

steps in the slippery path, his father (whose hand, however, was rather too tight), the Duke of Newcastle, and General Bruce. Bad men, and women as bad, of course, soon beset the unguarded heir to the throne. The pleasures of Marlborough House have not been like those of Carlton House, grossly scandalous; yet the company kept there has wrought the most serious mischief by lowering the tone and standard of society. It is possible that if the Prince comes into a position of high responsibility the sun may break through the clouds; but suns do not often break through the clouds at the age of forty-three.

It is impossible not to feel great sympathy for the Arabs whose native valour hurled upon the British bayonets all but wrested victory from discipline and military science. Yet they had shown themselves to be fanatical butchers, who slaughter unresisting fugitives and helpless townspeople; and had they conquered, they would have swept Egypt like the destroying wind of the Desert, filling it with carnage and ruin. Their devastating course is now arrested, but apparently they are far from being subdued, and their restless presence is likely to make Egypt a heavy addition to the Imperial burden of England. The Sikhs, from most dangerous enemies have been turned into good soldiers; possibly the Arabs of the Soudan may be found capable of the same transformation, but it will not be before they have been made more thoroughly sensible of the superior force of England. It would have been perilous to enlist Sikhs before Gujrat. War is a cruel and costly tonic; yet a tonic it sometimes is to a nation the sinew of whose patriotism is relaxed, and it seems that in following with their hearts the fortunes of their army, the British people have for a moment half forgotten the intestine quarrels which, under a weak form of Government, are leading them to ruin. Many an Irishman must have conquered under a British general at Teb and Suakim.

It seems that Reciprocity is at last taking a practical form, the Washington Government having sensibly made up its mind that it can afford, as the greater power, to make the first advance. Our Government will naturally claim credit for the success of its policy of retaliation. It is the mere purism of free trade which refuses, in deference to abstract principles, to employ for a practical purpose a really effective instrument. The reciprocal removal of the coal tax, which has been definitely proposed, will be received with fervent gratitude by all who have seen the sufferings of the poor in Toronto from want of fuel through this rigorous winter. Nova Scotia will be far more than compensated by free access to the markets of the United States, for the miserable tax which she levies through protection upon the shivering people of Canada. We must not refuse an instalment of a good thing. But reciprocity treaties are difficult of adjustment, and when adjusted they are always liable to being upset by the hostility of the political party opposed to that by which they were made: so that industries built on them have but a sandy foundation. What the interest of the people on both sides demands, and will some day extort from the unwilling politicians, is the total and final abolition of the Customs Line.

WHAT is the meaning of the movement in the North-West? A paper in another column, which comes from the spot, may help us to answer this question. The Government journals, of course, say that the movement has no significance; the Opposition journals, equally of course, say that it has. It has, at all events, sent Mr. Norquay to Ottawa, and there is hardly room to doubt that through him large concessions have been extorted from Sir John Macdonald. This much has been clear from the beginning to all who used their eyes: a territory five times as large as old Canada, and separated from her by seven hundred miles of water or desert, was not likely, when it became peopled, to allow itself to be treated by her as a tributary appendage. To the observation that Ontario would reap little profit from the money spent by her on the Pacific Railway and the opening of the North-West, the *World* replied that she would reap the benefit of a close market. This is the only benefit she does reap, and it is impossible that it should last long. The farmers of a country absolutely dependent on agriculture will soon be tired of paying a heavy tax on agricultural implements to Ontario manufacturers, when they can get the implements better, as well as cheaper, in a market closer at hand. It would be a desperate undertaking to guard such a customs frontier against the paramount interests of the whole population. The people of the North-West are told by some Canadian journals that as we have given them land for almost nothing they ought to think themselves very lucky and pay with alacrity whatever is exacted of them. But if they are so misguided as not to think themselves very lucky, and to say that the land is rather the gift of the British Crown, or even of Nature, than of the Ottawa Government, what

means have we of bringing them to their senses? As to the secession movement, the only thing which can make us regard it as at present serious is the panic betrayed in the proposal to indict a secessionist orator for treason. Indict a man for treason because he proposes to repeal or amend the British North America Act! What is to be done to the Ottawa politicians who propose to repeal the Act of Union with Ireland and dismember the United Kingdom? A Fenian raid, however, as the *Chicago Current* truly says, would be the most effectual extinguisher of secession.

THE period in each year during which the waters of Hudson's Bay are clear of ice would seem a fact capable of being very easily ascertained; but nothing can be easily ascertained in a case in which commercial speculation and party feeling are both at work. Did not a "scientific" witness depose the other day that as the Hudson's Bay territory was in the same latitude with Devonshire, there was no reason why it should not have an equally mild climate? The only independent evidence which has come under the notice of the "Bystander" seemed to indicate that the waters were not open, on the average, for much more than two months, in which case the harvests of the North-West, or part of them, might have to lie over a year. But the Government enquiry will now decide the question, if the task is only committed to trustworthy hands. A strange struggle, this, against the ordinances of nature! No point of economical geography can be more certain than that nature has placed the commercial outlet of the prairie region to the south. But first, for political purposes, it was wrested round to the east; and now, to break the monopoly thus established, an attempt is to be made to fix the outlet at the North. In the meantime the evidence from all quarters indicates that the wheat trade with Europe, which is the ruling object of all these desperate efforts, is likely to be most seriously affected by the increase of exportation from India. The tracts of land available for wheat-growing in India appear to be immense; while labour is superabundant and the labourer is content with a couple of handfuls of rice a day. The only thing wanted is transportation. The United States have 50,000,000 of people and 100,000 miles of railway; India has 250,000,000 of people and 10,000 miles of railway, of which only 862 are laid with a double line. Here is immense capacity awaiting development, for which it will not have to wait long.

THE Crooks Act put the patronage of the liquor trade in the hands of the Local Government; the Dominion License Act was passed to take it out again. Such is the political history of those rival strokes of statesmanship, whatever the legal rights of the question may be. The same key will unlock the mystery of the Temperance question itself, in its relation to the two political parties. The Temperance vote was being drawn into the Liberal lines. To obviate this an anti-liquor movement was got up on the Conservative side, and Mr. Foster was smitten at once with passionate devotion to the Temperance cause and with desire of a seat in Parliament. A deserved compliment probably was paid the other day to the pure zeal of this moral crusader when it was surmised that he had purposely talked out his own prohibitionist resolutions. But both parties probably begin to find themselves in a situation with which it taxes all their powers of evasive manœuvring to deal. They are compelled to outvie each other in the extravagance of their courtship, though, at heart, neither of them wants the lady. In the Local House the other day this rivalry of sham wooing rose to the pitch of proposing that a man who bought drink out of the legal hours should be punished unless he would save himself by informing against the seller. To cap this again, another member proposed that the seller should be allowed to purchase impunity by informing against his customer. To prevent the illicit drinking of a glass of beer two men are to be tempted to play the part of a treacherous informer, and publicly to brand themselves as the most infamous of sneaks. Nothing seems left for the next bidder for the Temperance vote except to propose that a few dozens of the licensed victuallers shall be blown away from guns. In Australia they have an agitation which appears to be the very counterpart of ours, and an extract, given in another column, from a leading Australian paper friendly to the Temperance cause, may possibly, coming from an independent source, find access to the minds of those who are bent on violent courses here. But why do we not put an end to violent courses, to an agitation which is fast degenerating into hypocritical intrigue and to the trade of Mr. Foster all at once? Why do we not go straight to the real root of the mischief? Whiskey, once more, is the poison. Why do we not close the distilleries, after paying reasonable compensation to the distillers, and save, as well we may, out of the needless expenses of Government the amount lost by the sacrifice to the excise?