

and the wool-clip of a single year prevented from leaving Australian shores, every bank would have to close its doors. Canada would not be in so bad a predicament as Australia, because the influx of capital from the United States and our trade with our own continent would continue. But her mercantile marine would be cut up, and her loss would be very heavy. To imagine that it could be countervailed by the conveyance of British troops across the continent and the shipment of torpedoes to British Columbia is childish. The price of grain in the British market would no doubt rise; but if we could not reach that market in safety, the gain would be small. We have very little to say to the matter, deeply as it concerns our interests; but such influence as we have we may as well exert in the right direction, and not, by carelessly applauding the war mania, and holding out promises of military assistance which cannot be realized, make it more difficult for the statesmen of the Mother Country to restrain popular passion and keep the peace.

WHEN the editor of an ultra-sensational journal, in a rather critical condition, startles the world by thrilling disclosures of "Vampire Vice" and coins money out of the social convulsions which ensue, those who entertain any doubt as to the motives of the editor must be blessed with a happy simplicity of mind. That infamous places of resort must be supplied with victims by means as infamous is a self-evident as well as a most lamentable fact, and the subject has repeatedly been brought under public notice with reference not to England only but to other countries in connection with the measures taken by governments and the police. Parliament, it seems, was about to legislate, and this probably gave the cue to the *Pall Mall*. If special information had come into the hands of the editor, his obvious course was to communicate it to the Home Secretary or to the Chief Commissioner of Police, whose sense of duty and anxiety to protect public morals he can hardly imagine to be less genuine than his own. But this was not his game. His vague menaces of exposing princes of the blood, statesmen, judges, and other persons of rank or station will be regarded by all persons of sense as betraying his real object and stamping the character of his proceeding. No man can fail to be aware that it is criminal in the highest degree thus to scatter suspicion, and that in such a case as this common honesty requires the strictest adherence to specific and proved facts. To indulge in half-veiled allusions, and point the finger of imputation at men in high station without naming them is the most dastardly and criminal form of libel. The coadjutors of the editor in the inquiry are not such as engage our implicit confidence. The Salvation Army, to whose assistance he declares himself much indebted, does not, as it goes drumming and capering through our streets, present the aspect of a very trustworthy instrument for a delicate investigation. A lady, who has also been named as an assistant, has for years been conspicuous as a fiery campaigner on public platforms against the Contagious Diseases Act, and published in the course of her crusade a brochure in which the members of Parliament were accused in the mass of passing that Act for the purpose of protecting their own lusts. A Radical desire of stimulating the revolutionary feeling in society by these scandals has been imputed to the editor of the *Pall Mall*; but for our part we acquit him of any public motive whatever. The vulgar hatred of the aristocracy which commonly dwells in the same breasts with vulgar servility has, however, combined with the ordinary appetite for ordure in giving immense vogue to these scandals. The mischief done has been great. Society, not on one Continent alone, has been filled with horrible suspicions, for not a tittle of which probably is there any real ground, but from which a crop of false accusations is pretty sure to spring, especially if the guardianship of public morals is to be entrusted to the Salvation Army. Filthy ideas have been instilled into many a mind before pure, and a corrupted imagination is often the procurer to actual vice. To the cup of social bitterness already full almost to the brim an exceedingly bitter drop has been added, as the murderous yells of the Dynamiters at once announce. Cardinals and Archbishops may choose to tamper with the scandal: the world looks to them for piety rather than for wisdom. A searching inquiry conducted, not by amateurs tendering to witnesses fancy oaths, but by commissioners properly authorized and accustomed to weigh evidence, will probably be needed in order to satisfy the public mind. That Her Majesty should have sent a letter of approval was not very likely, considering that among the persons obliquely incriminated was her own son. Mr. Gladstone, if he was moved to any weakness, might remember that he had himself once to appear before a magistrate in order to clear himself of an infamous charge made by a blackmailer, while charges not less infamous or less false are being circulated against him in print by purveyors of scandal at this hour. There are fearful plague spots on the body of humanity. Let them be dealt with by the hand of the true physician, not by those of sensation-mongering journals, pulpit rhetoricians,

platform ladies and General Booth. The panic and the convulsions which these people get up, however violent, are transient; the evil takes new forms and seeks new hiding-places; and the world at large has only been initiated into a mystery of uncleanness.

SILVER coin continues to accumulate in the United States Treasury at the expense of gold at a rate which is rapidly bringing on a crisis. On the first of July the stock of gold over and above the reserve which has to be kept for the redemption of legal tender notes was down to \$20,000,000, and actual and maturing demands threaten to clear it off before the meeting of Congress. It is now certain that before Congress can restore the Treasury to a condition of safety by suspending the purchase and coinage of silver, the gold necessary to meet the obligations of the Government will have vanished. In view of the threatened danger, and as a means of saving the honour of the nation, the New York banks have voluntarily offered to exchange \$10,000,000 gold for an equal amount of fractional silver currency, and, if necessary, in conjunction with other banks to double the amount. This munificent offer would enable the Government to tide over the difficulty till Congress meets. As a temporary expedient, this means of relief would save the nation from the dishonour of paying in a depreciated coin; but the root of the evil Congress alone is capable of removing. Everything depends upon what Congress will do. The Silver Ring, which has hitherto been omnipotent, will resist a suspension of silver coinage. Nothing would suit it better than to see the Treasury reduced to the necessity of meeting its obligations in silver. This dire calamity would signalize the triumph of the Silver Ring. The Ring little counts that the event would presage the ruin of its cause; that forcing the circulation of silver in this way would cause the silver dollar to fall to the level of its bullion value; that henceforth there would be two dollars, the true dollar of gold, and the nominal silver dollar passing for eighty-five cents or less. And yet that this would be the effect the experience of depreciated currencies everywhere attests. Over and above the amount covered by silver certificates (\$101,000,000), there is no less than \$67,921,000 silver dollars in the Treasury vaults. The forcing of this amount into circulation would cause the holders of silver certificates to realize that they are entitled only to depreciated silver coin, the whole amount of which is nearly \$169,000,000. The final battle between the Silver Ring and the advocates of an honest currency will be fought next session of Congress. If intelligence and honesty are to win the silver men will be put to the rout and never again allowed to plunder the Treasury through the medium of a silver coinage law.

A QUESTION arose the other day whether Colonel Ingersoll should be allowed to hire a hall. Certainly, if our judgment were to give way to our feelings, we should be inclined to refuse a hall to a performer who goes about tickling irreverence at seventy-five cents a ticket. Colonel Ingersoll's method deserves no respect, and we should think, receives none from well-educated and right-minded Agnostics. It consists in holding up to ridicule the cosmological or ethical archaisms of the Old Testament, as though their character were not fully recognized by men who remain, nevertheless, believers in Christianity. It is not easy to give credit even for honesty to a man who plays such a game, unless we suppose him to be totally ignorant of the philosophy of history. Nor does Mr. Ingersoll's performance as an advocate in defence of the Star Route frauds dispose us to accept him as the bringer of new light and the bold vindicator of morality against immoral superstition. We have not yet heard from his disciples on that subject. Yet wisdom and justice alike bid us let him have his hall. No principle is sound or affords any firm footing short of a thoroughgoing recognition of liberty of opinion. Dynamite is not opinion, nor ought it to be allowed a hall. Incitement to crime of any kind is crime, which must be repressed by law, and this definition includes incitement to civil war. The repression of obscenity is a matter of course. Perhaps a certain measure of offensiveness in assailing established beliefs and wounding the feelings connected with them may amount to a public nuisance and be liable to suppression on that ground. Citizens have a right to immunity from insult, which would be infringed, for example, by the delivery from a platform of such attacks on the person and character of Christ as are to be found in the anti-clerical bookstores of Paris. But to this length Colonel Ingersoll hardly goes. Ridicule is a test which Christianity must be prepared to undergo, as in its infancy it underwent the test of persecution. Should Colonel Ingersoll visit this country again, as it seems to be expected that he will, let there be no unworthy betrayal on the part of Canadian Christians of fear that religion cannot stand before him. For the same reasons let us abandon once for all the preposterous idea of attempting to keep out infidelity by a Customs line. In these times we might as well attempt to keep out the east wind.