

and on Mrs. Grant's refusal to pay General Badeau the full amount originally promised, on the ground of his failure to complete his task as agreed, the suit now pending was brought. A curious fact brought out in the correspondence is General Grant's singular unwillingness that the fact of General Badeau's literary assistance should be known, though nothing is now more common than for authors, especially those whose profession is not literature, to avail themselves of such assistance. On the other hand, the chief anxiety now expressed by the family of the deceased ex-President is to shield his name from the suspicion of dishonourable intent, in which, there is little doubt, they will be completely successful.

MR. GOSCHEN is rapidly building up for himself an enviable reputation as Chancellor of the British Exchequer. His admirable scheme introduced two or three weeks ago for the conversion of the National Debt from 3 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and ultimately $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., has since been followed by an equally admirable annual budget. The Conversion scheme, though not original in conception—Mr. Goulbourn having in like manner forty-four years ago reduced the $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ and 3 per cents.—was introduced in a speech which, it was agreed on all hands, was remarkable for its lucidity of statement and thorough mastery of details. In his Budget speech Mr. Goschen had the singular good fortune to be able to announce a handsome surplus of £2,165,000, the greatest since 1874. He at the same time showed that the National Debt had been decreased by £7,601,000, the largest sum paid off in any year since 1872, and he still rejoiced in the possession of a balance in hand of £7,348,000. With the aid of this balance, supplemented with the prospective income from certain new taxes, to be levied mainly on such luxuries as pleasure horses, race horses, bottled wines, etc., he was able in his estimates to promise the well-pleased public a reduction of a penny on the income tax. Not only the satisfactory character of this financial statement, but the very clear and able speech which accompanied it, gained for Mr. Goschen the warmest encomiums, Mr. Gladstone, probably the only man in England capable of surpassing or equalling such a financial feat, being one of the foremost in offering his congratulations.

EVENTS are demonstrating that the Salisbury Government was eminently sagacious in giving Irish matters the go-by at the outset of the present Session and devoting its energies to matters nearer home. The result has been to enable its members to secure what their supporters regard as so far a most successful Session. Since the New Procedure, the most important Government measure introduced is the Local Government Bill, which is being received with favour even by the Opposition. A remarkable feature of most of the victories of which the friends of the Government are boasting is that they have been gained, not over the Gladstonian Liberals, but with their aid. The explanation given by the Opposition which declines to oppose, is that the great measures thus far introduced are distinctly Liberal measures, and the future policy, so far as outlined, and apart from matters pertaining to Ireland, is a Liberal policy. It is, in any case, a sight as pleasing as it is novel, to see the three parties, for three there now are, working together to reform the internal economy of Parliament, improve the financial situation and remodel the Constitution, in the direction of local autonomy. What will be the effect upon the future of the old Tory Party of running this new race of progress in which it is being pushed forward by its Liberal-Unionist allies, remains to be seen. Ground once lost to the forces which make for Reform has seldom been re-taken in British history. It may be prophesied, with a good deal of confidence, that the present singular aspect of political affairs in England marks the final upbreak of the old Toryism as a great reactionary force, and that when again distinct party lines emerge after the present commotion, those lines will simply mark the division between Radical and Conservative Liberalism.

THE financial question in British India is evidently becoming a very serious one. An interesting debate took place a few weeks since in Parliament, on the resolution condemning the frontier policy of the Indian Government as leading not only to increased burdens of taxation, but to the stimulation of the liquor traffic as a means of increasing the revenue. The large expenditure on frontier fortifications was vigorously defended as purely defensive and absolutely necessary to safety, and the charge that the liquor traffic was fostered for revenue purposes indignantly denied. But some of the statistics adduced by Lord Randolph Churchill show that the state of the Indian treasury and the increasing and oppressive burdens of taxation are such as to demand the most anxious consideration. He pointed out that the Indian Government has "utterly eaten up" the famine fund of £2,000,000, and that it has been obliged to raise the salt tax, one of the most oppressive imaginable, in a time of profound peace. Lord

Churchill also showed, as illustrating the lack of economy in the management of Indian affairs, that the administrative expenses have increased by more than seven millions of pounds in fifteen years, and that the cost of collecting the revenue has increased to a much greater extent than the revenue itself. There can be little doubt that matters in connection with the Government of the great Indian Empire are tending towards a crisis which threatens at no distant day to make a heavy draft upon the resources of British Statesmanship.

THE course of the new Emperor of Germany is being watched, it may well be believed, with much interest and anxiety by the various classes of his subjects. It is scarcely to be expected that in his enfeebled physical condition he will feel equal to entering upon any serious struggle for the carrying out of those liberal ideas which he is generally supposed to hold, and the hopes of the Progressists, based upon this belief, are probably doomed to disappointment in many respects. There are not wanting, however, indications of a change of Imperial policy in the direction of a more emphatic assertion of liberty and equality for the subject. Perhaps the most marked instance of a tendency in this direction is the firm and honourable attitude taken by Emperor Frederick in regard to the anti-Jewish prejudices which are so violent amongst a considerable section of the German people. The words of the Emperor touching this feeling, in his letter to Prince Bismarck, set his breadth of mind and courage in a very pleasing light. "The bases of religious toleration," he declares, "which for centuries past were held sacred by my house shall continue to be extended to all my subjects, of whatever religious community or creed. Every one of them stands equally near my heart, for all have shown equally complete devotion in times of danger."

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

NOTHING could have been pleasanter than the spirit which prevailed at the recent meeting to further the cause of Imperial Federation. The speakers were of one heart. If they were not of one mind, it was chiefly because the idea of the meeting was never clearly formulated. If that had been done there would probably have been almost entire unanimity not only among the speakers but also between the speakers and the audience; for the enthusiasm evidently reached the melting-point, and at that point it is easy to mould the mass.

Still, we cannot help expressing a kind of sympathy with the impulsive gentleman who so often interrupted the proceedings with the expression of his desire to know what it was all about. We do not mean that we approve of interrupting public meetings, or of dictating to speakers the line which they are bound to take in speaking to the resolution which has been entrusted to them. Nor can we conscientiously incite any self-respecting citizen to expose himself to the too ready ridicule of his compatriots. Still, there was an undoubted vagueness about the utterances of the speakers; and one who plodded on through the columns of eloquence which adorned the morning newspapers would feel very much in the same state of mind as the little boy who, on returning from Barnum's circus, declared that he had not received much useful information.

With the spirit which pervaded the meeting it is impossible not to sympathize. Never were any utterances more in harmony with the time-honoured banner of "Rule Britannia." But it is not only with the spirit manifested at the meeting but also with the purpose which animated those who promoted the meeting, that we must declare ourselves to be in substantial agreement. Whether anything can be done in the direction indicated, is another question. But whether it can or not, it is quite clear that the matter ought to be looked into, that whatever can be done to bind Great Britain and her colonies more closely together should be attempted at once. And if nothing can be done, then those who have made the attempt and failed, and so have demonstrated the impossibility of their enterprise, will at least have deserved well of their fellow-citizens.

It is, indeed, impossible for any one who is loyal either to the Mother Country or to any of her colonies to differ from this sentiment, since the time is evidently drawing near when the union between them must be closer, and of a somewhat different kind, or else it will be sundered altogether. If we think of our own Canada, even those among us who are most devoted to the Old Country—and there are many thousands of such, not merely among natives of Great Britain, but of native-born Canadians—cannot doubt that the present relations between the great mother and daughter must alter as this country increases in population and in wealth. It appears almost certain that unless Imperial Federation in some form is adopted there is before us, perhaps at no great distance in the future, either independence or annexation to the United States.

It is very curious to remark the different motives by which public men,