

WE have repeatedly pointed out that no Canadian Government pays any money whatever in assisting mechanics to Canada. Last year 133,000 immigrants settled in Canada, and the sums paid out for all assisted passages aggregated \$50,000—less than 40 cents to each; and the assistance was absolutely confined to farm labourers, general labourers, and female domestics.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

THE chapter of accidents in South Africa is evidently not yet closed. We shall either have to chastise the Boers for flagrant outrages or to leave them, as before, unpunished, and thus provoke fresh crimes. To repel the aggression of the Dutchmen of the Transvaal on chiefs and territories they solemnly promised to respect means the use of English troops and the expenditure of English money.—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE Tory organs have nothing to say in favour of O'Connor's elevation, and their blind and interested devotion to Sir John prevents them from condemning it. Grit papers are bursting to make political capital out of it, but they dare not, because their party is not a little dependent for power in this Province on the votes of the new judge's co-religionists. The triumph of party and of faction can go no further.—*The Liberal*.

IN this year of grace so far are men from beating their swords into ploughshares or their spears into pruning-hooks that the great cannon manufacturer of Germany, Herr Krupp, employs in his particular form of industry not less than 20,000 workmen. What will the harvest be one of these days? It looks as if Europe would have to have one more great war—perhaps a war involving all the great powers—before the atmosphere is cleared, and an era of settled peace sets in.—*Montreal Star*.

How the French Government will get out of the difficulties into which greed and unwisdom have brought them, it is not easy to see. If China can be conquered by ironclads, all may yet be well; but if the Mandarins remain firm, it is evident that M. Ferry must adopt one of three courses—either withdraw ignominiously from the contest; retire from office, and leave the dilemma as a legacy to his successors; or send an army to Peking—if he can and France will.—*Spectator*.

IF the Peers believe, however erroneously, that the country approves of their action, and if, so believing, they face the threat of extinction rather than consent to be reduced to a position not of mere insignificance, but of absolute inutility, under the Constitution, it would be impossible to blame them as men; and we are not sure that a nation which respects spirit and fidelity to principle, however and wherever displayed, would even be inclined to censure them as citizens. It might be better for the country at large—as certainly it would be for the future traditions of English public life—that the "great constitutional changes" of which Mr. Gladstone speaks should be precipitated by the courage and consistency of the House of Lords than averted by their cowardice.—*Daily Telegraph*.

CANADIAN natural resources are such that, given an open field and fair play, the Dominion need not fear competition with the great nation lying south of her border. Though some industries, it is true, might suffer by free trade on a reciprocity basis, yet the mass of the industries for whose prosecution we have the natural resources, or facilities of manufacture, would benefit materially and bestow incalculable good upon both countries. If free trade has been beneficial to the States which compose the American Union, we cannot conceive that the natural conditions of Canada are such that that system which has proven so beneficial to the States lying south of our frontier, notwithstanding their industrial isolation from the rest of the world, would prove disastrous to us in Canada.—*Ottawa Free Press*.

SOME weeks of incessant adulation and counter-adulation, in which Scotchmen have been assuring Mr. Gladstone that he is the greatest of Ministers, and Mr. Gladstone has been assuring Scotchmen that they are the finest of people, could hardly fail to produce an effect, and an evil effect, on a mind constituted like the Prime Minister's, even if that mind were not exasperated by the half-consciousness of complete argumentative failure. Sir Robert Peel would never have excited or returned such demonstrations; Lord Melbourne, Lord Palmerston, and Lord Beaconsfield would have estimated them at their true value, and secretly or openly laughed at the folly of the people. But Mr. Gladstone's undoubted influence over the popular mind is partly derived from the influence which that mind has over him.—*Saturday Review*.

MR. GLADSTONE appears to have felt that the spontaneous resentment displayed by the public at the action of the Upper House ought to constitute for reasonable men an argument stronger than any manifestations that might plausibly be referred to provocative oratory. He has waited patiently while the evidence of popular feeling accumulated, and now, at the end of his tour, he sums it up, and points the inevitable moral. About the issue of the present unfortunate struggle there can be no doubt whatever, except as to the precise point to which the victors may choose to press their advantage. Mr. Gladstone will not be accused, by any one competent to measure public opinion, of overstating the case when he says that "there is a great disposition to raise the question whether the power at present enjoyed by the House of Lords is not a power too great to be held by persons irresponsible for its exercise." He declares himself personally desirous to keep that question in the background, and anxious only to secure such concessions as will enable him to get the Franchise Bill settled. But he at the same time intimates that the franchise cannot always be argued upon the narrow ground to which he has confined himself, and that the country cannot be expected to acquiesce in a theory of the independence of the House of Lords which can be pleaded as a reason for permanently or repeatedly resisting propositions so moderate and so reasonable as those involved in the Franchise Bill.—*London Times*.

PERHAPS we do not know how much manners depend upon appropriate dress. To be sure of this, we have only to watch the stumbling nervousness, side glances, and embarrassed abstractedness in the latter instance, or the constraint observable in any of the others. If we want our daughters to grow up simple, gracious, and unconscious in manner, we must dress them so fitly that they do not feel their dress, that it seems as much part of them as their hands or feet. The ever-increasing study of art, physiology, and hygiene have greatly improved dress in the last ten years. This is one of the many good results of women's education. Doubtless it might have far wider effects were we to dress characteristically, since we may take character as the combination of mind and morals, and whatever influences the mind must therefore indirectly influence dress.—*The Queen*.

THE free traders of France are saying some plain things at the present moment concerning the protective policy of the Government. There is a strong disposition in official circles to impose higher tariffs on cattle and corn, while the old worn-out sophisms of protectionists in all countries are brought forward by way of defence. On the other hand, eminent economists and free traders like M. Beaulieu point to Great Britain and show that in consequence of the adoption of a free-trade policy the cost of existence is cheaper, while agricultural crises are comparatively unknown. The British Government, it is contended, does not impose exorbitant duties on American bacon, German sugar, or Hungarian cattle; and hence the poorer classes in England are able to live much better than the same classes in France, or even people further up the social scale.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

ACTING is often spoken of as if it were as great an art as that of the poet or the painter; and probably some of Mr. Irving's admirers would say that his achievement in representing Hamlet is not less striking than was Shakespeare's achievement in creating the character. This is, of course, nonsense; and we may say with confidence that Mr. Irving would be eager to condemn such pretensions. It is true that a good actor must have some rare qualities both of mind and body, and these qualities need to be carefully trained; but the function of one who has merely to interpret the thoughts of others is on a much lower level than that of the artist who has to give form to his own conceptions. Recognition of this fact would help to curb the restless vanity which causes so many actors to be ridiculously greedy of applause; and it would make the public less easily satisfied than they generally are at present with the performances of their favourites on the stage.—*Graphic*.

THE nationalists of Dublin have attacked the names of those streets in the Irish capital which are "distinctively English," such as Spencer, York, Brunswick, Hanover, Waterloo, Nassau, Westmoreland, Albert, and Gloucester. The idea is not a novel one, but has been in vogue in France for nearly a century, to the great confusion of students of local history; indeed, one unhappy highway has borne seven or eight names during that time, or about one for each revolution. Our Irish cousins might advantageously copy the example set on this side of the water. New York and Albany both take their names from the titles of James II. Kings and Queens are among the counties of the Empire State, and Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Louisiana have monarchical or aristocratic souvenirs about them. New York has so strong an Irish element in its population that it has been suggested that it might be christened New Cork; but we do not remember that any of its remarkable Aldermen have ever suggested the renaming of the streets that bear British names. The whole business is childish.—*Philadelphia Record*.

FOR Mr. Cleveland the ladies have no mercy. "In voting for Cleveland," they say, "men will affirm that crimes against women do not count in political life." Mrs. Livermore writes to the *Boston Post*, "No decent, self-respecting woman could enter the White House if Grover Cleveland were President." This text the ladies embroider with all the wretched tittle-tattle furnished by the *New York Sun*, the *New York Tribune*, and the "religious papers." Some of their critics ask them why, if they wish to take part in politics, they do not start an agitation against the divorce laws. Others want to know why they do nothing to protect the girls in workshops and factories. But the only male critic whom they heed is Colonel Higginson, of Boston, and Colonel Higginson thus writes in his journal: "It is desirable that our President should never have sinned, never tasted whiskey, never had an unchaste thought, never sworn an oath; but, after all, when it comes to being the ruler of a great nation, those virtues, however important, are secondary, not primary. To be absolutely honest in public office; to have the courage to act as one thinks right; these are the primary virtues. These are the virtues on which nations rest; it is upon these that our Republic is founded."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

IN the year 1712, when England was the merry land of good Queen Anne, still the good Old England of the consistent Tory, and the rotten, corrupt, and altogether-frivolous England of the consistent Radical, Joseph Addison, in the *Spectator*, expressed his opinion of the extent and effect of what he called "Party lying" as follows:—"This vice is so very predominant among us at present that a man is thought of no principle who does not propagate a certain system of lies. The coffee-houses are supported by them, the press is choked with them, eminent authors live upon them. There is, however, one advantage resulting from this detestable practice, the very appearances of truth are so little regarded that lies are at present discharged in the air, and begin to hurt nobody. A man is looked upon as bereft of common sense that gives credit to the relations of party writers; nay, his own friends shake their heads at him and consider him in no other light than as an officious fool or a well-meaning idiot." To any one who has to read continuously the opposite party papers of Canada this is not a bad picture of our own condition. The arguments of our press are, indeed,