

impartiality, the critics of their own actions and of those of their opponents. Ten years ago, the press of Ontario was a literary Dahomey. This state of things, at all events, we have left behind. The two great party organs are now in the hands of men of honour; they exchange hot shot, and this, while the party system lasts, they will continue to do. It is idle to expect anything else; but they do not, like their predecessors, use their journals for the furtherance of their personal ends or the destruction of their personal enemies. There is violence in their editorials, but there is not malignity. We have, it is true, to deplore the arrival among us of what is elegantly termed the "social" press; but this, like the other pests of civilization, was sure to come, and if the social body is sound it may yet throw off the disease. Mutual personalities, while they degrade the whole profession, render Press Clubs and reunions impossible. Men at the opposite poles of opinion on public questions may nevertheless meet privately on a footing of perfect amity, and they do so constantly in England to the great advantage of all. But a man cannot meet on a footing of amity in the evening one who has been traducing his personal character in the morning, no matter whether it has been done in a newspaper or elsewhere.

It seems strange that a government should derive a great accession of strength from the mere decision of a lawsuit. Ontario, it is presumed, owes the judgment of the Privy Council in her favour to the justice of her cause; and if a wreath is to be twined for any brow, it should be, apparently, for the brow of the able counsel by whom that cause was pleaded. Yet the fact is incontestable that the Mowat Government has gained greatly, while the Opposition has lost heavily, by the result of the Boundary appeal. It is said that Conservatives took an active part in decorating the streets for the reception of Mr. Mowat at Woodstock. The territory acquired is pronounced by all who have seen it of no apparent value, at least as far as arable land or timber is concerned; but it was the prize of a struggle in which the feelings of the Province had been enlisted. The Provincial Opposition has been sacrificed, not in this matter alone, to the corporate objects of the Party of which it is a limb, and of which the ruling member is Quebec, a Province antagonistic, not to say hostile, to Ontario. This is a desperate position, and its disadvantages were signally displayed by the Boundary Dispute in which Quebec was really the adverse party and had put her veto at Ottawa on the acceptance of the Award. At the last election the Opposition exerted all its strength and won some seats; but the net result was failure; and the stone heaved by a deadlift effort to the brow of the hill has been rolling down again ever since. Even the devotees of the Party system, it is believed, admit that nothing can be worse than a Party Government without an effective Opposition. Without an effective Opposition, however, Party Government in Ontario is likely for some time to be. Patronage and influence of every kind are being used with the utmost assiduity to strengthen the intrenchments of the Government, and there will soon be neither a schoolmaster nor a tavern-keeper in the Province who is not a pledged supporter of Mr. Mowat. The last rivet will speedily have been added to the chain. The leader of the Opposition needs stronger men around him, and for want of them fair chances have more than once been lost. But above all things he needs free hands and liberty to take up a sound position as the head of a party in this Province. His strategy is ruined and, unless he can emancipate himself, will continue to be ruined by his thralldom to Ottawa and Quebec. There is no use in his championing Federalism, unless he can induce Quebec to be Federal instead of being, as she is, sectional in the highest degree. The weak point in the position of the Government is its vassal alliance with the head of the Roman Catholic Church. If Mr. Meredith were at liberty to move on the line indicated by an appreciation of that fact, he would find himself at all events supported by a hearty and steadfast following. But when he turns his eyes in that direction he sees the menacing shadows of Ottawa and Quebec.

MR. CLEVELAND is partly compensated for the calamitous adhesion of Tammany to his cause by the declaration of the Irish National League in favour of his rival. Mr. Blaine is to receive the votes of the dynamiters as the candidate who in their opinion is most likely to involve the United States in a war with England. Americans will not fail to moralize on the character of Fenian citizenship and the value of Fenian citizens. Nothing could be more moderate or unobjectionable than the language of Mr. Blaine on the subject in his letter of acceptance. He merely promised protection to American citizens in foreign countries while they were engaged in their lawful callings. In this there is no dynamite. Murder is not in the estimation of civilized men a lawful calling, neither is kindling civil war. But the Invincibles have persuaded themselves notwithstanding

that Mr. Blaine is their man, and there is no doubt that they are everywhere exerting themselves in his favour. They may be merely speculating on his general Jingoism, and on the mischievous effect which it is likely to have on negotiations respecting the Fisheries Question, or that of the Darien Canal. But after the revelation which we have just had of his habits it is impossible to feel sure that he has not given underhand the criminal assurances which he ostensibly withheld. That he deemed it necessary to withhold them is a welcome proof of the difficulty which, if he should be elected President, he would have in making them good. There is every reason to believe that the feeling of native Americans toward the land of their fathers is entirely kind; in the hearts of all time has laid its healing hand on the ancient wound, and among the more highly educated an ampler knowledge of history has had its effect in dissipating the rancour contracted by poring exclusively over the annals of the Revolutionary War. But a surer guarantee is afforded by the ties of commerce. The wheat-grower of the West would combine with the cotton-grower of the South in protesting against the conversion of the American Government into the engine of an Irish feud. The truth is that, whatever may be said by vote-hunting politicians and their organs, nowhere would a display of firmness on the part of the British Government be more heartily applauded than in the United States. Those who have suffered under Tammany and who remember the Draft Riots understand this question pretty well. Still we have seen to what weakness and connivance may lead. It is the duty of all men of British race on this continent who do not wish to see the centre of British and Protestant civilization wrecked by a horde of infuriated savages, to show themselves ready for defensive action, and prepare, if necessary, to teach the politicians, whether American or Canadian, that there are safer lines of business than the purchase of the Fenian vote by attacks upon the British Union.

It is believed in England that the farmers have lost half of their capital within the last few years. There has been a run of bad harvests; but harvests have been bad, and for several successive years, before now, without producing anything at all like the present depression. That which is really ruining the British wheat-grower is foreign competition, against which he cannot make head with a variable climate, and with a soil the productiveness of which is kept up only by a prodigal use of manure. Kinder suns will come, but they will hardly bring back hope. That the farmer should get Protection again is morally impossible. The artisans, who hold the key of the political position, will never endure the re-imposition of a tax on food, and the suggestion was no sooner broached than it encountered their decisive veto. The farmer's only chance is the substitution of other industries, such as dairy farming and the production of vegetables, for the wheat-growing to which from immemorial habit he desperately clings, and which he seems to regard as the only agriculture consistent with his dignity. This is the most conspicuous, but it is not the only case of heavy loss inflicted on an existing industry by that which will be the gain of the world at large. Farmers in Pennsylvania find themselves overwhelmed with a deluge of wheat from the West, and are compelled to turn to new kinds of production in order to save themselves from ruin. Ontario must look forward to a trial of the same kind as soon as wheat-growing in the North-West shall have attained its full proportions and the means of transport shall have been completed. Men connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway have been heard to boast that in a few years the Loan Societies of this Province would have all their securities on their hands. There can be little doubt at all events that wheat-growing will become comparatively profitless, and that our farmers will have, like the Pennsylvanians, to adapt themselves to circumstances and change their lines of production to meet the altered market. It is a subject which calls for the prompt attention of the friends of agriculture. Nor could the partisans of the Scott Act have chosen a worse moment for ruining the barley industry and nipping in the bud the wine industry of which fair hopes were entertained.

Proofs are always coming to us that the Anti-Semitic movement in Germany and Eastern Europe is still, as Mr. Lucien Wolf calls it in his recent essay, a question of the day. A question of the day it is likely to remain wherever the Hebrews exist in great numbers until they change their habits and their bearing towards the Gentile population. People will not, if they can help it, let themselves be preyed upon forever by a devouring horde of alien extortioners. Worried to desperation by the swarm of flies, the horse will kick; and this is what the peasant in Hungary, Russia, Poland and Roumania is now doing. The frantic plungings of the tortured animal only show how maddening is the sting. Mr. Lucien Wolf asks what is Judaism. In a religious point of view orthodox Judaism is Mosaic