

ous service, and whose strength can be turned to better account in his absence than were he present to bear the brunt. The question of the leadership of the Commons, really the most difficult and responsible position, will almost surely be between Mr. Foster and Mr. Haggart, with the chances in favour of the former. But it is idle to speculate about arrangements which will, in all probability, be matters of general knowledge by the time this number is in the hands of its readers.

The Queen and  
Canada.

It is an often repeated saying that the reign of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, has done more to render the throne of Great Britain solid and permanent than any other influence. And by this is meant not so much the events of her reign in legislative enactments, in internal prosperity, in external importance, as the Queen's own beautiful life, as a woman and a sovereign. But it is not only her throne that she has established, but the mighty Empire over which she presides has been knitted more closely into one body, and has found more and more its unity in its Sovereign. One conspicuous illustration of her beautiful and gracious spirit is conspicuous in all that she said and did in connection with the death of our lamented Premier. Without fuss, almost without consciousness, this noble woman spontaneously takes the place of comforter and friend of the bereaved family and the bereaved country. We hardly know whether it is the Queen or the friend of the departed minister who speaks and acts. We hardly know whether it is the family or the country with which she sympathizes and condoles. But it is the Queen, the Mother of the people, who identifies herself with them. It is by such gracious acts that her subjects throughout all her dominions are made to feel more deeply that they are one empire, one family, devoted to the empire and the throne.

Canada and  
England.

It is not exclusively a colonial weakness, if it be a weakness, which makes it so peculiarly gratifying to Canadians to find themselves brought into closer and more sympathetic relations with the Motherland. It is a natural result of the conditions of life in a comparatively young and weak community, a large proportion of whose population have themselves emigrated from the Old Country. The people of the United States, which has long since ceased to be a weak nation, to this day show themselves almost as sensitive as Canadians to the good or ill opinions of England and Englishmen. Without attempting to decide whether the feeling is one to be proud of, or to be apologized for, there can be no mistaking the fact that a large proportion of the Canadian people are watching with deep gratification the growth of a more appreciative and sympathetic sentiment towards the colonies generally, and towards Canada in particular, which has of late been so observable in Great Britain. Various causes have contributed to this result. Confederation brought the formerly isolated provinces into much greater prominence, and hence into closer association with the Mother country notwithstanding the predictions of those who looked for the opposite effect. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the appointment of a High Commissioner to represent British interests in England, the establishment of the Pacific steamship line to connect us with our fellow-colonists in the far East, the meeting of the Intercolonial Conference at Ottawa, mark so many stages in the course which is bringing the British portions of the Old and New Worlds into closer association with each other. The recent appointment of a Canadian, in the person of the lamented Premier, to the honoured and responsible position of a Privy Councillor, and now, above all, the honours paid to the memory of the de-

ceased, all placing him on the same level with the most distinguished Englishman, Irishman or Scotchman, who might die in like manner in the service of his country, will no doubt do much to remove the suspicion of inferiority which, it has so often been complained, attaches to colonialism, in the minds of those who have so long been accustomed to regard themselves as the only genuine Britishers. Whether even Imperial Federation would suffice wholly to remove this insular prejudice we do not now attempt to say, but certainly the most jealous searcher for slights would find it hard to discover the smallest ground for complaint in regard to the action of the British authorities in this melancholy case.

The Situation in  
England.

Political affairs in Great Britain have now reached so critical a stage that it is scarcely safe to indulge in comment or speculation, lest the next morning's cablegram may bring the news of some unexpected turn of the wheel which will put at fault the sagest opinions or predictions. But while Lord Rosebery himself is assuring his followers that all is still right, the majority sufficient, and the future tolerably clear, rumours of dissensions within the Cabinet and desertions without are increasingly rife. Late despatches represent Lord Rosebery and some of his more influential supporters as trying to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is generally believed to be in a recalcitrant mood, to fall into line. Should a place of compromise be found and the forces of the Government be enabled to present a solid front to the foe, there is, of course, still a chance of success for them, both in the House, during the approaching session, and in the future when the two parties shall have to plead their respective cases before the tribunal of the electorate. It is said that the loss of the two bye-elections is found by the Government to be attributable to the plurality vote. This fact, if such it be, will afford to the Government a strong reason why it should not go to the country, if it can possibly be avoided, until they shall have had an opportunity to carry through their one-man, one-vote reform. The question that is more debated than any other just now is, however, that of the future of the House of Lords. Upon the practical necessity for an upper house to revise or veto the conclusions of the popular and representative body, we need not now express an opinion. But assuming that "mending," not "ending," is to be the immediate outcome, it will appear to most unprejudiced minds that the plan for which Sir William Harcourt is said to be standing out—that of giving the Commons the power of carrying any measure over the veto of the Lords, provided a two-thirds majority of representatives so determine—bids fair to be much safer than that attributed to the Premier, by which the Upper House would be deprived altogether of its veto power. It would certainly be far from exhilarating work for the Lords to discuss and mend measures which they knew themselves powerless to change.

Robert Louis  
Stevenson.

The death of Mr. Stevenson is nothing less than an irreparable loss to literature. We have only to remember that his story of "Treasure Island" has been placed beside "Robinson Crusoe," and that his novel of "Kidnapped" has been thought worthy to rank with some of the best of Walter Scott's, in order to justify a statement which some might think too strong. Mr. Stevenson was barely fifty years of age, having been born at Edinburgh, in 1845. While a student at the University he gave evidence of literary ability by contributions to a magazine which he conducted for a time. Besides the two books already mentioned, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" added very considerably to his reputation, as did also the "New Arabian Nights," the "Master of Bal-