

Mercier and his government, has succeeded in obtaining evidence damaging to that official. It has been shown that vast sums of the public money have been wasted or misappropriated, and the authorities can give no satisfactory explanation.

Mercier has a strong following, and is making political capital of his French-Canadian origin. He claims that the war on his administration is not from a desire to preserve purity in politics, but because of race hatred. His organs are backing him on this theory. One of them remarks:

"Until now the province of Quebec has remained attached to England because the people of this province appreciate the liberty of the constitution and the constitutional customs which have been given to us by Great Britain above all other considerations. But as soon as the representatives of the metropolis allows all those things which attach us to England to be trampled upon with impunity the situation changes, and out of respect to our own dignity we are obliged to question the future and to see where we will find protection ourselves."

This means that in the event of Mercier being pronounced guilty, the French-Canadians will seek annexation to the United States. The *Boston Traveller*, commenting on the above, says:

"But Premier Mercier evidently does not appreciate the fact that the United States is not burning with eagerness to annex a province, dominated by priestcraft, whose officials are guilty of the grossest corruption, and whose whole government seems to be honeycombed with fraud. We have problems enough of our own to settle without burdening ourselves with those with which the people of the province of Quebec find themselves confronted.

The domestic situation in Canada is still further complicated by reports that the treaty of 1817 will be abrogated. By this treaty the United States can only maintain on the lakes one man-of-war and a revenue cutter or two. If the provisions of this treaty should be disregarded, Great Britain, it is said, would man the lakes with ironclads. Many of the United States papers take a serious view of this matter. The *Mail and Express* declares that British warships will never be permitted to enter the lakes. The Detroit river could be manned and fortified so as to render it impassable for vessels to the upper lake. The entrance to Lake Ontario from the St. Lawrence could be treated similarly. Then if the contingency arises, the Dominion canals could all be obstructed. Fort Wayne on the Detroit river, Fort Plattsburg, and Fort Montgomery could all be made strong defense centres by Americans. They could also be made headquarters for army divisions.

The Canadian question thus appears

to be anything but in a settled condition, and trouble between Great Britain and the United States because of it is by no means an improbability.

#### JUDGE ZANE IN THE "FORUM."

The *Forum* for November contains a strong yet dispassionate article on the polygamy question, from the pen of Chief Justice Charles S. Zane. We publish it verbatim, with the exception of a few paragraphs. The rules of the magazine forbid the entire reproduction of its articles in other publications. The November *Forum* contains other articles of current public interest and is in many respects an exceptionally valuable number.

Judge Zane's contribution is remarkable as much for its simple yet vigorous style, as for its candor and accuracy in dealing with a subject which usually provokes such antagonism as leads to the distortion of facts and intemperance of expression.

We are gratified at the judge's clear perception of the present "Mormon" situation both as regards the practice of polygamy and the division on political lines. His plain and terse narration of recent events must strike the impartial reader as the unvarnished truth, and his sure conviction of the sincerity of the Latter-day Saints and their future harmony with the laws and institutions of the country, cannot fail to do much toward removing those doubts and false impressions which have been created in the public mind by the enemies of Utah.

The article is a valuable contribution to the literature of the day and does credit alike to the author's ability and his sense of justice and right.

#### THE CHILEAN IMBROGLIO.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* has noticed the firmness of President Harrison's message to the Chilean government on the subject of the late outrage upon American sailors, and it is alarmed lest belligerent Chile should construe the message as a war threat and accept the challenge. Its tremors are caused from the presumed inequality of the contest, the United States being the unequal party, owing to the weakness of its navy.

For the United States to allow its citizens to be murdered in Chile without redress and its rights under the common law of civilized nations ignored, through a fear of being whipped by the Chilean men-of-war, would look a little strange, and we do not believe such fears would trouble many people outside of the *Chronicle* office.

In the meantime the United States government cannot afford to go to war with Chile, so long as a possible means remains for reconciliation on a reasonable basis. The mission of this republic is peace and individual security and freedom to all men. Its moral aspirations are far too lofty and its assumed relations to mankind too magnanimous to countenance anything that could be suspected of bravado in its dealings with lesser powers, and particularly with powers that are struggling with the problems of liberty by methods patterned after its own.

We cannot believe that a declaration of war upon Chile under present circumstances could escape an appearance at least of tyranny.

What is needed in the premises is not war messages or pompous assumptions of superiority, but a little wisdom where it is most needed for the occasion, notably at Valparaiso. The schemes for settling the difficulty that would be most likely to suggest themselves to such a man as the present United States minister to Chile, are not likely to be of a pacific character.

If hostilities should result from the strained conditions now existing, they may be safely attributed to bad diplomacy. Even an actual resort to arms would be no evidence that a capable representative at the seat of the Chilean government might not have brought the differences to a peaceable adjustment in twenty-four hours.

#### KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.

It only required a passing glance to see the preparations that are being made to work the "Liberal" trick whereby the next municipal election is expected to be carried. The "colonizing" of workmen has been going on for sometime. The First and Fourth Precincts have been fortified by laborers pledged to vote the "Liberal" ticket.

Assessments also have been commenced, to procure the sinews of war, and many a poor victim who is so "independent" and "liberty loving" that he would shout himself hoarse over the imaginary "dictation of the priesthood," has to go down into his pockets for coin and dares not refuse the assessment demanded by his "Liberal" bosses and taskmasters.

The latest "colonizing" has been done in City Creek canyon, and the drinking water of the greater part of the city is to be improved by the refuse, shirt-washing and camp garbage deposits of the gang congregated on the banks of the creek for political purposes.