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## British Politics.

One result of the meeting of the National Liberal Federation is very evident—the utter inability of the party it represents to govern the British Empire with any expectation of success. No greater calamity could happen to it than that LORD SALISBURY should have to resign office and MR. GLADSTONE take his place. The first is a statesman in every sense—a man broad and liberal in his views, calm and dignified in manner; one who gives a scheme thoughtful consideration and acts with decision. There are few who do not admit that the foreign and colonial policy of the present administration is far more befitting than were the measures adopted by their predecessors in office; and a faithful and non-partisan examination of the results of the domestic rule of the Ministry now in power must also convince anyone not blinded by political partiality that affairs have been managed in an excellent and economical manner; the last budget was one of the most cheering financial statements ever presented to Parliament. MR. GLADSTONE'S qualities in private life are of the highest nature, and had he retired from the worry of politics fifteen years ago his reputation in every particular of greatness would be one almost unequalled in English history. But since the death of LORD BEACONSFIELD the Liberal leader's political career has been so marked by blunder, by disaster, and by the absence of qualities essential to the statesman who would rule a vast empire such as this is, that it seems amazing that any Briton possessing a spark of patriotism, or the slightest wish of preserving the colonial heritage, should continue to support a party of which MR. GLADSTONE is the political head. His extraordinary and sudden change of front on the Irish question five years ago needs no comment. His gross mismanagement of the GORDON matter, of the New Guinea acquisition, of the negotiations and agreement with the Boers, are a few instances, taken at random, of the manner in which our foreign policy was enacted. Acts were

done or left undone with results that made Britons ashamed of their country; that lowered their reputation throughout all Europe; and that in a very large measure rendered of no value the heroic efforts of the army and navy and the valuable lives which were freely spent. The Federation just closed practically did nothing but debate on Irish matters, attack the House of Lords, congratulate each other on recent victories, and vilify the First Minister and his Cabinet. Not a single measure of practical utility to the English rate-payer, of benefit to the colonial adherent, or towards increasing the power and stability of the Empire generally, was resolved upon.

## Mr. Gladstone.

It is difficult to estimate the advantages that would have accrued to the Empire had MR. GLADSTONE ended his political career in 1880. Apart entirely from the changes which would in all probability have resulted in British policy, his time and attention thus freed from the wearying demands of public life would probably have been devoted to those literary pursuits in which he has already won such distinction, and to those many charitable and beneficent undertakings to which the presence of a man of his unquestioned position would have added such *clat*. Literature, especially, would have been a marked gainer. The facile pen that has contributed so largely to the world's best reading for over fifty years would have gained ample time for a vast increase of its work, which, coming from a man of such recognized literary distinction, would undoubtedly have effected a marvellous degree of good, as MR. GLADSTONE'S literary efforts have invariably been directed in favour of true reform, and towards the suppression of cruelty and wrong.

## Are the Boodlers to Go Unpunished?

Political attention is now entirely diverted from Ottawa to Quebec, and the proceedings of the Royal Commission promise to be the absorbing topic of the day. But the Dominion Government will make a huge blunder and alienate many votes if it permits the men whose robbery of the public funds has drawn on Canada so much unfavourable notice to escape the legal penalties they deserve. Immediate action in this matter should be taken. If newspaper accounts are correct, these men are back again in Canada, and here they intend to remain, evidently relying on some presumed moderation on the part of the Executive, by which they hope to escape further punishment. The interview with MR. SENECAI recently reported exhibits a degree of unblushing effrontery on his part which could scarcely be thought possible had the public not been prepared for any degree of impudence by the perusal of the evidence in which he figured so prominently. The whole country is up in arms now on this and similar matters, and the sooner action is taken, the better for public morality and the better for the Government; their opponents are certain to make the most of every day's delay in meting out punishment to those who have helped themselves so generously from the public purse. Of even greater moment is the effect in England and elsewhere of neglect on the part of our rulers to visit prompt justice on those who have been practically outlawed by Parliament, after having been found guilty of gross malfeasance in office. The inferences that will be drawn by delay are sure to add to the already unsavory reputation that has unfortunately been indiscrimin-

ately attached by those abroad to Canadian departmental legislation. We should strain every nerve towards the removal of this impression; it is a duty to our country.

## To Our Subscribers.

Orders for our Christmas Number are now coming in freely; as the edition will be a limited one, we would recommend our friends to send in their orders without delay, and thus ensure prompt delivery.

## Literary and Personal Notes.

Ladies will read with interest Grace E. Denison's "How We Ride Our Wheels," in *Outing* for October. Mrs. Denison thoroughly believes in able-bodied women and in cycling as a healthful exercise.

Maria Parloa, the famous domestic writer, has become one of the regular editors of *The Ladies' Home Journal* and will hereafter conduct a department of her own in that periodical.

The depositions regarding the massacre of 1641, during the Irish Rebellion, taken before two commissions, formed thirty-two folio volumes, and are still extant among the manuscripts of Trinity College, Dublin.

James Jeffrey Roche, a Prince Edward Island man by birth, but at present a resident of the United States, is bringing out an English edition of "The Story of the Filibusters," through Mr. T. F. Unwin, of Paternoster Square, London.

Another new book of special interest to Canadians will be "The Life of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Provo Wallis, C.B.," by the Rev. J. G. Brighton. Messrs. Hutchinson & Co., London, will be the publishers.

The net personal estate of the late Mr. Barbour, M. P. for Paisley, amounts to over £70,000. After payment of certain legacies the residue is to go equally to the U. P. Church, to Paisley and to one or more of the public schools. He has specially stipulated that in no case shall any of the funds be applied to endowments, but must be expended within fifteen years.

Mr. Wm. Haig Miller, founder and editor of the *Leisure Hour*, *Sunday at Home*, and author of several well-known works of a religious tone, as "The Mirage of Life," "The Culture of Pleasure," "The Currency Maze," &c., died on the 14th ult. at his residence in Lonsdale Square, Islington, in his 79th year.

A forthcoming book of great interest will be "My Canadian Journal, 1870-78. Extracts from Home Letters written when Lord Dufferin was Governor-General. By the Marquess of Dufferin. With portraits, map, and illustrations," to be published by John Murray, the well-known London publisher.

Few subjects now exist but have more or less literature devoted to them. A work is coming out in London called "Studies in the Art of Rat-catching," by H. C. Barkley. Our canine friends could, perhaps, give us a few "tips" on this matter. "How to Catch Rats" would have been a more business-like and effective title.

Wolcott Balestier, who has collaborated with Rudyard Kipling in the new novel which *The Century* will publish, is a young American now living in London. He is a writer and a business man as well, being a member of the recently organized firm of Heinemann & Balestier, of Leipsic, which is publishing a series of copyrighted English and American novels on the continent of Europe in the fashion of the Tauchnitz editions.

Mr. M. S. Blaiklock, who has come into prominence as one of the chief assistants in the completion of the St. Clair Tunnel, is a son of Mr. F. W. Blaiklock of this city, and brother of Major Blaiklock of the Royal Scots. He served for many years in the Victoria Rifles, retiring not long ago with the rank of captain. Of unusual stature and great physical strength, he was for a long time prominent in Rugby football circles, being captain of the Britannia club for several seasons. His many friends will be pleased to hear of his success in connection with the great work just completed.