

that the father of the proposed treaty is Lord Rosebery, Mr. Gladstone's Foreign Secretary, and a staunch advocate of Home Rule, should have been of itself sufficient to commend it to all good and law-abiding Irish citizens, however much it might offend the few who are of the O'Donovan Rossa persuasion. It is but a sorry consolation to Canadians to be told that their neighbours will be the greater sufferers from the absence of the treaty, because the number of American defaulters fleeing to Canada will be greater than that of Canadians escaping to the States. In the first place, recent events seem to indicate that Canada is rapidly lessening the inequality in the disgraceful barter, and, in the second place, it is not clear that the country which receives and absorbs the criminals does not really suffer worse injury than the country which is rid of them, by the same process.

THE retirement of Lord Dufferin from the Viceroyalty of India naturally gives rise to unlimited speculation. The apparent suddenness of his withdrawal adds to the general mystification. The most opposite conjectures are put forth by wiseacres, according to their political leanings. Some, for instance, see in his resignation proof that he is hopelessly at issue with the Government's Irish Policy, though what that policy can have to do with the administration of Indian affairs, or even how it differs materially in its underlying principles from that in accordance with which Lord Dufferin has been so energetically carrying on the government of India may be very hard to discover. Others, with different proclivities, prophesy that the brilliant Viceroy is returning to take a prominent place in the Home Government, and strengthen its hands in its Irish warfare and other imminent contests. This is, to say the least, arguing a greater poverty of material for Cabinet Ministers in England than has as yet become apparent. The one point on which all seem to be agreed is that Lord Dufferin is not the man to be allowed to retire from public life, or to be withdrawn from the high post he has so ably filled, save to be promoted to some one, if possible, still more arduous and responsible. The movements of so prominent a man are perhaps legitimate matters of national interest and concern, but according to present indications the nation will have to wait as patiently as it can for the gratification of its very natural curiosity.

BRITISH Statesmen of all shades of politics drew a sigh of relief at the conclusion and acceptance of the work of the Afghanistan Boundary Commission. Yet those who are accustomed to suspect the Russian, even when making treaties,—and they are many—will scarcely hope that this delimitation ensures anything more than a temporary rest. A writer in the *London Mail* points out the two-sided nature of the problem which now confronts the British in India, in their relations to the great Northern Power. Formerly the rivalry was for the friendship of the feeble tribe of Afghans whose territories lie between the British and Russian possessions in the West. The conquest of Burmah has now interposed the great Chinese nation between the same two great rivals in the East, and the contest bids fair to be equally keen between them for the friendship or alliance of the Mongolian. The inducement to Russia to continue to push southward toward the open sea is still even greater at the Eastern than at the Western end of the great mountain range which has hitherto barred her way southward. She has already secured in Vladivostock a port which is open for nine months of the year, but the Korean peninsula is invitingly studded with harbours open the whole year round. In this light the rather unusual course of England in ceding to China the strong post of Port Hamilton in the Corea becomes explicable. To have retained this stronghold would have materially weakened China's power, and possibly her disposition to resist the Russian desire for a harbour on the Northern Korean coast.

If Lord Charles Beresford's resignation of his position as Junior Naval Lord of the Admiralty does not bear fruit at some early day, in some radical retrenchments and improvements in the administration of the Naval Department the fact will be a singular tribute to the strength of British red-tape, and the indifference of the British taxpayer. Some general notion of the causes of Lord Charles's resignation had already been conveyed by the cablegrams, but no adequate conception of the state of affairs which led to it can be gained without a careful perusal of his elaborate defence before his constituents. Assuming the accuracy of his statement of facts, which has not, we believe, been questioned, it will scarcely be wondered at that, when he saw the officers of the Intelligence Department which he had been instrumental in organizing, and for which he shows a remarkable record of useful work accomplished, unfairly treated, by having their salaries suddenly cut down, while glaring extravagancies in other departments were left untouched, he refused to be a party to the

injustice. It would be impossible to give in a paragraph any adequate idea of the state of things Lord Charles reveals, but the following condensation of his description of what would have occurred in case of war being suddenly declared with some Maritime Power will help the reader's conceptions. This would have been the routine: The Controller would have been asked how many ships are ready, and would have taken two or three days to answer the question. Then the Admiralty list of these ships and their complements would have been prepared. Then the list of ships and complements would have gone to the First Lord, who appoints the captains; then to the first Senior Lord, for the appointment of commanders; then to the Second Senior Lord, to get officers and men, then to the civilians, to see that everything was correct, then to the military branch, for suggestions and approvals, then to the naval branch, to see if it had any objections, and then back to the First Lord for approval. At least two or three weeks would have been consumed in this process, even if no two branches got up one of the paper quarrels they are so fond of, and after all there would have been no provision for reserves, or coal, or equipment. Lord Charles is just now under the cloud, but his plucky protest will win him deserved honour sooner or later, when the inevitable overhauling comes.

A FURIOUS controversy has been raging in England between the Allopaths and the Homœopaths, or the "A's" and the "H's," as Lord Grimthorpe terms the combatants. The immediate cause of the wordy strife was the application of Dr. Millican for an injunction to restrain the committee of the Jubilee Hospital from dismissing him from the medical staff of that institution. The injunction was not enlarged by the Court of Appeal, which decided that the applicant's redress must be sought, if at all, in an action for damages. The central point, around which the din of battle waxed loudest and fiercest, was the question of the infinitesimal dose. The familiar illustrations on the side of the "H's," such as the serious effects of the sting of a fly, the scratch of a poisoned arrow, a single whiff of malarial air, etc., were skilfully presented; also, those drawn from the diffusive odour of a grain of musk, the power of scent on a dog, etc. To these and similar arguments various answers have been given, one Allopath disputing the common theory of smell, another admitting that very minute particles may produce a sensory thrill, but denying that still more minute ones can cure disease; a third pointing out that, though two grains of strychnine, or an eighth of a grain of digitaline will kill, "they are a whole universe greater than a decillionth of a grain," while still another, Dr. Dupre, of Westminster Hospital, essayed to crush his opponents at a blow by declaring that he had analyzed a large number of pilules obtained from well-known houses in London and Liverpool, and had never found any trace of medicine, save in a single instance. The battle is full of interest to the serious as well as the cynical onlooker. It might be supposed that such a question should have been long since decided beyond possibility of dispute in the field of practical experience. But account for it as we may, it is well known that the "H's" would have as little difficulty as the "A's" in marshalling an unlimited array of restored patients prepared to testify with all the ardour of honest conviction to the most wonderful cures wrought in accordance, ostensibly at least, with the *similia similibus* mode of treatment.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S speech in the Reichstag on the Military Bill, which was awaited with so much interest in all parts of Europe, did not really throw much light on the situation. The Prince spoke with his usual apparent frankness, but the world has long since learned that that characteristic bluntness of speech, so different from the stereotyped diplomatic verbiage, may nevertheless be made equally effective in concealing such ideas as the man of iron may not choose to make public. In this case, however, it is very likely that there was no design of concealment. There is no reason to suppose that Prince Bismarck understands better than any other shrewd observer the real intentions of Russia. He is not in the Czar's secret councils. The salient fact is that Russia is steadily and rapidly concentrating immense bodies of troops on the Prussian and Austrian frontiers. For what purpose? To attack one or the other of those nations? That is highly improbable, as she could have nothing to hope for and would have everything to fear from an encounter with those Great Powers, united, as they are shown to be by the recently published treaty, in a close alliance. Still those great Russian armaments cannot be without a distinct purpose. Prince Bismarck says that perhaps Russia is simply making ready for the next European crisis, or the next turn in the Eastern Question. But how long is Russia likely to wait for the coming crisis or turn of events, after all her military dispositions have been made, and she feels ready for the conflict? Already on the verge of bankruptcy,