

Union would throw down the barrier in the case of the States while still excluding the mother country, and most probably further raising the barrier against her by the adoption of the professedly hostile United States tariff. This is discrimination indeed, whereas there is no discrimination under the National Policy. And it is an attitude not at all likely to be viewed with indifference by Great Britain, even when gilded by a wholly fanciful prospect of thereby indirectly increasing the friendship between the two Powers.

MR. CHARLTON further declared, and very commendably, that we were not created to serve the purpose of sugar rings, cotton rings, and pet industries that could only live upon subsidies, direct or indirect. But how then can he urge us to enter into a Commercial Union with a country whose fiscal system, which we must adopt, directly fosters these very evils he condemns? We must take the liberty to doubt whether any considerable body of the Canadian people are anxious to have Canada overrun by ringsters as the States are; and we believe Mr. Charlton mistakes when he declares that if our people cannot get free commercial intercourse [or a share in this ring-making] without annexation they will inevitably consider the question of political union as the means of getting it.

It is satisfactory to learn from Lord Salisbury's speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet that the Government intend to reform Parliamentary procedure. Although Mr. Parnell's crew have the excuse for their obstructive tactics that being at war with the British Government, they are justified in wrecking Parliament if they can, the participation of the Gladstonians in their treasonable design has no justification. They are British Representatives in a sense that does not apply to the Parnellites as Irish Members who represent only the League; and the intolerable flood of nonsense by which aid is given by the Gladstonians to the Parnellites ought to be stopped, while the tactics of the Parnellites are thwarted by a stringent Parliamentary rule which shall enable a majority of the Members present at any time peremptorily to put an end to a debate, when it is evident that mere obstruction is being practised either by the Gladstonians or their allies. With the fierce light of public opinion beating on Parliament, there is no danger in these days of the most stringent closure rules being abused.

MR. MONTAGUE COOKSON, at one time a Home Ruler, has been travelling in Ireland, and now describes the National League as an atrocious tyranny. "It is easy," he says, "for advanced English Radicals to go over to Ireland, hurry off to witness an eviction scene, and then return home to describe the horrors of it as an argument for exterminating the landlords. Let them, as they love fair play, stay until they have had some practical experience of the methods of the League. Let them try the sensation of losing day by day the means of supplying their children with bread merely because they have aroused the jealousy, or incurred the displeasure, of some influential member of the local branch. Let them spare a few hours to visit estates where the tenants are perfectly willing to accept the proffered reduction of fifteen or twenty per cent. from the judicial rent, but are prevented from doing so by an order from headquarters, disobedience to which would be followed by a sentence worse than that of excommunication in the Middle Ages." "The 'boycott' is a far more ingenious and cruel invention than the thumb-screw. To be placed under a social ban; to be cut off from the necessaries of life; to be hooted and groaned at as you pass along the road; to carry your life in your hand in lonely places—all this makes existence intolerable to an ordinary man." "Tradesmen will refuse to supply goods to a boycotted, but still popular, land agent, and then come to him at night, muffled up and disguised, to express their regrets and apologies. With an organisation so complete and so secret, no man can trust his neighbour. A blacksmith dare not be seen shoeing a boycotted landlord's horse, for a forge is a public place, yet he will help him to remove a stone from the horse's foot if he meet him in a solitary lane." "Many a farmer expects by means of the League to get the fee simple of his land at the price of a very few years' purchase, and with a view of lowering its selling value, takes no pains to keep it in good heart. The labourers discharged from the boycotted, and therefore vacant, farms have, indeed, very few hopes held out to them, for the labourers' time has not yet fully come. Deprived of their customary employment, they flock into the towns, where they stand at the corners of the streets and present a truly pitiable appearance. Many of them become regular corner-boys—that is to say, loafers ready for any row that may turn up. It is of this material that revolutions are bred when winters are cold and hard, as the coming one promises to be." "It is an obvious premium on idleness when a man by neglecting his farm,

and going off to League meetings, gets a greater reduction of rent than his neighbour who has stuck to his business and done the best he could with the soil." Mr. Cookson remarks that it is too late to enquire whether Home Rule shall be established in Ireland; it is already there in a most pernicious form. In Cork, Limerick, and Clare the League is the civil Government, the Government that is obeyed. So completely does the League hold the field that he doubts if there is now any alternative between suppressing it root and branch, meetings, journals, and all, and granting an entirely independent Irish Parliament. But obviously England cannot hand over two million loyalists to the cruel and lawless League; and therefore there is no alternative to suppressing it root and branch by force, making Ireland a Crown colony if needful.

A LETTER written from Kerry by a lady to the *Scotsman* of October 18, giving an admirable description of the peasantry in Kerry, and especially of their touching pliancy to influence of all kinds, good or evil, proves also that, in Kerry at least, the desire for Home Rule, so far as it is a separate desire from land-hunger, is mixed up with the quaintest and most confused notions of Protection for both farmer and trader, and of the kind of advantages that Protection would bring. "Under Home Rule we'll protect ourselves against American cattle," said one. On the inquiry being put how that was to be managed, seeing that it is in the English and not in the Irish market that the American cattle injure the Irish grazier, the reply was:—"Bedad! I never thought of that; but," with a twinkle in his eye, "maybe we'll have the making of the laws for the English as well as for ourselves by then."

THE *London Times* thus concludes a couple of articles on "The British Race Types of To-Day," in which the various races which have peopled Great Britain and Ireland have been traced, pure or commingled, in their descendants now living in the country:—"Having thus reviewed the race-types of the three Kingdoms, we can emphatically assert that there is nothing in the distinction of physical types met with which should separate any one of the kingdoms from the rest. Rather it will be evident how mixed, even though diverse, are the types. Great Britain and Ireland are peopled by somewhat similar mixtures of races, the balance in some districts inclining to a Teutonic, in others to a Celtic type. It is only as physical conditions influence character, as tyranny or struggles for existence or predominance have generated dislike, that diversity of sympathies and discord have arisen in the past. The hostility of Scotland to England was once as bitter as that between some Irish and English people now is. There is no reason, racially and ethnologically, why it should not be allayed by the same equitable methods which have proved efficacious between northern and southern Britain."

ON Wednesday, October 19, Sir John Lubbock delivered in London one of his fascinating lectures on the habits of ants. There was some evidence, he declared, to show that ants even felt affection for each other. Nobody had ever yet seen a quarrel between two ants of the same nest. In one instance, Sir John Lubbock kept a number of ants for seven years. Ultimately, however, they were reduced to two. These two lived together for two years, and then died within a week of each other. There was no apparent external cause for this, and he was inclined to believe the survivor died from the shock of her companion's death. Ants, he found, could recognise each other after a parting of more than a year. A curious proof that this recognition was not made by means of any signal or pass-word, was afforded by the fact that ants, even when hopelessly drunk, were recognisable by their sober companions. Sir John Lubbock made a number of ants from two different nests drunk. He then made sober ants from one of the nests only approach the drunk and incapable. At first, the sober ants were at a loss how to act. Ultimately, however, one of the sober ants took up one of the drunkards not belonging to her own nest, solemnly walked to the end of the table, and pitched her into some water that was there. This was done with all the strange ants. The ants belonging to the same nest were carefully carried home, and no doubt restored.

A STRIKING feature of the tea trade is the falling-off in the demand for the finer grades of China teas. Year by year the competition of the Indian teas displaces the finer qualities of the China leaf. All tea-buyers say that Indian tea is the tea of the future for people who can afford to pay for a good article. There is no reliable market for choice China tea. Cheap tea brought to land in England at 6d. to 1s. a pound is what seems to be wanted. It can be sold at a price to suit any pocket, and can be made quite drinkable and given a body by the addition of a few penny-worths of good full-flavoured Indian.