

that man is invested with legislative power for his life. We have demurred equally to all nominations, whether Protestant or Catholic, so often as we believed them to be given as rewards for party services which were not also services to the country. Mr. Gowan's services were services to the country: Dr. Sullivan's, if we are correctly informed about them, were not. It would be difficult, we believe, to find a word in these columns indicative of enmity to the religion of any Church or man. We could name several Catholics whose elevation we should welcome. But connivance at appointments injurious to the nation, because the person appointed is a Catholic, an Orangeman, or a Methodist, must be left to those who have an interest in the Catholic, Orange or Methodist vote. In politics his religion ought neither to hurt nor to help any man: that is the motto to which this journal will invariably adhere.

If we may judge from an article by Mr. Forster, who is the leading authority, in the *Nineteenth Century*, there is a disposition to adjourn the question of Imperial Federation till the fog shall have cleared away, and to embrace as a temporary substitute the plan of a Colonial Council, composed of the Commissioners of the different colonies, to advise the Minister, as the India Council advises the Minister for India. Upon this proposal Lord Grey, an old Colonial Minister, seems to smile. But Lord Blachford, who was long Under-Secretary for the colonies, and is the highest of all authorities with regard to the administration of the office, pronounces the bureaucratic difficulties insuperable. Above all, the fact at once confronts us that, whereas the members of the Indian Council all represent the same country, the members of this Colonial Council would represent each of them a different country, with a separate interest of its own. They might sit round the same table, but they would not be a council; they would be, if anything, a permanent congress of ambassadors. Is this Board, on the other side of the Atlantic, to have real power over our affairs? If it is, our people will not endure it for a year; if it is not, what is the use of it? Cannot the Colonial Office use the Cable? Already the High Commissionership is little better than a job. Mr. Forster hopes to pin the Canadian Premier to his promise that Canada will share the responsibility and the cost of British wars. Let the honest Yorkshireman try.

THAT there will be a storm when the British Parliament meets, we need no Wiggins to foretell. But the barque of the Ministry is not likely to founder. The position of the Government, as was said before, is rendered almost impregnable by the absence of strong men on the other side. Khartoum has fallen and has involved its heroic commandant in its fate; but it fell through the treachery of its garrison, not through lack of rescue, which was close at hand. The expedition itself, whether wise or unwise, was undertaken in clear obedience to the national will. Every effort is now being made to reinforce Lord Wolseley's army, wrest victory from the Mehdî and avenge the slain. What more under the present circumstances could any Ministry do? This is not a case which a pleader so powerful as Mr. Gladstone need despair of presenting in a fair light. The more practical question, perhaps, is whether any combination can be formed sufficiently strong to defeat the Government. The only one which presents itself as possible is a coalition of the Conservatives with the extreme Radicals and the Parnellites. Into this would gladly go, with his section of the Conservatives, Lord Randolph Churchill, who avows with a frankness which the most brazen of American demagogues might envy that his motto is to win, no matter by what means, and leave the moralists to talk as they please. The Parnellites and a few of the extreme Radicals are ready for any mischief. But the moderate Conservatives would hold back on one side and so would some of the Radicals on the other. So far as the Radicals are concerned, Mr. Gladstone's influence is still strong, if not with the members themselves, with their constituencies, whose wishes they dare not disregard. The opinion which the Cable transmits to us is London opinion. In the country at large, which is not led by London, the Premier, in spite of his misfortunes, retains his ascendancy. The immediate prospect of a General Election will also restrain cabal. A more promising opening for an attack on the Government than the Egyptian disaster is presented by Mr. Chamberlain's Communistic speeches; and strenuous efforts will no doubt be made to drive a wedge into the cleft which such an escapade must have made in the Cabinet. But Cabinets are seldom split from without.

THE intensity of the excitement in Egypt is shown by the sensitiveness of the people about little things which touch their feelings. Mr. Gladstone is denounced for having been at the play and laughed after receiving the news of Gordon's death. The answer seems to be that he had not

received the news. But supposing he had, his appearance at the theatre, though it would not have been well-timed, might not have betokened levity. It might have betokened, on the contrary, the need of mental relief. Lincoln was constantly upbraided with levity, because during the darkest periods of war he kept on telling his comic stories. Yet nobody who had seen him could doubt that he was a man melancholy by nature, and almost overwhelmed with the weight of his responsibilities. After the disaster of Chancellorsville he is believed to have meditated suicide. The little stories were his mental relief. They were pinches of intellectual snuff. It is true, however, that those who have studied Mr. Gladstone's character pronounce it to be rather energetic and excitable than susceptible of deep emotion. He is certainly of a buoyant temperament, and easily throws off his burden of care: if he did not, it would have broken him down long ago. The English people are also very angry because the Court, in presence of the national calamity, thinks chiefly of its private bereavements, and carries out, as if nothing had happened, its plan of a pleasure-trip to Germany. They are looking for figs and grapes on thorns and thistles if they expect hereditary monarchy of the modern type ever to give up its personal plans and inclinations at the call of public duty: its whole training from the cradle upward, and all the influences that surround it, conspire in teaching it to think first, if not exclusively, of itself. Gracious it can be; and it can send about, or direct to be sent about, telegrams congratulatory or sympathetic to any extent: but the meaning of self-sacrifice it hardly knows. Ask it in deference to the public interest to put itself to any sort of personal inconvenience, or to forego anything on which it has set its heart, and it will stand astonished at such presumption. This, we believe, is the whispered avowal of those who have had to deal with its humours as statesmen and Ministers of the Crown. Every one of us would behave in the same manner if we likewise had been guarded through life by an invisible fence from all those practical monitions of an uncourtly world which impress upon us the idea of duty. It is curious, however, to note how completely Royalty in these its later days has renounced the leadership of the nation, and acquiesced in its position as a social divinity to be kept in safety, carried about to layings of first stones, and worshipped with banquets, battues and addresses. At a great crisis of national destiny the court goes on a pleasure-trip abroad. The other day at the coming of age of the future heir to the Crown, one of the festal performances was a representation of the Black Prince. It must have occurred to all except the most courtly of the guests that when Aquitaine was in danger the Black Prince was in Aquitaine; and that his occupation there was not shooting barn-door pheasants.

THE most dangerous part of the military situation is the passionate desire of the English people at once to "smash the Mehdî." An enemy with any power of resistance can be smashed only by putting the business unreservedly into the hands of the generals and letting them do what the art of war requires. Popular impatience, getting the reins into its hands, will ruin all. Even governments have never done anything but mischief by interfering with the action of their generals, much less can the people, acting through the press, direct operations without multiplying catastrophes. Perhaps if the nation were bent above all things upon victory it would even put a curb on its curiosity, however natural, and cease to insist on sending newspaper correspondents with the army. Some of the correspondents have displayed in their singular calling not only a power of the pen which has given literature some of its best narrative pieces, but the most marvellous energy and the most devoted courage. To speak of them otherwise than with respect would be most unjust. Yet their presence can hardly fail to increase the difficulties of a commander. The addition to the number of non-combatants and the consumption of a few more rations, though stress has been laid upon them, are the least part of the matter. Far more serious is the disclosure of information; for though no correspondent would now, like Lord Raglan's tormentor in the Crimea, betray to the enemy the position of the reserve ammunition, the publication of anything that is going on in his camp, especially of anything affecting the condition or spirits of his troops, must be more or less annoying to a general. But worst of all perhaps is the disposition which can hardly fail to be engendered in officers, when they have the eye of the Press upon them, to look for praise or blame to that quarter rather than to their commander, which can hardly fail to impair his authority, and to carry with it a tendency to seek individual distinction at the expense of devotion to the common cause. Lastly, all the reports come back, transmuted into a shower of criticism, upon the camp. Those who have read the history of Lord Raglan's military martyrdom must know too well what is meant. The British public, will no doubt insist upon the gratification of its curiosity; in fact, the exercise of any "censorship" on the part of the general seems