

ity of cases, the tendencies however strong implanted by heredity and early environment, and to transform the most unpromising "gutter snipes" into honest and industrious citizens; and further, that the morals of our country are in far greater danger from the neglected and viciously brought up youth of our own land than from those who have had some years of good training in the Mother Country.

THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The inaugural address of President Cleveland amply sustains his well-earned reputation for political intrepidity. His pronouncements on the great national issues of the currency, the pension frauds, civil service reform, and above all, the tariff, are models of statesmanlike frankness. The American people are so accustomed to hearing nothing but adulation and spread-eagles from their public officers that it must have been, one may suppose, a rather agreeable change to listen to the danger-signal sounded by their President on the eve of his taking possession of the White House. Mr. Cleveland, who certainly should know, if any one, has no doubt as to the leading purpose for which the people have given his party a new lease of power. He declares that the verdict of the voters "condemned the injustice of maintaining protection for protection's sake", sanctioned a principle which "leads to a refusal of bounties and subsidies, which burden the labour and thrift of a portion of our citizens", and decreed that "the control of their government in its legislative and executive branches should be given to a political party pledged in the most positive terms to the accomplishment of tariff reform." In the words of the incoming President there is a complete and refreshing lack of the bluster and veiled menace against weaker neighbors, to which we in Canada have of late become so accustomed that we almost instinctively look for something of the kind, as the spice of the official utterances of the Chief Magistrate of the Great Republic. With the Behring Sea dispute in process of arbitration, the Canal Tolls' question set at rest by the wise though tardy action of our own Government, the *modus vivendi* again in operation on the Atlantic coast, and the currents of public opinion in both countries setting strongly in favour of lower tariffs, the two countries enter upon a new period with clean slates, so far as international grievances are concerned, and no sufficient reason is apparent why their future relations may not be those of mutual and cordial good-will, freer commercial intercourse, and friendly, generous, rivalry in the arts of peace and good government.

"Our mission is not punishment, but the rectification of wrongs. If in lifting burdens from the daily life of our people we reduce inordinate and unequal advantages too long enjoyed, this is but a neces-

sary incident of our return to right and justice. If we exact from unwilling minds acquiescence in the theory of an honest distribution of the fund of governmental beneficence treasured up for all, we but insist upon a principle which underlies our free institutions. When we clear aside the delusions and misconceptions which have blinded our countrymen to their condition under vicious tariff laws, we but show them how far they have been led away from the paths of contentment and prosperity. When we proclaim that the necessity for revenue to support the government furnishes the only justification for taxing the people, we announce a truth so plain that its denial would seem to indicate the extent to which judgment may be influenced by familiarity with perversions of the taxing powers, and when we seek to reinstate the self-confidence and business enterprise of our citizens by discrediting an abject dependence upon governmental favor, we strive to stimulate those elements of American character which support the hope of American achievement."

In the foregoing sentences President Cleveland has concisely and well expressed the views and aims of all honest and thorough-going tariff reformers, in Canada as well as in the United States. Each sentence contains a principle which to disinterested and unprejudiced minds must be, one would think, almost axiomatic. If the President and his party are honest and successful in reducing those principles to practice, there can be little doubt that the Republic will enter upon a new era of genuine progress which will cast into the shade all her former great achievements. During several years past there has been a determined effort by an influential section of the better class of citizens in the United States for political reform and purification. The free-trade or revenue-tariff movement may be fairly regarded, we believe, as one of the first and best fruits of the "Mugwump" revolt. During the past year or two we have seen hopeful indications of a similar tendency in Canada to disgust with the old party methods. The present agitation for tariff reform is one of the indications that a brighter day is dawning for us as well as for our neighbours. Having unwisely followed their bad example in class taxation, it cannot be that we shall be long behind them in emancipating trade from its fetters, and the masses from unjust burdens. The pity of it is that, as the greatest of British colonies, we should be content to follow instead of taking the initiative in the paths which lead to true British freedom.

PARIS LETTER.

Reading between the lines of a French interview with the President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. Nunez, there is no likelihood of the concessions to the Panama Canal Company being either renewed or prolonged, except the works be seriously resumed before the close of the present month, and a solvent company, with the required 700 million francs constituted, and prepared to at once subscribe to the

lion-clad conditions of the renewal treaty. All this means the foreclosing of the concession, and the entering into possession of the works, etc. by the Colombian authorities. Further, it is Uncle Sam to whom will revert the honour and responsibility of completing the de Lesseps break down. It is rumored that Colonel Tysdel, the American heir apparent, is assured of the requisite money in the States, England, and Germany, for terminating the canal; that he will be aided by the United States treaty of 1846, plus the Monroe doctrine. The latter can stretch to Panama, having extended to Hawaii. Of the 1,500 million francs subscribed by France to the canal, like the baseless fabric of a vision, they will leave not a "rack" behind.

Incidentally, Dr. Nunez seems to be a typical president; he is not wholly as difficult to interview as the Emperor of China or the Mahdi; he is a doctor, and commenced life as a journalist. The capital of the republic is Bogota, but for the benefit of the Doc.'s "tottering health," he resides at Carthagena, ten to fourteen days distant, and connected by a wire that suffers from odd flashes of silence when its working is most desirable. Being permanently on sick leave, no foreign ministers can call on the doctor-president, and if they are in a hurry, the Bogota officials demand time to communicate with Carthagena. By the time a decision arrives, the urgent affair will be forgotten. It is said that Napoleon I. deposited all letters in a common receptacle; at the close of each year he ordered the letters to be opened, and found they had been answered by time and events. The Colombian fleet consists of one vessel, the "Papa," a gunboat, moored in the bay facing the president's Paul and Virginia cottage, so in case of a political cyclone—not uncommon in Central America—he can step on board, to step out again at Venezuela or Costa Rica. It is the Vice-president who lives in Bogota, who bears all the rubs of political life, and acts as the lightning conductor in troubled times for his permanently-provisional absent chief, ever on the diplomatic sick list. Dr. Nunez has had only one misunderstanding with his legislators; every New Year's Day he indulged in the weakness of striking fresh coins, in order to perpetuate the likeness of his amiable and handsome wife, who sat as the model for the Goddess of Liberty on the doubloons, pesos, and centavos. But much was forgiven him, as he loved much.

The French are accused of "burning what they adored," and the condemnation of M. de Lesseps to five years' imprisonment for company-promoting swindling, is adduced as the latest illustration. They have not been known to re-worship what they burned when allowed full religious toleration. Of course every one knows very well, it is not in contemplation, nor had it ever been, to really incarcerate the old celebrity; were a plebiscite taken of his 800,000 canal victims, the verdict would be solid and straight: leave him to end his days, as he at present passes them, reading the romping of his children, reading old newspapers for the latest intelligence, and turning over albums with the pictures of all the events wherein he figured on the world's stage. M. Carnot would have pardoned the ex-grand-franc-tireur, as reply as Marshal MacMahon commuted the death sentence of the ex-glorious