

self-government in Ireland which the Ministry might bring forward, and that the measure consequently would be carried. Indeed there are not a few, even among the professed followers of Mr. Gladstone, who are Separatists only under the coercion of their local caucuses, and would welcome from the bottom of their feeble hearts any plausible mode of escape from their election pledges. They would pretend, as even the *Daily News* seems preparing to pretend, that they accepted Provincial Councils only as an instalment, though it would be with a secret determination never to go a step further unless the caucus dragged them. Some measure of political settlement must certainly be proposed, and the scheme of Provincial Councils is, we should say, as likely to be proposed as any other.

IN the meantime there is one duty which Parliament clearly owes to its own character and to the honour of the nation. It is bound to preserve the integrity of British elections from the interference of a foreign conspiracy. What would have been thought if at the time of the Russian war, Russian money had been openly sent into England, and accepted by Parliamentary candidates opposed to the war, for the purpose of carrying elections in the Russian interest? Yet this would not have been a grosser outrage than is the open transmission of money from the coffers of American Fenianism for the purpose of carrying British elections in the interest of a foreign conspiracy, avowedly formed for the destruction of the British power, and which has twice invaded the Queen's dominions. There are sitting in the British House of Commons men who are actually the paid agents of the public enemy, and who openly come over to take a part in the councils of that enemy at Chicago with a view to carrying on the war against the State, which they do by means of outrage and obstruction, while their confederates do it by means of dynamite and Fenian raids. The British Parliament ought surely to lose no time in passing an Act annulling all elections in which funds subscribed by the enemies of the realm shall have been used, and disqualifying as candidates all who shall have in any way connected themselves with foreign conspiracies against the State. Such a measure would considerably reduce the forces of obstruction in the House of Commons, and it would receive the approbation of every one, even in America, who has any respect for the rights of nations.

POLITICS are certainly a curious subject. In an appreciative article on Lord Randolph Churchill, the highly respectable correspondent of a highly respectable New York paper observes that his lordship's present revelation of his Liberal opinions does not surprise, inasmuch as he has long been believed to hold such opinions, though he "expressed Tory principles for the purposes of tactics." In any other sphere it would be deemed rather a serious detraction from a eulogy of a man to say that he had been in the habit of telling systematic falsehoods for an interested purpose in regard to matters of the highest importance and specially committed to his trust. But in the case of the politician the only question asked is whether the fraud has been successful: if it has, he is a great man, and perhaps the rising star of the day. On our streets at this time you hear the conjecture freely uttered that the leader of a party in repudiating its organ is acting in secret concert with the organist, whom he wishes, "for purposes of tactics," to take a line which he would himself not find it convenient to take; and nobody seems to suppose that the suggestion is injurious, either to the party leader or to the journalist. Yet in the ordinary dealings of men with each other such a suspicion would be resented as the grossest of insults. That it is well founded in the particular case, we have ourselves no reason for believing; but the tone in which it is discussed shows that the thing might be done with moral impunity. Whether the advocates of Partyism choose to admit it or not, their system has fundamentally perverted public morality; and the evil grows. Pitt, Canning, or Peel would have sent you a challenge for imputing to them that in which Lord Randolph Churchill openly glories as a clever trick of his trade.

It is fortunate that the British Parliament has risen, and that in dealing with the Eastern imbroglio, the Government is not harassed by the incessant fire of questions, which, when the House is sitting, is kept up by the mischievous folly of members and their desire, at whatever expense to the public service, to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their constituents. Lord Salisbury has completely changed his line upon the Eastern Question since he brought back "peace with honour" from Berlin. The great achievement of which he and his chief boasted on that occasion was the separation of the two Bulgarian Provinces, and the retention of one of them under Turkish dominion. The conviction has now dawned upon him that the consolidation of Bulgaria is the right policy, and the one which affords the best hope of curbing Russian aggression. But he has

proved himself a good diplomatist, and he unquestionably stands well with Bismarck. What are the intentions of Bismarck is still the enigma of the hour, and until it is solved, speculation must be at fault. It is certain, however, that the old Emperor of Germany wishes to avoid a war; so, there is every reason to believe, does the Crown Prince. The Russian Government continues in all its proceedings, and notably in the scandalous mission of General Kaulbars, to show a savage disregard of civilized rights and obligations. Kaulbars' intrigue and bullying have evidently failed, and the Bulgarians are bravely true to their own cause. The chief source of danger is the temper of the Czar, who is too evidently a barbarian goaded into ferocious panic by Nihilism, and inclined by plunging into a policy of aggression to rid himself of his personal danger at the expense of humanity. There has been upon the Russian throne a curious alternation of philanthropists and Tartars, the two Alexanders having belonged to the first category and the heir of each to the second; as alternations of strength and weakness may be found in the line of our own monarchs, Edward the First and Edward the Third having been strong, while the heir of each was weak. As to the British people, they are now in a perfectly rational frame of mind, and content to let their Government deal with the danger as best it may in conjunction with the other Powers.

WE have received a letter from the Rev. J. F. Stevenson, who states that he is not satisfied with the explanation given in our number of September 30th, of a passage in the letter of our English correspondent respecting the contrast between the religious professions of Mr. Gladstone and his conduct in a matter of common honesty towards the landowners of Ireland. We regret that our explanation should not have appeared sufficient to our esteemed correspondent; but what we deemed necessary on our part has been said, and we do not wish to reopen a question out of which an endless controversy might arise.

THE members of the proposed temperance, or rather Prohibitive, organization in Quebec City, who are to vote only for the candidate in the coming local and federal elections that pledges himself to support Prohibitive legislation, are practically disfranchising themselves. No one that took such a pledge in Quebec Province would have a shadow of a chance of election, save from other considerations that might outweigh that drawback, or in a non-French constituency; and to exact it would be in general to ensure the defeat of the candidate.

It looks as if the conversion of Sir John to Prohibition may not be far off. According to the *Regina Leader*, Mrs. Youmans, the temperance lecturer, has had an interview with him, at which our astute and experienced Premier, apparently quickened by the lady's "forcible and stirring," but to most people rather stale, comparison of the granting of a license to Haman to kill Mordecai and the Jews, to the license system of the present day,—declared that "as soon as he saw that public opinion demanded Prohibition he would do all in his power to give Prohibition to Canada." Was the *Mail's* recent conversion but *un ballon d'essai*?

AMONG the humours of the electoral contest in Quebec is the oratorical flight of a Montreal Rouge, who likens Attorney-General Taillon to Pilate, because he had advocated the policy of non-intervention in the Riel matter. Pilate had refused to interfere on behalf of our Saviour for fear of incurring Cæsar's displeasure, and Taillon feared displeasing Sir John, who was thus likened unto Cæsar. The pathetic allusion of another orator, the Mecænas of the Rouge Party, to the insult "our race and religion" had received by the execution of "our brother," fell rather flat, however, the hearers probably remembering that this patriotic but rather indiscreet Nationalist had said before Riel's execution that he hoped the Government would hang the Métis chieftain, and so give the Rouges a war-cry.

As the months roll on, Gen. Logan's hopes of the Presidency, and of a Republican "boom," rise; for, according to an ingenious little theory he has adopted, every month now must be adding to the numbers of the Republicans. And this is the way it comes about. These votes are not gained by Republican merit or Democratic demerit, but by the force of heredity—that potent force in democratic America! Thus, explains the General, "during the years of 1862, 1863, and 1864 the loyal unmarried men of the country were in the army, and at home the others were breeding Copperheads. These came of age and voted for Cleveland, as I expected." Hence the Democratic victory. Now comes the turn of the others. In the approaching Presidential election, the sons of those brave fellows who came home from the war in 1864 and 1865, and promptly married, will cast their first vote: they of course will vote Republican, and the rout of the Democrats will be complete.