

vested rights and their temporary disarrangements; but I doubt not the Church in Ireland, suffering perhaps from no fault of her own, but chiefly because, after the lapse of years and opportunities, she has failed as a religious and political propagandist among a conquered and resentful people—I doubt not, strong in her trust in God and her love for the great work, she has many and proud triumphs before her—another illustration in the long annals of reform that the removal of abuses, and the vindication of justice strengthen and dignify, but never destroy. The Tories had indeed derided the Irish policy of the Government, but with little force and no heart, for the people of the three Kingdoms had supported it by overwhelming majorities at the polls, and had declared it the great and pressing question of the times. Only the other day, Mr. Gladstone wrote to the Mayor of Dublin as to the remedial measures proposed by the Imperial Parliament in favour of Ireland, that “they have swelled the numbers and strengthened the hands of the great body of men of all parties and creeds in Ireland, on the side of loyalty and order.”

But the foreign policy of the Gladstone Cabinet, the policy of peace and not of war has been the cause of wide spread animadversions. It is said they are trailing the martial renown of England in the dust, because they have not been quick to push into every causeless European quarrel. The old spirit which Fox denounced in Pitt is widely invoked and glorified. Pitt's system of defence was described by his great rival “as wicked and absurd, that every country which appeared, from whatever cause, to be growing great, should be attacked,” and in our days there is an avowing school of philosophers, who teach that England's *prestige* is declining, because she has grown to prefer trade and industry, the heavenly arts of peace to the waste and slaughter of aggressive warfare. There is a dangerous irritability in the popular mind, and though we all hope for peace, no man can tell how soon the curse of wars alarms may be inflicted on us. But the events of history have not taught me that Europe is more free or Britain more powerful for our successive interventions in past Continental wars. I know they have inflicted upon the people the enormous burden of £80,000,000, and that the sad record abounds in tales of suffering, crime and death—vast and incalculable as the mysteries of illimitable space. Hence all my sympathies are with the peaceful policy of the British Government;

and while I would accept the dire calamity of war to avert or wipe out a great national humiliation—a tribute to freedom—a great sacrifice for a noble end—I believe the most ghastly and unpardonable crime against humanity is aggressive and unnecessary war. It is not strange, perhaps, where party spirit runs high, as in England, that the Tory Standard should seek in the interests of its friends to inflame the popular passions against the Government. They desire, not unnaturally, to ride into power. I can understand, too, the sneer of foreign countries, jealous of the prestige of England. But what has pained and puzzled me most in this discussion has been the tone of the press and public men of my own country. Only a day or two since I noticed in the special newspaper organ of the Premier of the Dominion, a bitter attack upon the pacific disposition of the British Government, and warm congratulations upon the retirement of Mr. Blight, who is supposed to have inspired their policy. What great interest has Canada in pressing the British Government into war? Without allies in Europe, with vast colonial interests to defend, with a commerce that covers every sea with her sails, and industrial multitudes at home dependent for their daily bread upon regular and uninterrupted communication with every centre of trade and production—who can calculate the risks and calamities of war? Surely our position on this continent would not be improved by entanglements which might tax to their extreme limits the vast powers of the Empire. And from our point of view there can be neither policy nor patriotism in this almost universal wail of those who profess to be the exponents of our Colonial opinion, because the British Government is not disposed to be bellicose and quarrelsome.

But leaving out of the question the Conservatives of Canada, what excuse have Canadian Liberals for joining the Tory howl, against their great co-labourers in England? I confess with shame that the condemnation of Mr. Gladstone's Government has been quite as severe, though, I hope not so general, in the Liberal ranks as among the Tories of this country. To me it appears an offence against the principles and traditions of our party, which I cannot palliate, and the motives for which I do not comprehend. No wonder that Baron Lisgar, our excellent Governor-General, found it necessary on a recent memorable occasion to rebuke this carping and unreasonable spirit. Certainly, I am, that the English Liberals are the only reliable promoters of Imperial and Colonial