

THE ANGLO-SAXON

A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER
— Devoted to the interests of Englishmen —
and their descendants.

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SHORT & REYNOLDS,

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JANUARY, 1891.

The ANGLO-SAXON begs to wish its readers the compliments of the season. Englishmen carry their customs about with them and Santa Claus has, no doubt, crossed the seas in search of merry English hearts and sturdy little stockings. Our friends of St. George's Society have, as usual, looked after and provided for Englishmen in need at this season, and the Sons of England Society would feel like expressing their thanks but for the recollection that the St. George's Society is mainly composed of Sons of England and it would seem like patting one's self on the back for doing—after all—what is our plain and evident duty. A happy new year, brother Englishmen, and many of them!

1890.

Napoleon once sneered at the English people as a "nation of shop-keepers." There is, of course, no doubt whatever that as a nation we are interested to an extent vastly greater than any other in commercial matters. It is the trading instinct which has carried our flag into every quarter of the globe. It is the same instinct which is still forcing us onward.

But it is not our intention in this article to discuss the proportions, to which the majesty of England has grown. The mere enumeration of our possessions would occupy the greater part of a column of the ANGLO-SAXON. It is sufficient for our readers to bear in mind that the British Empire is the most enormous and complex aggregation of States, Principalities, Races, Tribes and Creeds that the World has ever known.

We therefore proceed at once to record a few of the principal events and occurrences which have made the year of our Lord 1890, one of the most remarkable in the annals of our history. There have been none of these petty wars which have usually attended the advance of our commerce into new fields. In Africa we have assumed peaceable possession of an Empire as vast as Hindustan; the conquest of Burmah has been completed and the bases of civilized government in that vast region have been securely established; explorations have been carried on in parts so widely separate as New Guinea, and the Peace River district in North-Western Canada.

The United Kingdom has remained united in spite of all that disappointed placemen with their Irish allies could effect. For the sake of the Union, a group of English liberals have renounced the honourable instincts which induce men to value power. They have conceded to their conservative allies all the honours and emoluments of patronage and place. In the whole history of English parties no men have behaved so well. The result of the O'Shea trial, (in which MR. PARNELL, the Leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, was proved guilty of adultery with the wife of MAJOR O'SHEA) having led to an attempt to depose Parnell from his position of Dictator, a complete disruption of the Irish party followed and is still in progress, and the Gladstonian liberals, who have at last discovered that their venerable leader is without any definite policy in regard to "Home Rule" are in a state of utter confusion. These revelations have brought about a revolution of feeling in favour of Lord Salisbury's Government, and the last few elections have gone conservative.

For the first time in the history of the British Parliament the regular Opposition has identified itself with the policy (the only one which it can now be said to possess)

of persistent obstruction. The London Spectator, in a fit of despair, goes so far as to say, that the House has become the prey of the doctrinaire, the egotist, the adventurer, and the devotee of political vendettas. We do not take this pessimistic view although we admit that the situation is grave and calls for a remedy. This will probably be found in the formation of Grand Committees, in which the malcontents could air themselves without so seriously impeding the general progress of Imperial affairs. This project was advanced some years ago by MR. CHAMBERLAIN and has since gained many supporters.

By a Treaty with Germany England has secured possession of a vast territory in the eastern central parts of

Africa in return for a recognition on our part of the German possessions in Africa and cession of Heligoland to Germany. Objections have been urged against this arrangement both in England and Germany, but this would in our opinion, only serve to show that it was on the whole an equitable one. It is, of course, true that had the British Government acted with vigour some years ago there would have been nothing in Africa for Germany to take possession of and consequently Heligoland need not now have been given up in exchange for concessions in the "dark continent." Lord Salisbury, however, had to take things as he found them and there is this to be said for the arrangement that it has cemented the feelings of friendliness which both nations have always entertained for each other.

This "carving up" of Africa on the part of Germany and England naturally attracted the attention of France to that continent.

The latter power has been allowed to take possession of a number of leagues in West Central Africa, in the region south of the Desert of Sahara. Her satisfaction in this matter has been lessened, however, by the discovery that the greater portion of the territory is composed of soil which LORD SALISBURY cruelly remarked was "rather light," being in fact nothing more than sand and rocks, and also by the knowledge, which has recently been brought home to her, that England has full control of the Niger, by which alone the new possessions can be reached.

During the past year the political map has remained unchanged with the trifling exception that by the death

of the King of Holland the Duchy of Luxembourg has been severed from Holland and placed under the control of the Duke of Nassau. The bloated armaments of Europe have been maintained and even augmented in spite of the economic difficulties which the excessive taxation necessary are creating. The Triple Alliance, which is the main guarantee for peace, remains unimpaired and there can be no doubt that it has behind it the powerful moral support of Great Britain. England has happily arrived at a foreign policy which both parties have agreed to pursue, and all that is necessary for this to continue, is, as Lord Salisbury has lately observed "forbearance on the part of the Opposition and the absence of eccentricity on the part of the Government."

The pressure of civilized opinion has forced France into consenting to certain financial reforms in Egypt for which England has long been pressing. Since the French fleet withdrew and abandoned to the British fleet the task of shelling Arabi Pasha out of Alexandria, and to the British Government that of restoring order in that country. Egypt has been virtually under our sole control; although France is still allowed to interpose a veto with respect to certain details. The condition of Egypt has been greatly ameliorated under our administration, and it is probable that in the interests of civilization and good order we shall not withdraw until our work is fully completed.

In Russia the year has been one of comparative calm to all appearance. The Nihilists have been keeping tolerably quiet, although the murder of General Seliverskoff at Paris was attributed to them. The action taken by the Czar's Government in putting into operation a number of most barbarous laws directed against the Jews has evoked a cry of indignation from the civilized world. The Czaritch has projected a tour through our Indian Empire, where he will perhaps be surprised to learn that the secret of our

bold over India lies, not in armed occupation, but in the fact that we have been enabled, by wise administration and avoidance of interference with native customs to secure the loyalty of the inhabitants. Life and property are everywhere safe in India and the power of the native chief has been confined to reasonable limits.

Nothing can be more certain than that if the British power were withdrawn to-morrow, the Hindoos and Mahomedans would proceed forthwith to cutting each others throats and that the country would be reduced to anarchy.

In England the most noteworthy incidents have been: The extraordinary popular ovation to Mr. Stanley on his return from the Emin Pacha Relief Expedition and the wide-spread interest which his marriage to Miss Dorothy Tennant and the publication of his book "In Darkest Africa" attracted; the erection of the Armada Memorial at Plymouth; the unique achievement by a young lady, Miss Philippa Fawcett, of the senior wranglership at Cambridge University; strikes among the working-men employed at the docks in London and Southampton; agitations among the London police, and among the postmen—in the former case 38 constables refused to go on duty and were dismissed and in the latter the Postmaster-General met the men in an amicable spirit and agreed to expend an additional sum of £200,000, in improving the remuneration of the telegraphists, and to allow extra pay for overtime and Sunday work; the mutiny of the 2nd Batt. Grenadier Guards, who were confined to barracks and subsequently ordered off to Bermuda, where their conduct has since, it is understood, been good; the removal of the volunteer camp from Wimbledon to Bisley; the opening of an electric railway, running from King William Street, City, to Stockwell; the wreck of H. M. S. *Serpent*, a war vessel of the latest type, involving almost a total loss of life.

Worthy of special mention are the cure for consumption reported to have been discovered by Dr. Koch, a German bacteriologist; the scheme proposed by "General" Booth for dealing with the "submerged" classes in England; and the judgement of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the case of the Bishop of Lincoln, who was accused of importing papistical practices into the ritual and conduct of English Church worship.

The year's obituary includes the names of Lord Carnarvon, a statesman of the second rank; of Cardinal Newman, a convert from the English Church; of Lady Roseberry, a daughter of the Rothschild family, and a person whose amiability and universal charity contributed to make her beloved of all classes, and of Mrs. "General" Booth of Salvation Army fame, whose funeral was attended, it is said, by a larger concourse of people than has ever previously been gathered in England at the funeral of a woman.

In the United States the year has been made remarkable by one of the most extraordinary attempts to overcome the natural workings of economic law by legislation that the world has ever seen. We allude to the McKinley Bill. That such a measure should have carried in a civilized country betrays the strength of the monopolists and the corruptness of the legislators. We refer to it here because there is some reason to believe that its effect upon Great Britain and Canada has been to promote the discussion of proposals to unite the Empire by means of preferential duties on inter-imperial trade.

The close of the year is attended by most alarming accounts of disturbance amongst the Indians, who are said to be preparing for hostilities. The death of Sitting Bull, the circumstances of which are not yet public at the time of writing, will probably give the Indians "pause," as, in the event of war, he would doubtless have been their leader.

The year has been rendered memorable by the great strikes in Victoria and New South Wales, a matter which formed the subject of especial consideration in the November issue of the ANGLO-SAXON. It is sufficient now to say that the men who numbered 40,000, composed mainly of dock-workers and ship-laborers, struck for higher pay, which claim was resisted by a combination of the masters, with whom remained the victory.

The question of the federation of the Australian Colonies (some proposals going so far as to include New Zealand)

has been actively engaging the attention of the Colonial Legislatures, and there is reason to believe that substantial progress has been made towards a solution of the problems involved.

Proposals for the laying down of a cable between Australia and Canada have been submitted to the Governments interested. It at present seems to be a question whether the enterprise shall be a purely governmental one or be left to private enterprise, aided by Colonial subsidies. A cable would certainly tend to promote trade and all-round closer relations between Australia and Canada.

In New Zealand the Year's record is a gratifying one from every point of view. The ANGLO-SAXON lately gave statistics showing the wonderful expansion of the dead-meat and wool exports of New Zealand. In many other directions has the energy of our race in this distant Colony manifested itself, not least in the way in which it has grappled with the serious problems of municipal government, and large questions of drainage. The harvest has been abundant in New Zealand. The health returns show that the climate must be extremely favourable to longevity.

The Afrianders have not been idle during the past year. They have not sat watching the "Sad sea waves" from the heights of Table Bay. Quite the contrary. With an energy truly admirable they have swarmed over the land until they now outnumber the Boers in the Transvaal and, as soon as they get the franchise, for which they are clamouring, will doubtless restore that territory to our flag. In addition, they have occupied Mashonaland (described as the richest district in Africa), and are pushing railways into the heart of the continent. Truly, our brethren in South Africa come of Imperial stock!

And, lastly, we shall speak of Canada. Whether we take the statistics of Dominion revenue and expenditure; examine the weekly statements published by our great railway companies; or those of Dun Wiman & Co., in regard to bankruptcies; or the utterances of our bankers at their half-yearly meetings; or the records of the Insurance companies; or the shipping reports, we find in all cases that the year which has just expired has been one of steady progress.

The effect of the McKinley Bill appears to have been too largely discounted, if the reports we receive of heavy shipments to the United States of potatoes, barley, eggs and hay, (the articles chiefly attacked by the McKinley Bill) are to be relied upon. The Government has acted wisely in making every effort to enlarge our trade with the West Indies and with Australia. As to the West Indies there is a strong probability of a large trade growing up between the two countries, each requiring the products of the other, and it is no longer likely that the Imperial Government will interfere to prevent a special adjustment of tariffs to promote intercolonial trade. We leave that point, however, for the moment. With reference to trade with Australia, it will be remembered that the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, was appointed to visit the Australian colonies to discuss trading relations, but it is understood that Sir Henry Parkes expressed a desire that Mr. Abbott should defer his visit until the question of Australian Federation, which is now engrossing the public mind there to the exclusion of all other topics, has been settled one way or the other. We have dealt elsewhere with the proposals for a cable from Victoria, B.C., to some point on the Australian Coast.

In view of the approaching expiration of certain foreign treaties, a circular letter has been issued from the Colonial Office to the various Agents-General of the self-governing colonies, inviting them to lay the views of their respective Governments before the committee which has been appointed to consider the matter. The collective reply of the Agents-General is to the effect that, so far as they are able, without special instructions, to express an opinion, they are agreed upon the desirability of two important modifications of the existing state of things. The first of these is that the Belgian and German treaties, which at present deprive the colonies of the right to make closer commercial arrangements with the mother country, should be terminated, and the second is that commercial treaties shall not be binding on the colonies without colonial consent.

The article in the Belgian Treaty of which the colonies express their collective disapprobation runs as follows:—"Articles the produce or manufacture of Belgium shall not be subject in the British colonies to other or higher duties than those which are or may be imposed upon similar articles of British origin (Art. XV.)"

In the German Treaty the objectionable clause is not essentially different. The effect of these articles is to put the mother country, in relation to colonial markets, on the footing of a foreign Power, or in other words to lay the Empire under treaty obligations to maintain commercial disunion. Taking into consideration the difference of opinion which exists between England and the majority of her colonies on the subject of free trade and protection, it does not follow as a matter of course that the termination of the treaties which have been quoted would necessarily bring about any change in inter-imperial commercial relations. The effect would simply be at first to remove from between the component parts of the Empire the pledges under which they now stand bound to foreign nations to make no motion of union towards each other. It is gradually coming to be felt on all hands that, whether we make use of our freedom in this matter or not, we ought in all which concerns our relations to each other to be free.

The further question of formally granting to the colonies the right, which as a matter of fact they very generally enjoy, of refusing their assent to commercial treaties will scarcely be discussed without opening the larger issue of the desirability of granting to them the right to negotiate their own commercial treaties, subject of course always to the sanction of her Majesty's Government.

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Political Dialogues,

NUMBER FIVE.

TWO POLITICIANS.

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SCENE.—Reading Room of the Rideau Club, Ottawa. Two gentlemen seated in arm-chairs.

1st Politician.—Well, old man, what are the prospects?

2nd Politician (smiling).—Not so bad! South Victoria turned out very well.

1st Pol.—But, when is Parliament to meet?

2nd Pol.—I asked Sir John yesterday, and he seemed to think that the end of February or the beginning of March would be early enough. The idea at present is, to pass a Redistribution Bill, and for that we must wait for the Census Returns.

1st Pol.—I fancy the Session is likely to be lively.

2nd Pol.—What makes you think so?

1st Pol.—A good many things. First, there is the probability of a demand for "better terms" for Quebec, which will cause a snarl, eh? Then, there's scarcely a doubt that the Manitoba School Act will come before the House, in some shape or other. Now, I tell you frankly my opinion that the Government will make a great mistake if it attempts to make fish of Quebec and fowl of Manitoba. To continue: Then there is the North-West Territories Bill—

2nd Pol.—(Interrupting).—Pardon me. Are you an Equal Righter?

1st Pol.—In a sense I am, though not in the sense you mean. I am a Conservative of the year 1878—which means that I am in favour of a moderate Policy of Protection, providing always that no discrimination is made against the Mother Country; that I heartily advocated, and still take a pride in, the Canadian Pacific Railway, which has done much to bind our country together; and that I would rejoice to see our people abandon their narrow provincialism and stand shoulder to shoulder as Canadians. Now, it strikes me that the Government in discarding the veto power is going a long cry in the direction of Provincial Autonomy or States Rights. At the same time, if they are afraid to veto Quebec measures, they must not interfere with those of Manitoba.

2nd Pol.—You appear to have adopted McCarthy's views. Why did you not vote with him last Session?

1st Pol.—(Hesitatingly).—Well, it was difficult. I was elected to support Sir John Macdonald and it is not easy, as you know, to kick over the traces.