

THE BYSTANDER.

SEPTEMBER, 1890.

IN the fiscal region the clouds, heavy as they look, are decidedly breaking, both here and in the United States. At the time of our writing the McKinley Bill seems sure to pass, possibly with a breach in its principle made by the reduction of the duty on barley. But to buy its passage, its framers have been compelled virtually to abandon the Force Bill, and they would hardly have deemed that compromise necessary if they had not known that the obstruction with which the Democrats threatened their Tariff Bill would have had public opinion to back it. Before the McKinley Bill left the House for the Senate it had been seriously scarred by the protest of Mr. Butterworth which drew forth expressions of sympathy from all parts of the Union. Mr. Blaine, the Republican chief, is declaring for the principle of Reciprocity, and is at open war with the hoggish monopolism of Mr. Reed. He applies his principle at present only to the relations with the South American Republics, but the McKinleyites see plainly enough that in its scope it comprehends all quarters of the compass. Mr. Blaine is not a manufacturer, and he is the shrewdest, if not the most scrupulous, man of his party. He discerns that the game of keeping alive war-passions for the purpose of sustaining the war-tariff approaches its end, and that when it comes to wasting surplus revenue in pensions, to the extent of a hundred and thirty millions a year, besides squandering other public money, for the purpose of staving off reduction, the sufferance of the people is likely to be pretty well ex-