

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The censure passed by the Chancellor of Germany in a speech before the Parliament of that Empire, on the Honourable Joseph Chamberlain has drawn from him a reply that will have distinction in history. Mr. Chamberlain is no orator as his friend Bright was, but for uttering incisive, rememberable sentences his talent has no living rival. His prudence may be questioned by the timid, but Mr. Chamberlain through his whole life from childhood upwards has been in the closest touch with the masses in England. It was said a century ago: "What Birmingham thinks to-day England will think to-morrow," so of its distinguished representative it may be said: What Chamberlain says to-day the people of England will applaud to-morrow. It is this keen consciousness of being an exponent of national sentiment that makes Mr. Chamberlain so vigorous of speech. In reply to Count Von Buelow he used the following striking expressions:

"What I have said, I have said. I withdraw nothing; I qualify nothing; I defend nothing. As I read history, no British Minister has ever served his country faithfully and at the same time been popular abroad. I, therefore, make allowance for foreign criticism. I will not follow the example that has been set me. I do not want to give lessons to a foreign Minister, and I will not accept any at his hands. I am responsible only to my sovereign and my countrymen."

Such words rang through England like a trumpet call; they caused the German press to cease slandering Great Britain, an effect that could not have been produced by words spoken in "bated breath and whispering humbleness."

Another memorable phrase was used by Mr. Chamberlain in his "my Sovereign and my Countrymen" speech. He said:

"The war has enabled the British empire to find itself, and has shown to all whom it may concern that if ever again we have, as in the past, to fight for our very existence against the world in arms we shall be supported by the sons of Britain in every quarter of the globe. Hardly any sacrifice can be too great for such a result. In the future Great Britain would have to take into account the opinion of the Colonies. She would have to consult them always, and if she wished them to stand by her side she would have to be guided by their wishes."

The German assailants of Great Britain have done the Empire a distinct service by eliciting such ringing declarations from the most popular of English statesmen, who, as the leading English papers declare, "Has the nation at his back."

In this connection we call the attention of the authorities of the Fraser Institute to the infamous

the almost obscene pictorial slanders of Great Britain being published by the French illustrated paper which is found on the table of the Institute reading room. Nothing more utterly, more atrociously false, more revoltingly, more insultingly slanderous was ever depicted in an illustrated publication. The table of a Montreal reading room is no place for a periodical that systematically slanders the British people, and even libels the philanthropists of the Mother Country.

The sickness of Lord Dufferin will, we trust, pass away. One so brilliant in intellectual gifts and culture, so broad minded in statesmanship, so charming in personality, reflects honour upon his country and his age. In him Canada has a warm friend. Long may Lord Dufferin be spared to the Empire and to his family!

The Ontario Legislative Assembly was opened on 8th inst. with imposing ceremonial. Two views of this are held. One party regards the Provincial Assembly as a local replica of the Federal Parliament, and, therefore, entitled to a high ceremonial opening with soldiers in attendance, drums beating, cannons firing and all the rest of it. Another party regards the Provincial Assembly as little more than a County Council, having no such functions and authority as render its opening an event worthy of any ceremony. The late Sir John A. Macdonald used to laugh at the "fuss and feathers" display at Toronto at the opening of the Provincial Assembly which his friend, Sir Alexander Campbell, when Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, reduced to simpler proportions. Canada is not overdone with respect for dignities and authorities, so, perhaps, it is advisable to have public ceremonies and functions in honour of legislative bodies, the members of which will be all the better for being impressed with the dignity and grave responsibility of their office and duties. A distinguished English radical once said: "If ever I am sentenced to death I hope the Judge will wear his full regalia, ermine cape, wig, etc., as I should feel all the happier to be sent to the scaffold with ceremony. I object to the human imagination and human feelings being despised as they are by our anti-ceremonial friends."

The Census Department has given out another set of returns which show the total population of Canada to be 5,369,666. It is to be hoped this will be the last until the Census reports are published in full. The issuance of partial statements has gone to such a length as to destroy public confidence in their reliability. The change in number of members of the House of Commons that will follow the Census