

IF the Prince of Wales does no other good by the visit to Ireland, on which he seems to be resolutely determined, he will show his own courage and sense of duty. Not that he will really be exposed to the slightest danger; he will be safer, if anything, at Dublin than he is at Sandringham. The leaders know full well that an attempt upon his life would be the most enormous of blunders, and that, should anything of the kind occur, instead of getting rid of the Crimes Act which is their present aim, they would bring upon themselves a Crimes Act with a vengeance. From the stir which the announcement of the visit has created in Ireland, and the trouble which it evidently causes among Disunionists, we may gather what the efficacy of the talisman, had it been tried early and often enough, would have been. The anxiety of English Radicals, in sinister alliance with the Parnellites, to turn the Prince from his resolution shows that they also fear the possible effect. Those who now defend the Court on the ground that the visits of the Queen to Ireland, though few and short, have been more in number than those of her predecessors forget that three years ago the *Times*, in an apologetic editorial which was evidently inspired, took a very opposite line of defence, and argued that for some mysterious reason the presence of the Court in Ireland would not have done good but harm. A sovereign in the present day who neglects a duty of this kind, and neglects it in spite of constant and earnest remonstrance, cannot be acquitted or even excused by the example of the kings in the last century when Ireland was really remote and before the necessity of conciliating the people had been recognized by the advisers of the Crown. The Prince's visit, honourable to himself, is on the part of the Court the confession of a fault now irreparable, and in its consequences most disastrous. Disunionist demagogism and literature, in the absence of any countercharm, have evidently done their work. The gravity of the situation is enhanced by a sudden change in the attitude of the Catholic Bishops, who have hitherto opposed the agitation; but now, with the usual faithlessness of priesthoods, are stealing over to the Nationalist side, having made up their minds that the Nationalist cause is strong. The upshot is that it will be necessary in the end to uphold the Union by force; in that way, if in no other, unless the nation has fallen into dotage, the Union will be upheld.

SOME people in England have refused to subscribe to the Gordon Memorial if Mr. Gladstone is a subscriber. They say that he is Gordon's murderer. Mr. Ruskin tells the world that the Government wanted to get rid of Gordon. This is mere raving. At a great cost, not only of money, but of the blood of British soldiers, which after all deserves some consideration, the Government made an effort to rescue Gordon, and the relieving army, crowned with victory, was at hand when Khartoum fell, not through its inability to hold out, but through the treachery of its garrison. What is most to be feared is that this delirious excitement, to which a nation once eminently sober-minded seems of late to have abandoned itself, may through the Press and the House of Commons communicate itself to the policy of the Government. England is now beset with dangers on every side. She is, of course, bound to prevent Egypt from being overrun and devastated by the Mahdi. But whether she should persist in sending a large portion of her scanty force across a thirsty and deadly desert to cope with the fanatical swarms of the Mahdi's followers on their own ground is a question which ought to be determined by the coolest judgment, not by passionate anger or wild regret. There is no stain upon the arms of England to be wiped out: in every encounter her soldiers have gloriously triumphed. So long as Egypt is safe can it greatly matter what rule or what anarchy prevails in the Soudan? Is this impostor worth the powder? If left to himself, will he not collapse? May not diplomacy and money do the work as well as the sword? Lord Hartington says that victory is indispensable to the retention of Mahometan allegiance. This is at least a motive of policy, not of passion, while it casts a lurid light upon the multifarious perils of a vast and heterogeneous Empire. But the Mahdi, as a pretender to the religious empire of the world, can hardly be regarded with sympathy by the established Commander of the Faithful, or by the regular authorities of Mecca. Victory, at all events, ought to be assured beforehand, for defeat would be moral ruin. It was in those regions that Cambyses made his ill-starred expedition against the king of the Ethiopians. Before he had got a fifth part of the way across the desert, according to Herodotus, his provisions failed; but the insane despot, to whom nobody dared give honest advice, continued to advance, till cannibalism breaking out among his soldiers gave him stern counsel, and he at last retreated with the wreck of his vast host. A democracy in a state of fury is sometimes as insane as any despot.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD's straightforward and decisive answer to Mr. Blake's question about the Canadian Contingent will dispel a strong illusion in England; and the truth, though it may not be welcome, will be very wholesome. In an article on his favourite subject of Imperial Federation in the *Nineteenth Century* Mr. W. E. Forster, who ought to have the best information, puts the Government of the Dominion of Canada first among the Colonial Governments, which "have declared that the United Kingdom, with all its colonies, form one country for the purposes of defence." "They have made this declaration," he adds, "on behalf of their people by the offer to give not only their money, but their men, for the defence of the Flag in a war of more than usual danger and privation, and their people have supported their Government in these offers with patriotic enthusiasm." With this hallucination on his brain Mr. Forster goes down to the House of Commons and incites Parliament and the nation to an inflexible prosecution of the war in the Soudan. He and all the politicians and journalists who have been saying the same thing, and like him encouraging England in a dangerous policy by assurances of colonial support, will now see their error so far as Canada is concerned. No Contingent has been offered. No Contingent ever will be offered for this or for any other war. The population of the colony is too mixed; the influences alien to England in its Parliament are too strong; the military interests of the Empire are too remote. Canada, moreover, has spent in military and political railways any money which she might have had to spare. There are Englishmen here, many a one passionately attached to England; but they will have to show their attachment by the use of their own resources and in their own way.

EVERYBODY is saying how strange it seems that Mr. Arthur, on his retirement from the Presidency, should be thinking of returning to the practice of law, and that, after being the peer of kings, he should not only have to earn his bread, but take rank again beneath his seniors in the profession and be exposed to the contentious buffetings of the Bar. It is not only strange, but unseemly and impolitic. Equality and civism like other good things may be carried to the length of extravagance. The foreign part of the American population, at all events, is not likely to learn a wholesome lesson from a disregard of the proprieties, not to say the decencies, of State. Even a place in the Legislature, such as was held by Mr. Adams, if it entails a fresh immersion in party broils, seems unsuitable to one who has been the head of the whole nation. The legislator may come into collision with his own acts as President. A calm and dignified retirement will usually be the proper close of an Ex-President's life, and to enable him to retire with dignity he should be allowed a reasonable pension, which will be well earned by four years of public slavery. Had this been the rule the Republic would have been spared the scandal of General Grant's financial misadventures. Hundreds of millions are lavished in pensions to soldiers, the exploits of many of whom if they could be scrutinized, would be found to be nominal, and perhaps to include bounty-jumping. Is the Republic so slavishly addicted to the worship of the sword that, unlike any other civilized nation, it holds military service alone worthy of recognition, and allows the most illustrious of its civil servants, even the elected chief of the nation, to be seen turning a mill in his old age?

DEMOCRACY is not an economical form of government; it certainly is not in the United States; looking to the growth of our debt we may perhaps, say not in Canada either. Yet it is very difficult to convince the democratic masses of the wisdom of paying well for the highest services and perhaps enters into the repugnance as well as thrift. Our judges in Canada are still underpaid, and it seems hopeless to get their pay raised to the proper amount, though an able and incorruptible judiciary is the sheet-anchor of a commercial nation. Our Ministers of State are greatly underpaid: their salaries ought to be raised at least fifty per cent.; or rather perhaps as increased salaries might entail increased expenditure, a Minister ought after a certain term of labour to be entitled, like the British Ministers of State, to pensions. But who will propose this reform? Ministers cannot: they would be proposing a grant to themselves.

BEFORE he had taken the oath of office President Cleveland was obliged to declare his opinion on the policy of continuing the coinage of silver dollars, worth less than eighty-five cents each, at the rate of twenty-eight millions a year. What has happened and is happening—the cheaper currency displacing the dearer—was foreseen. Since the days of Hume this law has been understood, and its operation often witnessed. The shadow of the threatened catastrophe the President sees in the fact that the "sum of gold in the Federal Treasury, now available for the payment of gold obliga-