

actually been accused, over and over again, of Jesuitry; whereas the fact has been that they had, and have, a proper regard for peace, or sometimes a too great timidity in making changes which were unpopular. (2.) The new Rector of St. Mary-le-Strand is an old man, and a member of a declining school, while the High-Church party is the party of the future. Therefore, sooner or later, perhaps sooner, if a change is made now, there will come another change, and then that party which will have to ask for concessions will be that one which has shown such constant courtesy to the followers of an eminent son of the Church as the late Dr. A. R. Evans.—I am, Sir, &c., D. R. J.

BOUNTIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.

(To the Editors of the "Spectator.")

Sir,—It was with much pleasure I saw in your last week's issue the following editorial remark—"That a countervailing duty to any exporting nation's bounty, if it could strike the right article, and the right article only, from whatever port it came, would be a Free-trade and not a Protective measure, is really beyond question." This is exactly what I maintained in my Nineteenth-Century article, but it is still denied by almost all Free-traders, as witness Mr. Lowe's strong protest and Sir Stafford Northcote's indignant disclaimer in Tuesday night's debate on the Sugar question.

But if a countervailing duty is a Free-trade measure when applied to neutralise a "bounty," it must be equally so when applied to neutralise a protective duty. The "export bounty" and the "import duty" produce the same result, by different means. Both enable the foreign producer to sell his goods in our market at or under cost price, while still leaving him a profit. The bounty does this directly; the import duty indirectly, by giving him a monopoly of his home trade, and therefore larger profits. It then becomes advantageous to him to increase his production to the utmost, as he thereby decreases the proportionate amount of fixed charges; and then, by selling cheap in our market and dear in his own, he strikes a fair average of profit, at the same time that he undercuts us. It is clear, then, that countervailing duties, exactly balancing the unfair advantage given to foreigners by bounties and protective import duties, are justifiable on Free-trade principles; and this is the exact form of "reciprocity" which I have maintained to be "true Free-trade." I cannot myself believe that the practical difficulties in the way of its application are insuperable, because circuitous routes and re-shipments from foreign ports would, in many cases, be unprofitable. If, however, the principle of such countervailing duties was adopted, and carried into execution as far as was found practicable, it would relieve almost all our domestic industries from a heavy burden, while it would certainly have considerable effect in inducing foreign Governments to relax their present policy of almost universal Protection.—I am, Sir, &c., ALFRED E. WALLACE.

[The complications which make it all but impossible even to countervail a bounty fairly and accurately, would be multiplied tenfold in the attempt which our correspondent proposes. If you knew the exact amount of the bounty, and could identify absolutely the goods as which it was paid, there would be no difficulty, and you would merely have to deduct at one place the distorting element introduced at another. But in the case of protective duties, you have large classes of goods protected, and ought to take care that those protected against the protection were precisely the same in quality and also in quantity,—a totally impossible condition. Yet without that there would be no Free-trade.—Ed. Spectator.]

M. RENAN AND THE PERSON OF ST. PAUL.

(To the Editors of the "Spectator.")

Sir,—In the number at Ravenna, St. Paul is represented several times in company with the other Apostles. The rest have a strong family resemblance, but the type chosen for St. Paul is always the same, and always quite different from any of the others. Its characteristics are a high, bald forehead, strong aquiline nose, and long, narrow face, ending in a dark beard. It will be seen that this agrees very well with M. Renan's description. Whether the Ravenna artists, like M. Renan, followed the Epistle of Thoma, or whether they and the author of the epistle are distinct authorities for the existence of an early tradition on the subject, is a question on which I cannot offer an opinion.—I am, Sir, &c., F. M.

"PHYSICS" ON THIRISM.

(To the Editors of the "Spectator.")

Sir,—Probably, as you suggest in your editorial note, I have misunderstood the meaning which your reviewer intends to attach to his words, "the data of the senses." The passage in which these words occurred was one which attributed to me "a distinct acceptance of the belief that when we have catalogued the data of the senses, we have completed the inventory of existence." To this statement I objected, because, in plain English, it seemed to accuse me of having denied the doctrine of the relativity of knowledge. In answer to my objection, you say, "No belief, we are taught [by the majority of scientific sceptics], which cannot in the last resort be connected with some sensible impression, can be regarded as an image of an objective reality. If our author's argument against Thirism did not mean this, his critic certainly misunderstood him." Without waiting to consider how far this modified epitome of my first principles is accurate, I deem it desirable to point out that it can only be made to represent your previous epitome, by substituting in the latter the word "knowledge" for the word "experience." Had this substitution been made in your proof, I should not have troubled you to make it (in effort) in your editorial note; but, on reading your review, as published, I could only suppose that your reviewer had so far misunderstood my argument as to attribute to me the "preposterous" belief that "the inventory of existence," i.e., the sum of things, is limited by "the data of the senses," i.e., our means of knowledge. The chapter of my work to which I referred was that which treats of the logical standing of Thirism, with reference to the fact that our means of knowledge bear no ascertainable proportion to the terms of the problem.—I am, Sir, &c., FRANCIS.

(Of course, "Physics" is right, and our expression, though we do not think that one reader in a hundred would, in its context, have so understood it, was inaccurate.—Ed. Spectator.)

BOOKS.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.*

MR. DUMAS'S *Revue* has evidently devoted much attention to the collection of materials for these volumes, and the fact that they are dedicated to that able, but misguided, enthusiast, Sir Henry Rawlinson, is sufficient evidence that they will be welcomed with applause by the advanced school of Central-Asian politicians. To those, however, who view the subject from an impartial stand-point, England and Russia in Central Asia must be regarded, in every sense of the word, as most unsatisfactory. It is a notable proof that close study and deep research are not the only attributes necessary for successful authorship. None can regret more than we do that Mr. Boulger should have marred his reputation by venturing upon a question of which he has no practical experience, one which has never yet been faithfully treated by the numerous historians, who, some even with a less knowledge than the present author, have entered upon retrospections and speculations concerning the careers of the two great Northern powers in Asia. So long as Mr. Boulger confines himself to a history of the past, his remarks are sensible and worth reading; directly he plunges into the dim obscurity of the future, his speculations, suggestions, and prophecies become ostentatiously absurd, almost dangerous in their wildness. Viewing the conduct of Russia with the jaundiced eye of Imperialism, he never fails to ascribe to her the most unworthy motives for the simplest actions, and brands her politicians, her Generals, even her emperors, as the basest and most unscrupulous of men. There is no pretence at impartiality in the book, which is one frontal assault of the Power which Lord Beaconsfield assured us was on a most cordial footing with Great Britain, one wild exhortation to Government to adopt the most preposterous measures in order to checkmate Russia in her insidious advance on Hindostan.

The chapters relating to the geography of Russian Turkestan are of some interest, and Mr. Boulger with skill combats Herr Kiepert's statement that the task of bringing the Oxus back to the Caspian is a dream of Siberian credulity. To cut a canal nearly seven hundred miles in length, from Hazrat-nep on the Amou Darya, through the Sam Kanyah Lake to the Caspian,

* England and Russia in Central Asia. By Dumastres Charles Boulger. With Two Maps and Appendix. 1 vol. London: W. R. Allen, 1878.