps pointed out by the Constitution to obtain a redress of what they believe to be a grievance which is now protesting so loudly.

What is our neighbor boggling about? Does it deny that the minority have no right to apply to have what they regard as a serious grievance redressed? Does it deny the competence of Parliament to consider and decide upon the complaint of the minority? Does it think that it would be fair to compel the minority in Manitoba to suffer what they believe to be a grievous wrong without being allowed to apply the remedy provided by the Federal compact for that wrong? If it does it is an advocate of coercion of the most hateful kind.

MILD CRITICISM.

The organ of the Opposition complains that there is very little in the Governor's speech, and illustrates its criticism by Falstaff's exclamation relative to the proportion of bread to sack in his lady's bill. The complaint is threadbare and the quotation is hackneyed. We trust by the time that the next speech is read from the Throne our contemporary will have something fresh to say about it in the way of criticism.

The "bill of fare" and "the bread and sack" similes, besides being nearly worn out, perpetuate, when applied to Governor's speeches, a popular error. Experience has proved in these latter days that, as a general thing, the less there is in a speech from the Throne the better. The Queen's speeches for a long time have been models of brevity, and we may add of indefiniteness.

A good many people too have a notion that unless there are a number of new measures promised or indicated in the speech it is not a good one. This is a mistake. Politicians of the best class are of opinion that there is in these days too much legislation. The Statute Book is being crammed with laws some of which are much too long and many are wholly unnecessary. A law in these days has had hardly time to get well into operation when some one introduces a measure to alter and amend it. Laws that are not really needed are drawn up in a hurry. They are passed without due deliberation and it is found that they are superfluous. Even if they were needed many of them for their crudeness would not be workable. It is lucky for the law-makers of nearly every country that there are so few judges of what constitutes a really good law.

If our legislators would only make up their minds to give themselves a rest and allow no law to be introduced unless there was an urgent necessity for it, we would have better laws and they would be more effectively and more easily administered. We are not sure that the newspapers and the electors are not responsible for a great deal of the unnecessary legislation that we deplore. As long as a Governor's speech is valued according to the number of bills that it foreshadows, and as long as electors of a district expect that their representative shall, during his term, introduce one or more measures, so long will the ingenuity of governments and private members be strained to find new subjects for legislation.

The government that does its routine work well and administers the finances of the country prudently and judiciously deserves better of the electors than the one which is ever on the lookout for something new and startling to bring before the people, and which takes a pride in the number of the measures it introduces. The work of the government, like the work of any other business concern, consists mainly in doing small and apparently unimportant things promptly and well, and in paying the greatest attention to what, in the eyes of the uninitiated, appear to be trifles. The big measures, about which a great deal of noise is made, come before a government only once in a while, and are generally of far less consequence than they are ordinarily supposed to be.

AN UNKNIGHTLY KNIGHT.

The gratuitous offence which Sir Richard Cartwright offered the people of Nova Scotia, according to the report of his speech in the Toronto Globe, was contained in the following words: "Nova Scotia arida nutritur leonem, which if my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will permit me I will freely translate. Nova Scotia, which has been the dry-nurse, and the wet-nurse, too, of probably the most pronounced types of bootlers this country has ever known." That the accusation is false aggravates its offensiveness. The public men of Nova Scotia are pretty much like the public men of the other provinces—some good and some bad. Taken by and large they are remarkable for their ability and integrity. The corrupt men among them have been few and are little known, while the able men and the honest men have been many and their countrymen are justly proud of them. We are glad to be able to say

that it would be unjust and untrue, as well as most offensive, to assert that any province of this Dominion has been the dry-nurse and the wet-nurse of bootlers, but of none of the provinces would it be more untrue and more unjust than of Nova Scotia. It is a thousand pities that a man of Sir Richard Cartwright's abilities and in his position should have so little that is gentle in his spirit, his manner and his speech.

A VIVID PICTURE.

It is not to be supposed that all the native inhabitants of Transval are as illiberal, as intolerant, as tyrannical and as short-sighted as is President Kruger. There are among the Boers enlightened, tolerant and liberal men who would, if they had their way, treat the stranger within their borders as they themselves would like to be treated in a foreign land. Some of these men find their way into the deliberative councils of the republic, and although they are in the minority they make their influence felt. The following extract from the speech of one of them, delivered in the Volksraad, shows more clearly and more convincingly than anything which an aggrieved Uitlander could say the condition in which the Boer republic keeps the aliens who pay the taxes and do the business of the country. The name of the member is Jeppe, and the subject on which he was speaking was the petition for civic rights of 40,000 Uitlanders. He said:

They have settled for good; they have built Johannesburg, one of the wonders of the age, now valued at many millions sterling, and which, in a few short years, will contain from a hundred to a hundred and fifty thousand souls. Through our own act, these people pay at least three-quarters of the taxes, nor are they persons who belong to a subservient race. They come from countries where they freely exercised political rights, which can never long be denied to free-born men. They are, in short, men who in capital, energy and endurance are at least our equals.

All those persons are gathered together, thanks to our law, into one camp. Through our own act, this multitude, which contains elements which even the most suspicious amongst us would not hesitate to trust, is compelled to stand together and so to stand on this most fatal of all questions in antagonism to us. Is that fact alone not sufficient to warn us, and to prove how unstatesman-like our policy is?

What will we do with them now? Shall we convert them into friends, or shall we send them away once more empty, dissatisfied, embittered? What will our answer be? Dare we refer them to the present law, which first expects them to wait for fourteen years, and even then pledges itself to nothing but leaves everything to a Volksraad which cannot decide until 1905. It is a law which denies political rights even to their children born in this country. Can they expect any help from that Volksraad? It is said that everything is quiet and peaceful with the new population. That is true. Political life appears to be closed amongst them. There are no more meetings, no more deputations; but I fear this peace, this hopeless, sullen peace. It reminds me of the calm before the storm. One more word. It has been stated that these people have changed their tactics, and that they now hope to gain the franchise by spending money. A newspaper went so far even as to say that I know of this attempt. I am glad my name was mentioned, for it gives me the opportunity of unambiguously denying that statement and asserting its absolute untruth. No, gentlemen, the right to vote will never be purchased by money in this Republic, nor will it ever, I trust, be obtained from us by any other means.

Who that reads this passage from a speech of one of the Boers themselves is surprised to know that the men who were kept under degrading subjection in this way pined for deliverance and were not particular how it came or from what source?

A FATAL DUALITY.

The Toronto Mail and Empire says: There seems to be a fatal duality in Mr. Laurier's mental constitution which impels him to seize and to hold two contrary opinions on every subject. Touching that part of the speech from the throne which referred to the national defence, he made a speech that would have been more fitly divided between a strong opponent and a warm advocate of measures to improve the efficiency of our military service. On the one hand he reproved the Government for jingoism, and declared that instead of satisfying the people of the United States entertained love in their hearts for the British. On the other he "quite re-echoed every word said on this subject by Mr. McGillivray."

THE NEW CHINA.

PEKIN, Jan. 25.—The government has agreed to open the West river, provided China is allowed to retain the territory ceded under the Burmah-China convention of 1894. The opening of two ports on the West or Sikan river, namely, Shooking and Wuchow, was stipulated for by the Japanese as part of the terms of peace. The cities of Canton and Hongkong are situated on the bay into which the West river empties. The news that the West river is to be opened to foreign trade occasioned no small satisfaction in Hongkong. The trade of the rich province of Yunnan had begun to be diverted by the activity of the French in Tonquin from its natural channel, down the river. The river traverses one of the richest and most densely populated portions of South China, and the Chinese have long guarded it against the entrance of foreign commerce with a sort of superstitious reverence. The territory on the Mekong which has recently been acquired by France from China by treaty opens a new route to a part of this rich country, including the tea districts on her southern coast. The French are anxious to secure this territory was a part of the situation in the far East which has been

Remember these Directions for us Cottole. For shortening never use more than two-thirds as much Cottole as you would of lard. When frying with Cottole always put it in a cold pan, heating it with the pan. Cottole produces the best results when very hot, but as it reaches the cooking point much sooner than lard, care should be taken not to let it burn—when hot enough, it will delicately brown a bit of bread in half a minute. Follow these directions in using Cottole and lard will never again be permitted in your kitchen or in your food. Genuine Cottole is sold everywhere in tins with trade-marks—"Cottole" and "steer's head in cotton-plant wreath"—on every tin. THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Wellington & Ann Sts., Montreal.

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most trying to Great Britain since the decline of her diplomatic prestige with the China-Japanese war. Great Britain claimed that the territory acquired by France included parts of what was British Burmah, but had been ceded by Great Britain to China by a convention which was ratified in London on August 23, 1894, in furtherance of Great Britain's project of the formation of a buffer state, but with the proviso that China should not alienate this territory to any other power without the consent of Great Britain. By the terms of this convention China, on the other hand, relinquished certain territory to Great Britain on the delimitation of the frontier between China and British Burmah. Within a few weeks again it was reported as a set off to the Chinese concessions to France that Great Britain had procured the assent of China to the cession to Great Britain of four states on the Burmah-Chinese frontier, giving British trade direct access to Southern China. Presumably China is now endeavoring to stop these encroachments on her southern frontier by agreeing to open the West river to commerce.

INQUIRING M.

His Anxiety Regarding the Seat of the Auditor-General.

Magnificent Standing Columbia Artillery Efficiency Brought.

OTTAWA, Jan. 24.—The House to-day was an hour was wasted in presentation of the Auditor-General's report. The Government any responsibility being an officer of the House.

Another hour was wasted in consideration of the bill courses across railways, order paper was cleared of questions.

Mr. Martin asked what would be the result of the election in Victoria by minister as to Hon. Mr. P. the cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Foster—He is stated.

Hon. Mr. Foster—He Eastern Ontario was the worst snowstorm.

Telegraphic communication taws and Windsor is not. Plants and bulbs from districts in Japan are entering Canada.

Mr. Taylor has introduced bill for the prohibition of foreign and contract, from performing.

The British Columbia a splendid position in the turns. If fully equipped would rank as high as Canada. Their regiment 107 points. Major Town No. 5, average 115; M No. 3, average 138; M No. 2, average 108; M No. 2, average 95; Capt. 4, average 89 points.

OTTAWA, Jan. 25.—A rent to-day that three cabinet had resigned. 7 word of truth in it, it started by the Grits to Tupper's election. The O ing every nerve to defeat They have sent \$47,000 with the object, if possible the electors.

Politicians who are the appointment of Col. S tant-general will fail. If who is regarded by man for the post, does Maxwell, of New Brunsw district officer, will probably.

Consideration of the referred by the Privy Monday. The measure the sub-committee is not

THE "CHRISTOFORO"

VANCOUVER, Jan. 24. When the Italian cruiser appeared in port this morning rumors were afloat. She arrival the COLONIST reported to her and after much veiled by signs to the sail to go aboard. Lieut. Rom English fluently, was called the cruiser was in a dirty long voyage and the order one would be allowed to till the afternoon.

He said: The Colombo navy, 2,675 tons displacement of sixteen knots, guns of six inches, two of four of one inch. Her follows: Captain Bert Fradette; 1st Lieut. Lu 2nd Lieut. Gagny; 3rd 4th Lieut. Resio; 5th L 6th Lieut. de Filippi; Aynerick, Winspeare, Arr Tarack, Slagbek; engines 2nd, Carnet; paymaster, geon, Dr. Belli; 2nd, Dr carries 200 men and 8 off the latter is the Duke of A ber of the royal family of a nephew of the King.

The Colombo is on a tr world, and has already China, the Philippine isla New Zealand, Tahiti, and ing direct here from Hon dirty passage. She proceeds to-morrow evening morning to remain several purpose of giving the off relaxation on land after age; thence she goes to S From there she will proceed at a number of So ports before rounding the other calls on the Atlant continent. She then goes and home. The trip is the benefit of the Duke, the world. After 2 o'clock ber of consuls and others aspects to the Duke and Colombo is very staunch paratively not a powerful

Having come from Hon was known on board at scare, and her officers been interested when informed currences in Europe. B Great Britain was said to one officer remarked in my country is friendly to officers spoke of the great Esquimaux. Mayor Collin made the officers and cre the city. The officers loo typed English navy officer brightened when social B Capital were spoken of.

MARRIAGE IN HIG

LONDON, Jan. 23.—Ch Augustus Somerset, son of set, president of the Temperance Association, to-day at St. Peter's Square, to Lady Cath Esauclere, a daughter of t. Albani, Lord Basil Black best man.