

the Government should never be numerous enough to outvote the members who would owe their seats to popular election. Must it be said that the Duc de Broglie can teach Canada a lesson of liberality?

Prince Bismarck has won a signal victory over the German Parliament. He has taken means of giving a permanent character to a large standing army; new at least in a country under parliamentary rule. The Military Bill was not opposed so much because it was thought that four hundred thousand formed too large an army for a time of peace, but because the vote for the military expenditure was to be made permanent; to assume when once taken, the character of a fixed charge for all future time: a lump sum forever taken out of the control of Parliament. It was this extraordinary feature of the Bill that excited the chief opposition, and made its passing, for some time, a matter of doubt. According to some accounts of interviews with the sick Prince—though the reports were not always accurately made—he threatened to resign if the measure were thrown out. The Emperor and Von Moltke were equally eager for the passage of the Bill, which was finally secured by a majority of seventy-eight. It is not easy to see how a vote of this kind, not involving any compact with any foreign power, can be made permanent; how and by what right the Parliament of to-day can

bind all future Parliaments and take from them the right of saying what, under very different circumstances, shall be the amount of the annual military expenditure in time of peace. In spite of what has been decided now, some future Parliament will be certain to make known its will on the subject, and a question that was thought to be permanently settled will be found not to have been settled at all. The maintenance of a colossal army in one country of Europe inflicts on other and neighbouring countries the cost of keeping up corresponding forces to act as a counterpoise. If the relative military forces of all were on a lower scale and the reserve of latent power larger, an immense gain would have been made.

The civil laws relating to ecclesiastics are being rigorously enforced. The Archbishop of Posen, convicted of contumacy, has been deprived of his See, without appeal.

The battle that is to decide the fate of Spain has not yet taken place. The Government is feeble, but it will prove an overmatch for the Carlists, from whom a demand for an amnesty is reported to have come. If the Carlists were willing to surrender, there would be no hesitation to grant them an amnesty. Meanwhile, Castelar declares for a Federal Republic: a concession to the Intransigentes which comes after their power has been completely broken.