

for us to discuss the question on its merits. One finds it hard to believe that so amiable a heresy should be deemed sufficient to debar a Christian minister from labouring as a missionary among the heathen, under the auspices of a great Church. The temptation which such a policy offers for intellectual dishonesty, or for concealment of personal opinion, is not the least objection which suggests itself.

Though there can be no reasonable doubt that unwise silver legislation is the chief cause of the terrible financial depression which now exists in the United States, and that the prompt repeal of the Silver Act will do more than anything else within the power of the Government to restore confidence and prosperity, it is by no means unlikely that the protectionists are right in attributing the panic in part to the dread of tariff reform. On that hypothesis, no less than on the other, the situation affords a striking object lesson in regard to the evil of any legislation which makes the industries and business affairs of the nation more or less dependent upon acts of the Legislature. One great cause of the stability of British commerce, her success in colonization, etc., as compared with France and other European nations, can easily be found by those who are willing to search with minds free from prejudice, in the fact that in Great Britain the channels of industry and business enterprise are left open, and private individuals and companies learn to rely upon their own energy and foresight for that success which the Frenchmen, e. g., think can be gained only through the agency of the Government. It is not those American industries which have grown up independent of bounties and protective tariffs which are in danger of becoming paralyzed at the prospect of tariff reform. When the National Policy was first under debate in Canada one of the strongest arguments of its opponents was derived from a forecast of this very fact, that when once a considerable part of our manufactories became accustomed to rely upon the artificial props supplied by a protective tariff, it would be very difficult to return to a sounder system without giving a violent temporary shock to the business of the country. The fact that reform is difficult or dangerous, is no argument against reform, but rather for hastening it, though it may be a valid reason why reform should be brought about cautiously and skilfully, so as to give the least possible shock to the system enfeebled by unhealthy coddling.

"Borderland" is the suggestive title of a new Review, the first number of which has been published by Mr. Stead, that most original and indefatigable of journalists. The object of the magazine is declared to be "the scientific verification of that life and immortality which were brought to light nineteen hundred years ago." In pursuit of

this object Mr. Stead proposes to inaugurate an era of genuine scientific investigation of a class of phenomena which, he declares, have never yet had applied to them the methods which have revealed to us so much of the marvels of the physical universe. "If," he says, "mankind had investigated steam and electricity in the haphazard way that it has investigated the spiritual world, we should still be travelling in stage coaches." He proposes to examine into spiritualism as electricians examine into electricity, though, as the Christian World is unkind enough to intimate, Mr. Edison did not commence the investigations which have wrought and are still working such marvels, by starting a popular magazine. "But Mr. Edison is not a journalist." Mr. Stead's venture has drawn out a very interesting volley of criticisms, many of them given in reply to the editor's solicitations; some of them refreshingly frank in their expressions of opinion. The views of the clergy range all the way from that of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, who says: "the intelligence which uses your hand is the devil," to that of the Bishop of London, who "has come across no prima facie case," affording ground for investigation. Among special students of such phenomena, Right Hon. Arthur Balfour, who is President of the Psychical Research Society, thinks that if "the intention and effect of this undertaking be to promote a strictly scientific investigation into this subject, it cannot be otherwise than useful." Max Dessoir prophesies: "you will cultivate a dangerous amateurism, and the spectre you will raise you will never be able to lay." Professor Geikie fears Borderland may tend to increase the population of our lunatic asylums. Professor Ray Lankester, with characteristic politeness, observes: "I do not consider you are in any way qualified to deal with this question;" while Dr. Fitzgerald, of Dublin, reminds Mr. Stead that the lands bordering on Borderland are hysteria, lunacy, etc., and that "people without a sound scientific scepticism, like Theosophists, are as useless as scientific investigators as archbishops."

The Hawaiian question may come up in the United States Congress before the close of the present session in a somewhat new form. The Provisional Government of the Islands has framed another treaty, to take the place of that which was withdrawn from the consideration of the Senate by President Cleveland. The new proposals are contained in five articles. The first cedes to the United States the rights of sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands, the second transfers to her the Government property and lands; the third provides for the appointment by the President and Senate of a United States Commissioner to reside in the Hawaiian Islands, with power to veto any Act passed by the Local Government, which is, thus conditioned, to

be continued as at present constituted for five years; the fourth prohibits Chinese immigration and also prohibits Chinese laborers now on the Islands from entering the United States; the fifth provides that the United States shall assume the public debt of Hawaii, but that the latter shall continue to pay the interest thereon. To say nothing of fundamental principles, which should be sacred to Republicans, such as the right of the natives of the Islands, as well as of the foreigners who have settled there, to be consulted in the matter of a transfer of their territory and allegiance, there are other features of this proposal which it would be hard to harmonize with the boasted freedom and equality of American citizenship. We need only refer to the anomalous provisions which would prevent Chinese laborers, presumably citizens, in one part of the Republic from entering any other part of it, outside of the particular district in which they chanced to be located at the time of the annexation. Whether citizens or not, in what would this be better than Russian serfdom? It is by no means certain, however, that these new proposals will be submitted to Congress by the President. Much will depend upon the report of Commissioner Blount which will, it is understood, soon be laid before the Government. President Cleveland may probably be trusted to move deliberately and to do justly in the matter. The one spur that would arouse popular excitement afresh and prick the sides of the Congress is so far wanting, viz., the evidence of a desire on the part of Great Britain or any other nation to interfere. One would almost imagine from the tone of some of the American papers that they are half inclined to take it as a grievance that no interference of the kind is being attempted.

#### IS VIVISECTION JUSTIFIABLE?

This question, which has for years been so earnestly discussed in England and on the continent of Europe, and to some extent in the United States, has hitherto attracted little attention in this country. This is due, probably, not so much to any lack amongst us of sentiments of pity and mercy for the lower animals when subjected or believed to be subjected, to excruciating agonies by the will of man, as to the fact that the practice has not been known to exist to any considerable extent in Canada. It is possible, however, that painful experiments upon living animals may be more common in Canadian laboratories than is commonly supposed. Certain it is that the practice is growing rapidly in other countries and is pretty sure to grow in our country, and especially in the absence of a powerful public sentiment to check it. While in the Mother Country it is deemed necessary for the sake of humanity to