

posed, we believe, to be himself a very desperate character or very likely to take part personally in the use of dynamite. All the more significant, as an index of the sentiment of those for whom he writes, is the fact that his editorial on the dynamite outrages contains not a single syllable of reprobation. Its pervading feeling is that of delight at the success of the Dynamitards in defeating the precautionary measures of the British Government. Most noticeable, and pregnant with instruction, is the pleasure shown in the discomfiture of Mr. Gladstone and in the "personal unpleasantness" of the situation in which he is placed as a perpetual mark for the daggers of Fenian assassins. This man gave Ireland religious equality, he passed the Land Act, the Arrears Act, the Compensation for Disturbances Act; and he has tenaciously clung, in spite of all disappointments and warnings, to what he deems a policy of conciliation. Such is his reward, and such is likely to be the reward of every one who in dealing with the Irish Question fails as he has done to show firmness as well as kindness.

THE Protest of the American Senate against Dynamite will do more perhaps than anything else could have done to reassert and strengthen morality. Nobody can mistake its motive or its significance. Nobody can pretend that the Senate sympathizes with the oppressor against the oppressed, that it wishes to protect misgovernment, or that it is taking a side upon the Irish question. Everybody must see that it is acting simply as an organ of moral civilization in setting its face against a reign of murder. The difficulty of restraining criminal utterances, or even the inception of criminal designs, under a policy so completely based upon the thoroughgoing principle of freedom as that of the United States, is great; and allowance has been made for it by reasonable and well-informed men when the long-continued sufferance of dynamite meetings and subscriptions has provoked expressions of impatience from the European press. But what was needed much more than the action, precarious at best, of penal legislation and detectives was a clear and authoritative enunciation of American opinion. This at last we have, and in the most telling form. Nor could a better mover of the resolution have been desired than Mr. Bayard, whose stainless record and unimpeachable character are a guarantee to the American people and to the world that the act is inspired by nothing but morality and honour.

THE doubts which, partly from the misadventure in South Africa, partly from the pessimistic criticisms bred of the rivalry between different military schools, had begun to gather round the reputation of the British soldier, have been gloriously dissipated by the exploits of the little army under General Stewart. Not only does the British soldier's valour remain unimpaired, but he still shows in its old perfection that still rarer quality of steadiness in danger which enabled a British regiment on the Nivelle to extricate itself from a desperate position by changing front under fire. The advance of the cavalry through a cloud of enemies to fetch water for the exhausted troops seems to have been an achievement as truly heroic as any in the annals of our army. Something in the nation at all events is sound, and Mr. Parnell, who proclaims that England has lost heart, may find, if he challenges a trial of strength, that his assertion is true only of politicians and those over whom their malign influence extends. It is to be lamented that the cause in which this heroism is displayed is not more clearly worthy of such devotion. That the Mehdi is a patriot chief defending his land against the British invader is a fiction, though colour is given to it by the constant designation of the Arabs as rebels. The Mehdi is a false prophet who pretends, like Mahomet, to universal dominion, and if unopposed, would sweep Egypt with fire and sword. But his career might surely be arrested without advancing into his strongholds, where his hordes are round him and where the desert and the climate fight on his side. This is mainly a newspaper war. Gordon, trusting and persuading others to trust in his magical influence, took up a perilous position far beyond the proper line of operations, and public feeling, acting through the press, compelled the Government to risk an army in his rescue.

It has been pretty clearly the aim of Mr. Chamberlain, and the group of politicians of which he is the aspiring chief, to secure the succession to themselves by a combination of the Irish vote both in Ireland and England with that of the Radical and semi-socialistic element in the English cities. It has also been pretty evident that the Irish part of their policy found favour with Mr. Gladstone, who, on that question, has probably received from their representatives in the Cabinet alone unhesitating co-operation and unstinted applause. But untoward events have twice frustrated their plans. The negotiation with the Parnellites nicknamed the Treaty of

Kilmainham was broken off by the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke, and the Government was driven back upon the policy of the Crimes Act. It was averred indeed, on their part, that the Crimes Act had been in preparation before the murders; and it may be assumed that there was a ground of truth for the statement; perhaps some draft or project of a Bill had been before the Cabinet; but Mr. Forster's resignation, which had just taken place on the ground that Coercion was about to be abandoned, would have been impossible had he known that Coercion, instead of being abandoned, was about to be adopted in a more stringent form. A few days ago the utterances of the new Secretary for Ireland and of the Secretary to the Admiralty warned us that another dead-lift effort to make peace with the Parnellites was at hand. But now the dynamite outrages intervene. It is not unlikely that on both occasions the very object of the outrage was to break off an alliance which must be highly distasteful to Invincibles, though Mr. Parnell may well feel satisfied that he will be able to work it so as ultimately to serve the object of dismemberment. Agitators cannot always control the flames which they have kindled, and Mr. Parnell appears to have lost control over the Invincibles. This second stroke of fate is likely to be more crushing than the first, because occurring in the heart of England, it more directly stirs the soul of the English people. In fact Mr. Chamberlain seems to feel that it is a death blow to his policy, for he turns round and denounces Mr. Parnell. Twice, as the admirers of Mr. Gladstone who are loyal to the union will feel, an event happy for him, though deplorable in itself, has plucked his reputation from the jaws of dishonour.

JOURNALISM surely does itself injustice, if it is an honourable profession, by affecting sympathy with Mr. Yates under an imprisonment the rigour of which, it seems, condemns him to a single newspaper and a pint of wine a day. The man plies an infamous trade, his partner in which, by his own avowal, was an outlaw flying from the penalties of perjury as well as from those of libel. It may be true that he had not seen Lady Stradbroke's libellous contribution before it appeared in his paper. But why did she send it to his paper? Because she knew that such contributions were received and paid for. It will be remembered that the paragraph murdered the reputation of a young lady as well as that of Lord Lonsdale who brought the suit. Mr. Yates now takes his revenge upon the family which he has already most foully wronged in a manner which shows that the Garrick Club, when it expelled him, knew the man. In hunting for the carrion which he purveys to a congenial public, he has discovered, or thinks that he has discovered, that the brother of Lord Lonsdale met his death in an immoral house; and this fact he gives to the world, actually taking to himself credit for having kept it in reserve till now. The sinner, if sinner the late Lord Lonsdale was, has gone to his account; and the man who would publish the secret of his tragic end for the purpose of bringing shame and anguish upon a guiltless family deserves the lash at least as much as any garrotter. There will be a revolt against this sort of thing before long, unless society is either thoroughly corrupted in taste or miserably cowed by the power of libel.

THE Australians, if the report is true, are violently and even dangerously exasperated against the Home Government for failing to prevent German colonies from being founded in their quarter of the world. The German colonies need not do Australians much harm; very likely they will hereafter be absorbed by the predominant race. Perhaps their population may straggle over to the English colonies; for one object of the Germans in expatriating themselves is to escape from the military system to which as inhabitants of a German colony they will remain subject. But what do the Australians expect? Do they expect that poor old England, with difficulties and enmities on her hands in all parts of the globe, besides the Irish rebellion, shall take by the throat the greatest military power in Europe? Do they know that by Continental strategists the invasion of England is regarded as a feasible operation, and that merely landing a hostile army, even if it were ultimately destroyed, in that hive of wealth and industry, would cause incalculable ruin? Can they doubt that if the day went hard with England, all her other enemies or rivals would seize the opportunity, that France would commence aggressions in Africa and in the East, that Russia would force the Dardanelles, that Spain would demand Gibraltar, that the United States would forcibly settle all disputed questions in their own favour? Do they doubt that Canada would be placed in extreme jeopardy? They could themselves do nothing to aid the Mother Country in the mortal struggle; a dependency taught to rely entirely on the Imperial Country for protection is as helpless as a crab without a shell. The fancy still prevails that England is Empress of the Seas, and that over her watery realm no enemy can pass. This idea was