

reason offered for making war upon a neighbor that every invading power has always urged. There is no middle ground between this conduct and the policy of independent alliance which we are now pursuing. Those who demand "a policy" upon the subject mean that we should bully Mexico or devour it.

COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH THE "NEW DOMINION."

FAIR commercial relations with the British American Provinces should convince the people of the United States that they ought not to be indifferent to the political movements now in progress in the New Dominion of Canada. When the policy of the new Government is fully developed, it will be found to embrace a comprehensive and wholesome plan for future action which must affect the material interests of the States no less than their own. It will depend upon the States, however, whether they see it to their own advantage or disadvantage.

If we examine the scheme under which New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the Canadas have been confederated, we perceive at once that it is as nearly republican in form, and as nearly modeled after the United States, as is consistent with their avowed allegiance to the British crown. In the first place, we see a union of several colonies for mutual advantage, just as happened here a hundred years ago, each colony having its local Legislature, and collectively controlled by a central government. Lord Moscovitz is simply the Queen's representative. He appoints his Cabinet, as does the President of the United States. The two Houses of Parliament are elective. Suffrage is free and universal. The decimal system has been in vogue for some years, and the dollar corresponds with our specie dollar in value. A national currency will soon be substituted for the miscellaneous bank notes now in circulation, and will thus be uniform with our own whenever we resume specie payments. There will be a specie deposit security of 33 per cent, upon the first issue of \$5,000,000, and 25 per cent, for each additional \$2,000,000, besides a deposit with BARRING BROTHERS, at London, of the united debentures of the several Provinces. A new and liberal tariff will be adopted, operating uniformly in all parts of the New Dominion. The postal service will be improved and extended. There will be a central Treasury, with embassies at the chief commercial ports. Laborers are already at work upon the Western Extension Railroad; the link between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will be immediately completed, and ground broken for the long-talked-of "Intercolonial." Provision for the local army and navy will follow.

This is the plan as laid for the future. It is radiant with promise. Nevertheless a very large portion of the population lack faith and avow it openly. They are apprehensive of untried experiments. The country is in a transition state, when all is uncertainty, hesitations, and chaos. There are a dozen inharmonious political factions, each with a policy of its own. Some are exclusively British in their proclivities; others are decidedly American; and there are numerous intermediate shades of opinion. The Lower Provinces dislike to lose their individuality, and are jealous of Canadian preponderance. They have yet to learn practically that the Confederation is a strict partnership—the members with more or less capital sharing the profits and advantages proportionately—and that consequently the smaller Provinces, with their lesser revenues and lesser populations, must hold inferior place to Canada. At present they believe that the effect of the plan is to give Canada the oyster and themselves only the shells. In the midst of these perplexities business becomes deranged; money is never so scarce; real estate never so low; bank stocks depreciate, while the rate of interest is higher; laborers find little employment and low wages; capital lies idle; all kinds of business languish; and there is an unprecedented outflow of the people to the States. (We speak more particularly of the Lower Provinces.)

In such an unsettled state of affairs, it is natural to look in every direction for relief. All are striving for the attainment of one grand object—namely, the improvement of their present political status and the advancement of their material prosperity. Whatever step will most surely conduce to such results, the inhabitants will be ready to take. There are now but comparatively few earnest advocates of annexation; but when commercial intercourse is actively cultivated by the United States so as to become profitable to the Provinces and render the interests of the two countries mutual and identical; when the onerous taxes which we now endure are reduced, so that the advantages will largely outweigh the burdens to be borne; then our neighbors will find the advantages hard to reject, and will look more favorably upon the question of annexation. Under our present policy, however, we are simply using every means to discourage any latent inclination of the sort. We have repealed the Reciprocity Treaty, which was one of the strongest cords of union. We restrict trade by oppressive imposts. We tax lumber at such a rate that our ship-wards are idle, and we cut

ourselves off from the rich timber districts of the Provinces, while we look about in vain for means to supply that deficit in our own resources which increases annually. We pay exorbitantly for plaster, which exists in the Provinces in vast quantities and would find a ready market. The valuable coal-fields of Nova Scotia are very many of them worked by Americans, all of whom are suffering from the effects of our existing narrow policy. There is a large amount of American capital invested in the Provinces in mines and manufactures and miscellaneous enterprises, which of itself affords a powerful element for annexation. There have always been considerable numbers of the native population who acquit toward annexation; and we speak positively when we state that very many, even of the most rigid royalists, to-day confessedly accept annexation as the ultimate fate of the "New Dominion." Few of them will deny that commercial success, the development of the extraordinary resources of the country, and the infusion of elements that will stimulate enterprise and remove the weight that unaccountably seems to crush the efforts and energies of the Provincials, are the main objects to be attained now, even though they involve the penalty of annexation.

We have, therefore, in the States a golden opportunity such as was never offered before. We may take advantage of the present perplexities of our neighbors, and of their earnest desire to better their condition, to exert those all-powerful influences which may eventually lead them to accept what most Americans and many Canadians believe to be their "Manifest Destiny."

AN EASY MISUNDERSTANDING.

It is always very easy to misunderstand. But even if it requires some effort to understand, it may be labor well spent. When Mr. WASSON, a Philistine says that "we should labor to elect men to office merely because they are black," it is certainly not difficult to say that a man who recommends other men for office merely because their skins are black is not a wise man. But is that necessarily the meaning of his words? Is it probably their meaning? Is it not plainly not their meaning?

Mr. PHILLIPS may be a very troublesome gentleman; a fanatic; an incendiary; a Lord, and an intrusive verb. But he has never been accused of wanting ordinary intelligence. He may be assumed to know that neither the color of a man's skin, nor his height, nor his weight, nor the shape of his nose, are any indication of his capacity properly to fill any public office. Therefore when he says so, it is inevitable that he means something else, and that something does not seem to us in the least difficult to perceive.

Mr. PHILLIPS knows, as we all know, that certain prejudice against colored men still lingers in many minds; he knows that it is effectively a caste feeling, and that actual equality and justice are not really assumed to him so long as that endures. Until then they are citizens upon sufferance; citizens in a certain sense by pity. They are tolerated merely, and do not stand upon the same simple plane of unquestioned equality upon which the rest of the population stand. Now he deprecates the fact, and he will do, as a good and wise citizen, all he can do to remedy the unwholesome condition; and he says that, in his judgment, there is but one infallible sign that the feeling of caste in regard to such men has perished, and that is their election to office. Consequently we should labor to that end, both as a sign and as a help. He does not say abstractly that color is a proof of official capacity; but he does say that in the present circumstances of this country there is a feeling of caste founded upon color, and that if we earnestly wish to destroy it we should prove it by electing them to office.

This may be a mistaken view—although we think it would be accepted in any other case—but it is certainly perfectly intelligible, and it is very far from absurd.

INSTINCT WITHOUT BRAINS.

LONG ago it was ascertained by naturalists that worms and insects are without a brain, and yet they pursue a course of activity which bears so much upon the domain of reason we are accustomed to say they act from instinct, which is no explanation at all of phenomena in the higher orders of organic life which have their origin in the brain. If that organ is severely injured, so that its normal functions are no longer performed, consciousness and orderly manifestations of its influence are interrupted or suspended.

But the insect world swarms with beings of the most delicate construction, without hearts and without brains, whose movements and habits, independently of thousands of contingencies to which they are exposed, prove in the most satisfactory manner that their acts are a near approach to the elements of a reasoning faculty, if they do not indicate reason itself.

When, by accident, a thread of a spider's web is broken the little weaver examines the misfortune with extreme care, and, by taking different positions, surveys the damage, and then proceeds artfully to repair it by spinning or inserting an entire new cord.

Again, when a wandering fly becomes entangled in the net, the cautious approach of the owner of the trap, lying patiently near by for game, indicates calculation in regard to the character and strength of the victim. Does it not strangely resemble reason when all its movements, under such an aspect of affairs, shows beyond a doubt the spider considers the matter in all its relations before venturing to seize the prey? And yet spiders are without a brain.

A very nice question has very naturally suggested itself, which learned expounders of physiological laws are respectfully requested to explain. But, prying as this may be to answer—how there can be thought, and even an exercise of the kind of judgment employed by the spider in mending its web—these are other subjects for philosophical reflection quite as difficult to solve as the domain of vitality. By what processes do infernal and microscopic insects conduct their affairs, which seem also to be the result of something more than mere instinct, in their extraordinary exhibitions of themselves?

THIS NEW COUNTRY IS AN OLD ONE.

GEOLOGISTS make it pretty certain the American continent is the oldest in the series. But the idea prevails that man has not occupied it so long as he has Asia, Africa, and Europe. This is mere assumption. If pains were deliberately taken to classify the evidences that might be collected to show the antiquity of the works of man on both sides of the Rocky Mountains it would conclusively prove that man was here as a vastly remote period, even anterior to the mound-builders, and they flourished, perhaps, several thousand years before the advent of the Indians. It is not difficult to make reference to four distinct races who have existed here, fulfilled their destiny, and disappeared. Their demerits in civilization is faintly indicated by the meager fragments of designs, but which man alone could produce. How many races or generations had preceded even the first of the races of which we have vestiges is lost in the accumulating lumber of unvoiced ages.

That this continent was inhabited by man till within the last thousand or five thousand years admits of a question, since the more the ground is overhauled by those with Anglo-Saxon blood in their veins the greater number of strange things come to light, indicative of an antiquity of the continent, and an antiquity, too, of man, which will become more perplexing as those relics are multiplied and examined. One may see throughout the whole series of the Western States indications that their population has been far greater herebefore than it may again be in two hundred years to come, under the best auspices of modern civilization.

CAPACITY OF THE HUMAN LUNGS.

Our chest is divided into two apartments by a vertical partition. The windpipe branches into two tubes just behind the top of the breast-bone—leading down to the lungs on either side of the heart, which is placed between them. Those organs in shape are like the hoof of an ox. They are entirely made up of six-cells, of irregular figure—each being approached by the extreme point of a tube which is one of the minute subdivisions of the windpipe—called bronchi. So delicately small are these air-cells, that 18,000 belong to a single lobule. Six hundred millions of them make up the whole ventilating apparatus. It will be seen that we have two lungs, acting independently of each other, always receiving and expelling the air, through a large tube, into which both bronchial pipes unite. One lung may be diseased, while the functions of the other sustain life. If the diseased lung could be set at rest till the lesion were healed, or the pipe secured so no air could be drawn into it to increase the diseased surface, then pulmonary consumption could be effectually arrested, or life and health be maintained by the labors of one lung. When inflated, as in ordinary breathing, the six hundred millions of cells hold about one hundred and forty cubic feet of atmospheric air. The oxygen of the air is imbibed, and with the outgoing air, which left its vitalizing properties, carbonic acid gas escapes.

No organs of our system are more abused. Tantalus, the inhalation of tobacco smoke, living too fast by stimulating the heart beyond its power by too much wine, too much whisky, and too much food of any thing, and consumption sweeps off unnumbered thousands who might have lived to threescore and ten.

MECHANISM OF THE ORGANS OF VOICE.

NEARLY all the quadrupeds, as well as man, have a vocal apparatus nearly alike. There is an oblique semi-cartilaginous body, called a larynx, in which are two thin membranes put upon the stretch, like two short, thin ribbons—edges to edges. Below are the lungs, acting on the principle of bellows, which force a current of air up through the wind pipe, and as a medium between the tense strings at the vocal chords or ribbons, makes them vibrate. Such is the origin of the voice. Modified by the shape of the mouth, play of the tongue, movement of the lips, and the opposing firmness of the teeth, in connection with the cavities in the cheek-bones and nose, we have the human voice. All animal gradations below humanity, where the larynx is less in volume and inferior in capacity, there is rarely much more than a simple characteristic voice, as the lowing of an ox; the bray of an ass; the barking of a dog, etc., which is a vibration of the vocal chords

without much modification. Monkeys, orang-outangs, and the quadrumania generally, at most, can only howl and chatter without giving any distinct, articulate sounds.

Our voices, then, are produced by the tremor or vibration of the chords, much as the sound is produced in the harp by a double reed. In birds, however, the reed is placed at the lower end of the windpipe, near the bellows—and any variation of tone which they are able to produce is by opening and closing the bill—equivalent to raising or closing a finger-hole on a flute. Insects are furnished with means of making sound by quite a different kind of mechanism, as they are without lungs or vibrating chords.

LITERARY.

We know very little of Southern cooking, and what we do know is not generally very favorable. But a little reflection would show us that it ought to be very good or very bad, because the mistress of the household is obliged to devote personal attention to the matter or to abandon it altogether. But all our speculations are set at rest by the timely and admirable little work of Miss BANISTER, of North Carolina. It is really the record of the experience of an accomplished Southern housekeeper, who tells us how to prepare the Maryland biscuit and the George Washington breakfast-cake, and whatever else is homesome in the cuisine of her section. It is a really valuable contribution to our domestic resources, and it is published in a modest, cheap, and convenient form by LINSLOW, of Boston.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

The closing week of the extra session was signalized by the introduction of little business of importance. On July 21 Mr. Sumner introduced a bill providing that no case shall be dismissed from holding office in the District of Columbia by reason of color, and was passed. On the 23d the House passed it with several amendments, which the Senate concurred in.

The President's vetoes of the additional Reconstruction bill and appropriations were read on July 19; and the bills passed without debate by a vote 24. The Senate of 35 to 6, and in the House of 100 to 32. An adjournment to November 21 took place on July 23.

SOUTHERN RECONSTRUCTION.

A Judge in Lexington, Kentucky, recently rendered a decision adverse to granting a writ of habeas corpus to take a prisoner out of the hands of the Freedmen's Bureau.

General Steeles has decided to form his registration boards of one black and two white men.

The registration for Davidson County, which includes the city of Nashville, Tennessee, was completed on July 23. The number of whites enrolled is 1868 against 4900 blacks; a total of 9000, or about 500 less than the average white vote in the State.

On July 14, while the freed people of Sterling, Robertson County, Texas, were worshipping in their church, they were attacked by four desperadoes from the "d-d" negroes should not hold church. They then drove the colored people away, shooting down in cold blood three of their number, men, women and children. The Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau in two hours collected 100 of the freedmen, who, mounted armed, pursued, overtook, and captured two of the villains, who are now in custody.

NEWS ITEMS.

A new channel was formed in the Missouri River at Peza, Iowa, on the 5th of July, by the action of the current, cutting through a narrow neck of land and shortening the route by twenty miles. By this cut-off several thousand acres of land and the town of Hamburg, Iowa, were transferred to the State of Nebraska.

The recovery by Mr. Rufus Lord of \$1,000,000 of bank notes in 1856 was effected through a New York banking-house, which received them from J. B. Rogers, a son of Mr. J. Rogers, who forced the guilty one, who was his client, to give them up.

Fredrick Douglass has just met with a brother who had been in slavery for forty years. In a letter to a friend, announcing his brother's arrival, he writes: "I am glad to say that the meeting with my brother after nearly forty years separation is an event altogether too affecting for words to describe. How sweetly he is cured in slavery, and now unexpectedly joyful are the results of the overthrow." The search now being made, and the happy reunion now taking place, in the South, after years of separation and sorrow, furnish a subject of the deepest pathos.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The movement of Garibaldi for the liberation of the city of Rome from Papal rule has so far excited the apprehensions of the Pope that on July 15 he appealed to the Emperor Napoleon for protection, and had ordered the authorities about the city to be strengthened and garrisoned. In response to the appeal of the Pope, Napoleon notified the King of Italy of the threatened movement of Garibaldi, but took no other action. Garibaldi announced to a public meeting at Pisa on July 22 that "the time had come for liberating Rome from Papal tyranny and restoring to the city her ancient freedom."

The news from Mexico to July 13. Maximilian's body was on route to Vera Cruz to be delivered to the Austrian authorities. Escobedo has court-martialed and shot twelve other general officers and four Colonels. General Ortega is still in prison. It is stated that Santa Anna was not shot but remains in prison at Compostela. Ayres has issued an order for the convocation of the Mexican Congress in Mexico City to elect a President, but declining to serve any longer.

The latest advices from Crete are that the Greeks say that there is no idea of securing Provisional President Salazar, of Huelva, was elected on June 24 President for the term ending May 1871. The presidential term, as now fixed, is four years; previously it was for life.

The cholera is making rapidly in the Isle of Mauritius. At the latest advices from there (May 24) the dead and dying lay unattended in the streets, every other house was closed, some of the shipping was affected, the hospitals were insufficient, and quinine was selling at \$10 an ounce.

Louis Kossuth, who was at first indisposed to accept the terms of the restoration of her old constitution to Hungary, has yielded himself of the amnesty declared by Francis-Joseph, entering his country, and is a candidate for the Hungarian Parliament from the town of Waitzen.

War has been declared by the Queen of Spain in Catalonia on July 18, on account of revolutionary movements of General Prim. Maximilian's mother, the Archduchess Sophia, has received signs of insanity since hearing of his death.