

that the arrest of these men on the eve of their departure would be one of the most effective means of arousing Irish-American sympathy and promoting the success of the appeal, whether that appeal be made by the imprisoned men themselves at a later period, or immediately by substitutes chosen to take their places. On the other hand it is difficult to believe that Mr. Balfour and his advisers can have persuaded themselves that a renewal of the policy of "thorough," after the lapse of time during which the "Crimes Act" has been left to a considerable degree in abeyance, can improve the position of the Government. To say nothing of the questionableness of the policy of imprisoning any popular leader in these days for mere words, unless those of the most grossly treasonable and dangerous character, it has seemed pretty clear for some time past that the Government's best hope of an early solution of the Irish difficulty lay in the direction of conciliation, and energetic pushing of its Land Bill, and other measures for the relief of the hard-pressed tenants. Mr. Parnell's unexpectedly favourable attitude towards the Land Bill, before the close of Parliament, together with various indications that the Irish people might shortly grow weary of the struggle and begin to look about for a place of compromise, gave considerable ground for such a hope. Nothing could have more surely counteracted any such peaceful tendencies and caused the struggle to be renewed in all its wonted bitterness than the action now taken. Either there are reasons for that action stronger than any which have yet been reported, or the counsels of some of the more short-sighted and impatient Irish officials must have for the moment prevailed. There is no longer, we suppose, any room for serious doubt that the Irish peasantry are threatened with a most grievous famine, and that starvation is already staring many of them in the face. Under such circumstances to advise them to provide for the wants of their families during the coming winter before paying their rents, whatever may be thought of the morality of the advice, will hardly be regarded by those who realize the situation as an offence to be punished by the State under special statute. Evidently the whole facts are not yet before the public, and it is quite possible that we shall have to remain in the dark until the coming short session of Parliament. The effect of this event and those that may follow upon the work of that session can hardly fail to be serious.

THE English papers come to us laden with glowing tributes to the talents and eloquence of the late Canon Liddon. It is admitted, almost with one consent, that in him the Church of England has lost its foremost pulpit orator. The only survivor who could possibly have contended with him for the palm is Archdeacon Farrar, but the two divines were so different in their modes of thought and feeling, as well as in the character and style of their preaching, that contrast would be much easier than comparison. The life-work of Canon Liddon was done, partly as Professor at Oxford, and partly as Canon of St. Paul's. At Oxford, during the time of his professorship he exerted an influence second only to that of the great prelate who preceded him by but a few weeks to the unseen world, Dr. Newman. The fame of his preaching at St. Paul's is too fresh in the world's memory to need more than the most general reference. His power in the pulpit has been described as "that of one who brings with him the exalted mood and clear and clarifying atmosphere of the spiritual life." In regard to the form of his finished discourses it may almost be said generally, as Mr. Gladstone said of certain passages in his sermon on "Truth in the Old Testament," preached a few months since, that they strain to the utmost the powers of the English language. Of Canon Liddon's theological views, representing as he did, the ultra-orthodox wing of the High Church party, this is not the place to speak. He is said to have been greatly distressed by the heresies of "Lux Mundi," the more so as it emanated from a divine belonging also to the High Church, and it is supposed that, had his life been spared, he would have entered the arena to do battle with its heterodox teachings. Though retiring in disposition and more inclined to the part of the student and recluse than that of the polemic, he was active in his resistance to the Church Discipline Act and denied the right of the secular Court to control Church affairs. The following sentence quoted by one reviewer from the preface to a volume of sermons, published in 1881, shows that he was ready to prefer even disestablishment to secular control, and at the same time exemplifies his singular felicity of diction and illustration: "Few, if any, Churchmen, desire to see the Church disestablished and disendowed; but, if it be a

question whether it is better to be turned out of house and home without any clothes, and even on a winter's night, or to be strangled by a silken cord in a well-furnished drawing-room, what man or Church can have any difficulty in arriving at a decision?"

NOTWITHSTANDING qualified denials it can scarcely be doubted that the German commanders in East Africa have been giving active encouragement to slavery, if not to the slave trade itself. Apart from the moral aspects of the question, this attempt to counteract the results of the Sultan's recent proclamation, if persevered in, can hardly be otherwise than serious, especially as that proclamation was, no doubt, the direct outcome of British influence. The German pro-slavery proclamation at Bagamoyo, if it was really made, would be quite in keeping with the somewhat reckless fashion in which the German operations in Africa have been carried on. The Generals in command have in no case shown much disposition to permit their progress to be hampered by moral considerations of any kind. Territory and wealth are evidently the prime objects of their quest, and it is very likely that these objects can be attained much more easily and swiftly by co-operation, active or passive, with the rich Arab slave-traders, than by any philanthropic efforts to free the poor victims from their horrible bondage and dread. We know no reason, in fact, for believing that the Germans as a people have any such inbred horror of slavery as the British, or are capable of being roused to any such pitch of enthusiasm for its abolition, as that with which it is easy to fire the hearts of Englishmen. At the same time it is hard to believe that the Emperor will give his sanction to any measures likely to bring reproach upon the German colonization movement. The whole force of German Liberalism would naturally be arrayed against such measures. Nor will the Emperor and his Government care to endanger the good feeling which they have been fostering with considerable success in England. Whether the British Government and people would or would not feel bound in honour or by sympathy to take active measures to support the Sultan of Zanzibar in carrying out the proclamation which he made, no doubt, at their instance, the German authorities must know that they could in no way more readily change English cordiality into coolness, than by fostering the accursed traffic which every Englishman abhors and is bound to destroy.

THAT there must be a limit to the population which the earth is capable of supporting, even when human science and industry shall have done their best, is, we suppose, a proposition which no one would think of denying. That, if the population of the world continues to increase in geometric ratio, the question when the limit beyond which it cannot sustain another individual, or, not to puzzle our powers of conception by too great minuteness, let us say another million of individuals, will be reached, is really but a question of time, is equally obvious. Most of us, probably, are accustomed to think of this time as so far in the dim future—if, indeed, we have ever allowed ourselves to think about it at all—that speculation in regard to the matter would seem to be idle. It is, therefore, somewhat startling to be told that a man of science, after a series of minute mathematical calculations, has coolly fixed this supreme crisis in the world's history at a point less than two centuries distant. True, even that remove takes away any cause for apprehension lest any of us now living should be compelled to take our chances in the fierce agony into which the struggle for existence must have become intensified long before the fateful limit is reached. But when the time is brought so appreciably near, it cannot fail to arouse at least some curiosity as to the calculations by which the conclusion is reached. These calculations Mr. E. G. Ravenstein presented at the joint meeting of the Geographical and Economic Sections of the British Association during its recent annual session. Mr. Ravenstein's method of calculating is described as follows: Dividing the land surface of the globe into classes according to food-producing capacity, he finds that out of the total of forty-six millions of square miles, twenty-eight millions are fertile, fourteen millions grassland, and over four millions desert. Taking the present population at 1,468 millions, and fixing the average possible density of 207 to the square mile, which would give 5,994 millions of people as the extreme limit that could subsist according to the European standard, it only requires us to know the average yearly rate of increase to arrive at the time in which the limit will be reached. The rate of increase differs widely in different parts, but Mr. Ravenstein thinks

the average may be put at eight per cent. The result is that the world would be "full outside" in 182 years if the above assumptions were within the mark. The number of assumptions, it will be seen, is formidable, or rather reassuring, the chances being that some or all of them are very wide of the mark. Consequently, though a good deal of interest attaches to the calculations, most of those who reflect upon the matter will probably be glad rather to agree with Professor Alfred Marshall that "there is scarcely any aspect of the question of which we know any thing."

#### PROMINENT CANADIANS—XXX.

SKETCHES of the following Prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Sir Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander MacLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sandford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir William Buell Richards, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P., Hon. Honoré Mercier, Q.C., Hon. William Macdougall, C.B., Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts, M.A., George Paxton Young, M.A., Hon. Auguste Reale Angers, Principal Caven, D.D., William Ralph Meredith, LL.D., Q.C., M.P., Sir William Pearce Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., Senator the Hon. John Macdonald, the Hon. John Hawkins Hagarty, D.C.L., Chief Justice of Ontario, and Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison.

SIR ANTOINE AIMÉ DORION.

THE name of Antoine Aimé Dorion must ever be dear to the Reformers of Canada. Among those men of unsullied integrity, of sensitive honour, of transcendent power, who have held the banner of Reform in this country, Baldwin, Lafontaine, Brown, Mackenzie, Blake, the name of Antoine Aimé Dorion stands the peer of the most eminent.

Our institutions, whether on this or on the other side of the ocean, have ever reproduced but two types of public character: the man whose object is power, the man whose object is duty. It is the pride of Canadian Reformers that the history of their party is a record of stainless pages; that the men whom events brought to the front and whom I have just named, were one and all highly distinguished by disinterestedness and those kindred attributes which constitute the highest conception of patriotism; that the aim which they had in view ever was, even if otherwise erring, an unflinching adherence to right, as they conceived right. There is no one in whom those noble qualities were more conspicuous than in Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion; there is no one whose soul was higher, whose impulses were loftier, whose career was purer.

Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion belongs to an old Liberal family. His father, Pierre Antoine Dorion, a merchant in the parish of Ste. Anne de la Pérade, was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada from 1830 to 1838. His maternal grandfather, Pierre Bureau, sat in the same body from 1820 to 1831. Both were at all times through their whole lives earnest and devoted adherents of the cause then championed by Mr. Papineau.

In 1838 the future Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec, then in his twentieth year, came to Montreal to read law, and entered the office of Mr. C. S. Cherrier, a leading member of the bar of Lower Canada. In these early days there arose between the eminent barrister and his young pupil a friendship which time only more and more cemented, and which indeed could not but exist between two such men. Mr. Cherrier was, himself, an exceptional character. He hardly was of our age, hardly of our continent. He seemed the anachronistic incarnation of one of those remarkable figures, strong, and withal charming, which adorned the *Parliament de Paris* in the 17th century; a man of inflexible principles, but of unvarying kindness of heart; of liberal instincts, but of conservative habits; of austere piety and of the most chivalrous disposition; of exquisitely Attic wit, and of childish simplicity.

Under this master Mr. Dorion studied, and became his partner in business, as soon as admitted to the bar in 1842. For years he worked at his profession, steadily rose in eminence and easily attained the very first rank.

While thus engaged in his office and before the courts, the young lawyer always took a deep interest in politics. He did not actually step down into the arena, but he always was an anxious spectator, following with an eager heart the impassioned struggles which marked the early years of the union, and all this time, by study and reflection, silently preparing himself to take his share, at no distant day, in the battle waged by the Liberals for reform and progress.

Those were exciting times. The early years of the union were absorbed by a most arduous and unrelenting contest for the permanent establishment of responsible Government. In the prosecution of this task Liberals of all shades had blended their whole united energies. The fight was not finally won until the elections of 1851, which maintained in power the Lafontaine-Baldwin Government; but the victory then won was complete and decisive. The struggle being now over, the younger men in the ranks at once called upon the leaders for the immediate assault of those abuses which in the then not yet very old times of prerogative and oligarchy had been safe and secure, but which, under the new régime, could not long withstand the determined effort of the popular will.