

expression of the writer's belief. If it is, it merely shows that a man may be able to write clever and flippant English without being possessed of much knowledge or judgment. In any case, it is much to be regretted that currency should be given to such libels. The *Saturday* is always bright and readable, but it has never shown any real prescience or perspicacity. One might suppose that its directing mind would see the inadvisability, in this crisis in the affairs of Great Britain, of trying to stir up ill blood between the two nations upon which the future of civilization so largely depends.

JUDICIAL SALARIES.

THERE will be considerable influence brought to bear upon the Government in order to effect an increase of salary for the legal luminaries who sit as judges in our Canadian Courts. From a legal point of view no objection can be urged to such proceedings, because a judgeship is not beyond the range of any hard-working young lawyer's future possibility. The salaries at present enjoyed by our judges are as large as the wages earned by leading thinkers and workers in other professions, and, unless it be a trifle extra for the dignity of office, there is no special reason for any additional salary unless an increase of work is also given. In the Quebec district it is well known that many of the judges are in a state of genteel poverty, and live fully up to their means, if not a little beyond. It is probably the same with some of the Ontario magnates of the bench; but that has nothing to do with the argument. A judge, of all men, should be able to regulate his own affairs so as to be a creditable member of society. Yet the history of the legal profession proves that judges are as frail as their fellow-men in many instances. No matter from what cause the new demand for an increase of salary springs, it should certainly not be granted unless it can be conclusively proved that a judge has not enough to keep him in solid comfort during those long and short vacations which make up so large a part of the legal year.

MR. BLAKE'S RESIGNATION.

THE party quidnuncs on both sides are very much exercised just now upon the subject of Mr. Blake's threatened resignation. The Opposition leader's organ pooh-poohed the notion as long as such a course was possible, but when a copy of the actual letter of resignation appeared in the columns of a contemporary, the fact of such a letter having been written could no longer be denied or ignored. It would really seem as though Mr. Blake had taken action in the matter without consulting or even notifying his organ in the first instance. At the present time those best entitled to judge are strongly of opinion that Mr. Blake will remain where he is at the head of the party ranks, and that some henchman must be found who is able and willing to relieve him from some of the mechanical duties incidental to the leadership. Whether the prospective henchman's name is likely to be Cartwright or Mills or Charlton or Patterson is for the present one of those insoluble problems which of old exercised the brain of Lord Dundreary.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

ADVOCATES of the Imperial federation project are labouring with commendable assiduity, but the project itself is making little or no headway. At the Colonial Conference, which opened in London on Monday last, Lord Salisbury himself accorded a hearty welcome to the delegates, but "was free to say" that he regarded the scheme as being "of a hasty and doubtful character"—"one, perhaps, more for future discussion than for the present." From whom ought one to look for enthusiastic support for such a project as Imperial federation if not from the leader of the Tory party and the head of a Tory Government? But Lord Salisbury quietly sits upon the notion of making a constitution for the whole empire, and does not see his way to anything beyond a customs union and a union for defence. It is clear that his Lordship does not regard the scheme of a general federation of the empire as coming within the range of practical politics, or worthy of a statesman's serious consideration—more especially at a time like this, when he has so eminently practical a question on his hands as the settlement of Ireland. His remarks are likely to cast a damper upon the enthusiasm of some of the most active supporters of the scheme of an Imperial federation.

COERCION IN THE COMMONS.

THE Government party in the Imperial Commons seems to be all powerful at the present moment, and determined to make the most of its power. The Conservatives and Liberal Unionists have apparently arrived at a clear understanding, and the pact between them is not likely to be sundered until the accomplishment of the main purposes for which it was entered into. Not only are Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain staunch to the Government, but Lord Randolph Churchill himself—whose resignation was by some regarded as a fatal blow—declares himself a supporter of his late chief's domestic policy. Such being the state of affairs, there is not much room for doubt that the bill for the coercion of Ireland will be carried by a considerable majority. The closure has been exercised with uncompromising vigour. Even Mr. Gladstone's vehement protest appears to have been wholly inoperative so far as the members of the House were concerned, though it unquestionably produced a marked effect throughout the country. At the time of this present writing, the outlook for the friends of Ireland is certainly not a bright one. As a matter of course the Irish-American press is furious, and some of its representatives even go so far as to suggest that the assassination of a few members of the British Ministry would be a step in the right direction. It is this spirit which Ireland and her well-wishers have most cause to fear. Every suggestion of this nature tends to still further widen the hereditary breach between Saxon and Celt, and to perpetuate the struggle which sanguine people had begun to hope was rapidly nearing its end.