

of truth in it. It is but the result of a striking of balances, the fact being that the whole body of the people, high and low, while they may all be broadly placed on one side or the other of the line which separates between democracy and radicalism on the one hand and power and privilege on the other, are distributed at all intervals between the two. Hence there are always many so near the line that but a slight impulse is needed to carry them across in sufficiently large numbers to turn the scale. When, as in the present instance, several powerful influences combine to give impulse in the same direction the equilibrium is changed with a suddenness which astonishes all beholders. Such a conjunction of the forces which shrink from Home Rule, from liquor restriction, from unsectarian state education, from church disestablishment, etc., has, on this occasion, proved irresistible and overwhelming. Whether it will prove to be correspondingly lasting time alone can show.

State and Voluntary
Schools in
England.

An English contemporary of strong Liberal leanings, writing in advance of the political crisis in the Mother Land, said that the most vital question to be decided in the great political battle then imminent was not Home Rule; was not Welsh Disestablishment; was not Local Option; it was "the fate of the schools and the training to be given to the children who will rule the British Empire during the first half of the coming century." Home Rule, it declares, cannot be killed though fifty Chamberlains should fight against it; "Welsh Disestablishment will be all the more drastic and all the more just, as between the Welsh people and their Anglican parsons, for the delay of a year or two; Local Option will come back on a tide of public indignation." But very different, the writer thinks, will be the fate of the schools if they are handed over for even two years to the famous "Archbishop's Committee." Making due allowance for the vehemence of sectarian feeling which prompts this forecast, there is, we believe, much reason to expect that the question of Board or National, vs. so-called Voluntary, schools will furnish the battle-ground for some of the most strenuous struggles for many months or years to come. The extension of the scope of the free schools has pressed heavily upon the resources of many of the Church schools, and the friends of the latter schools, among whom Lord Salisbury has publicly ranged himself, will urge their claims most strenuously. On the other hand, some of the Nonconformist bodies will, it is highly probable, agree with the journal above quoted in regarding this question of national *versus* religious, or as they will regard them, denominational schools, as the crucial question, the one of the most vital and far-reaching importance, in the immediate future.

The Murder of
Stambuloff.

It is to be devoutly hoped, for the sake of civilization and humanity in general, and of Bulgaria in particular, that the current despatches concerning both the murder of Stambuloff and the utterances and conduct of his enemies, particularly Prince Ferdinand, in connection with it, are the inventions of imaginative correspondents. The feelings manifested as well as the deeds described would be well-nigh incredible on the part of prominent members of even a half-civilized community. That there should be room for even a suspicion of complicity on the part of Russia makes the affair still worse. It may be some palliation of the crime, as human nature goes, if it proves to have been really an act of private vengeance, wrought by personal relatives or friends of the victims, by way of retaliation for horrible indignities and tortures inflicted by the dead man while in power, upon the objects of his suspicion or hatred. It is by no means likely that, in such an atmosphere of political intrigue, the facts

will at present be brought to light. The one thing that seems to be affirmed in so many forms and from so many different quarters that it is impossible wholly to discredit it, is that Prince Ferdinand's deportment since the affair has been unseemly and suspicious, and has created a state of feeling in many quarters that bodes ill for his peaceful supremacy in the future. The latest despatches seem to indicate that a formidable movement is even now being commenced against him and his Prime Minister, Stoiloff. A monarch who is afraid to return to his capital is not to be envied.

Venezuela and the
Monroe Doctrine.

In the absence of fuller and more reliable information than we at present possess we are not disposed to pronounce *ex cathedra* upon the merits of the question now in dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain. Our patriotism, genuine though we hope it is, is not sufficiently ardent to enable us to be positively sure that the British Government can do no wrong. It is just possible that in taking possession of the insignificant Island of Trinidad, near the North-Eastern coast of Venezuela, the authorities or officials responsible have been guilty of a wrong against Venezuela. If so, we trust that Lord Salisbury may be led to make prompt inquiry into the case, and hasten to do the right, whatever that may be. But we have sufficient confidence in both the justice and the magnanimity of the great statesmen of both parties who determine the foreign and colonial policies of Great Britain to assume, with a good deal of confidence, that they are within the national right in any such action they may at any time take, until good reason is shown for believing them to be in the wrong. Such good reason certainly is not to be found in the unsupported opinions of the editors and correspondents of American newspapers, or in the swelling periods of American Fourth of July orations, or may we venture to add, in the resolutions of even the American Congress, whose accuracy of information and judicial impartiality are not always in ratio with the vehemence of their assertions, especially when the matter at issue is one which gives opportunity for appeal to the anti-British prejudices which, unhappily, rankle so deeply in the breasts of certain large classes who possess votes in the Great Republic. No doubt we shall in due time learn the reasons for the action of the British Government which is just now causing so much excitement in certain quarters in the United States. The editor of *The Review of Reviews* returns month after month, in a series of paragraphs which are in the main unobjectionable in tone and spirit, to the subject of the deep regret which should, he thinks, be felt because the British Government does not seem to take any notice of such utterances as those of ex-Governor Campbell or Senator Lodge, or hasten to obey the behests of the Monroe doctrine, as expounded by these redoubtable champions of the divine right of the United States to regulate all the relations between any State in South America and any European Power. And yet *The Review of Reviews* admits that the American sentiment which British statesmen are treating with so much disdain has not yet been brought officially to their notice. When any official communication of the United States Government has been received with lack of respect, there will be ground for complaint. Meanwhile it is so very wonderful if the members of the late British Administration did not stop to consider and reply to every communication which Mr. Smalley might send to the *Times* from New York, in view of the extreme courtesy with which they were treated, both by that great newspaper and by that judicially disposed correspondent, in his late capacity of London correspondent of the *New York Tribune*. The editor of *The Review of Reviews* seems to think so.