

party, to accuse a foreign people of unfriendliness to the nation, because their sympathies were divided between the two contending factions? As a matter of fact we dare say the preponderance of British sympathy with the North was as great as that of the American people themselves. Again, it is often said that the United States having been long and bitterly reproached by the British on account of its slave-holding, the anti-slavery section had a right to expect the cordial sympathy of all British subjects in its great struggle for the suppression of the peculiar institution. Had the war been one purely for the suppression of slavery there would be great force in this argument. But as it was a war primarily and avowedly for the maintenance of the Union, and as even President Lincoln himself declared until the very crisis of the contest, that if the Union could be saved without the abolition of slavery, slavery would not be abolished, this plea falls to the ground. If that is putting it too strongly and candour compels us to remember that the South was the slave-holding and the North the freedom-loving party, still, as the Southern people were fighting avowedly for self-government, not for slavery, the fact is sufficient to explain and excuse the divided opinion of another country. This is the more reasonable when it is remembered that a precisely similar division of sentiment prevailed in the North itself up to and for some time after the beginning of the war, many regarding the right of secession as an essential and indefeasible principle of republicanism. A writer in the *N. Y. Independent*, referring to the recent unveiling of a statue of General Lee at Richmond, says: "His (Lee's) name should not be put alongside of Washington. If Lee was a patriot then Washington was not." And yet both fought for precisely the same thing, independence, the chief difference being that the one succeeded, and the other failed. But it is late in the day to dwell on these old issues. They should be left in their graves. It is deeply to be regretted that any feeling inconsistent with the most cordial friendship should linger in the bosom of either of these great and closely related nations. We are glad to believe the two peoples are coming nearer to each other year by year, and that it is only a question of time and not a very long time when existing causes of irritation shall be removed, old grudges forgotten, and the two great Anglo-Saxon nations clasp hands across the ocean in token of perpetual friendship.

MOST of our readers know something, no doubt, of the work and influence of the annual gathering of American philanthropists, which for a number of years took place on the shores of Lake Mohonk, and hence became known as the Lake Mohonk Conference. The object of this informal and unofficial Conference was to enable a number of the best and most advanced thinkers of the nation to deliberate freely in regard to the proper treatment of the Indians. To this Assembly belongs in a very large measure the honour of having formulated and inaugurated the breaking up of the reservation system by distributing to the Indians their lands in severalty, combined with the adoption of the plan looking to the universal and compulsory education of all the Indian children of school age in the Union, which has now been practically adopted by Congress, and for the carrying out of which the sum of over two millions of dollars has recently been appropriated for the coming year. This is regarded as the virtual settlement of the Indian question by the only worthy and Christian method, that is, by educating the Indian and transforming him into a citizen, with all the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizenship. A similar Conference was held a week or two since at the same place, to discuss in like manner and spirit the Negro question. The meeting was presided over by ex-President Hayes, and the list of those in attendance included the names of a large number of the most learned, thoughtful and influential men in the Union, though, owing mainly, no doubt, to location, the South was not so well represented as the North. It would be impossible in the space at our disposal to give any adequate idea of the proceedings, but the general tone of the Conference was surprisingly hopeful. This tone was well justified by the facts presented. It is admitted that the light thrown on the state and prospects of the freedmen reveals a dark background. In many places they still suffer much hardship and injustice. Large numbers are still degraded, superstitious, immoral; but as can be readily understood, the exceptional instances of harsh and cruel treatment to which they are subjected, especially in times of political excitement, receive much wider circulation and attract more general attention than the records of progress achieved. The speeches on this occasion seem rather to

have avoided discussing the social and political status of the Negro. They all turned more or less on the question of Education. This was probably wise, as it is after all education which marks the upward progress of the race, and which must finally determine its history and destiny. The statistics show that a noble beginning has been made. Nearly forty millions of dollars have been spent on Negro education by those Southern States in which they chiefly reside. The North has contributed twenty millions more for the same purpose. Sixty millions of dollars cannot have been used in twenty-five years in educational work without producing results. The statistics collected by the Bureau of Education show that 1,158,000 coloured children attended school last year, being fourteen per cent. of the population. It was agreed by the Conference that no other race ever made such industrial progress in twenty-five years as the freedmen have done. A most encouraging proportion of them have become landowners. Many of them have shown good capacity for higher education. They need still much help, protection and encouragement, but their tendency is upwards, decidedly and rapidly. All talk of wholesale emigration or deportation is regarded as idle. It is considered settled that the Negro is in the South to stay, and to become enlightened, prosperous and powerful.

THE cabled utterances of the *London Times* and *Standard* may, we presume, be taken to indicate that the friends of the Government in England are at length fully convinced of the necessity for taking a firmer stand in defence of Canadian rights in Behring Sea. So long as negotiations for the settlement of the difficulty—a difficulty which, by the way, was created by the arbitrary acts of the American Government's cruisers in neutral waters—were in prospect, or in progress, there was a plausible, though scarcely a valid reason, for forbearance, notwithstanding the high-handed proceedings of the United States authorities. Now that negotiations seem to have proved fruitless, at least for the present, such excuse for delay no longer exists, while the fact that Mr. Blaine himself shrunk from the absurdity of claiming for his Government any exclusive jurisdiction in the waters in question, stamps any further interference on the part of that Government with the movements of Canadian fishermen as either usurpation, or bravado. We are inclined to believe that the event will show that the instructions of commanders of United States cruisers in these waters are such as will prevent actual repetition of former outrages on Canadian vessels. It is more probable that reliance is placed upon the effect of the mere presence of these cruisers there, coupled with unauthorized press rumours as to their intentions, to frighten Canadian fishermen from those latitudes, and thus, without overt action, secure to the American Government, or to the Company to whom it has leased its fishery rights in Behring Sea, all the advantages of exclusive jurisdiction and monopoly. If that be the case, the effect of the movement can, perhaps, be best counteracted by an intimation that Canadian or other British fishing vessels will be protected in the lawful pursuit of their calling in all neutral waters. The utterances of the great British journals referred to, which it may perhaps be safe to regard as adumbrating the Government's position, are directly in line with the view urged in these columns some weeks ago. Those declarations simply accord with what is due to British self-respect and to the commonest rights of Canadians as citizens of the Empire. Nor does it seem possible that any serious trouble can result from such a course. We should hope to be the last to favour any action bearing the slightest trace of unfriendly feeling towards our American cousins, or calculated to irritate, unnecessarily, the national susceptibilities of a super-sensitive people. It is well nigh inconceivable that England's determination to give to her own subjects that protection which is the first duty of a nation to its subjects could be offensive to sensible Americans. It is, indeed, hard to say to what length Mr. Blaine's jingoism might carry him personally, but we cannot believe that the greater and better part of the American people would countenance, much less support, him in a quarrel in which he would be so obviously in the wrong at the very outset.

THE British Ministry is in distress. It seemed a few days since to be almost *in extremis*, but the breakers have probably been weathered, for a time at least. Probably the real source of the trouble was the bold but imprudent ambition which led them to attempt to pass in the same session three great and difficult Bills, each one of which was sure to be met with the most determined opposition. It seems now to be admitted that the Land Purchase Bill cannot be got through this session. It is

not improbable that the Licensing Bill, too, will have to be postponed or abandoned. Its unpopularity throughout the country seems to increase day by day. Mr. Goschen's tenacity in clinging to this Bill is destroying his personal *prestige* and bids fair to cost the Government dear. However unjust the sudden abrogation of licenses without compensation would be, it is clear that great care is required lest in providing for compensation, the value of the licenses generally be enhanced, in which case the measure defeats its own end. This is the fault which, rightly or wrongly, is charged against this bill, and which makes Mr. Gladstone's nickname, the "Publicans' Endowment Bill," cling to it with such damaging effect. Then to increase the difficulties of the situation, the Government, in the persons of some of its members, has incurred the ire of the policemen and some other classes of public servants. The New Tipperary incident, too, and the suspicion, whether well-founded or not, that the Government was in collusion with the police and the railways in trying to prevent the success of the great demonstration against the Licensing Bill, help to fill up the measure of its iniquities in the eyes of many of the people. Unless the last-named suspicion can be dispelled, it will go hard with the Ministry at the next election, for, as the *Christian World* observes, the British people are very jealous of their right of free speech and public demonstration, and never forgive a Government they think guilty of trying to restrict this right. It is likely, however, that the Government's recalcitrant supporters, having been brought to yield in the matter of continuing Bills from session to session, the crisis may be considered past. This proposal referred to seems in itself so reasonable that it is difficult to see why it should be so strenuously objected to, or why the wasteful custom of dropping all unfinished legislation at the close of each session should ever have been adopted. The innovation will hardly be opposed by the Radicals who have long advocated it, and who are shrewd enough to see what advantages it may bring them when their turn comes. It may be that in this matter, as in the cases of the closure, and some other expedients, the Conservatives and Unionists fear that they may be but establishing precedents which will at some early day return to plague those who set them, and for this reason are reluctant to make any further departures from the old paths.

PATERNAL or Socialistic legislation is in the air. Some of the most conservative countries seem disposed to go farthest and fastest in the direction of regulating by law matters which have hitherto been regarded, in accordance with the old ideas of political economy, as belonging to the sphere of private arrangement and contract. Even Spain, it seems, is not impervious to the new ideas. Indeed, if the measures which the Ministry has lately laid before the Cortes become law, she will have proved herself particularly susceptible of them, and will have placed herself, at a bound, in the very front of the nations which are trying the experiment of special legislation in the interests of the labouring and dependent classes. According to the telegraphic reports the proposed laws are intended to regulate the labour of women and children; to imitate and extend the German system of insurance against accidents, sickness and old age; and to fix the legal working day at eight hours. These laws further provide for the free transportation from point to point, by railroad, of all workingmen in search of employment. They even contemplate the organization in all communities of small municipal councils, charged with the special care of the working classes, and their protection against every kind of oppression and wrong. This is, it may be conjectured, the return proposed by the republican Ministry for the marked moderation and self-control displayed by the Spanish workingmen in holding aloof in the main from radical movements and declining to take part in the May Day demonstrations. By many it will be regarded, perhaps with equal probability, as a token of gratitude for favours to come, in the shape of workingmen's votes at the first election under the operation of the universal suffrage Bill, which has lately passed through the Senate. That Bill itself, which makes the franchise practically as broad as it is in the United States or Ontario, is a wonderful proof of the spread of democratic ideas in this old abode of despotism, varied during the last generation or two by revolution and unstable republicanism. It is supposed that an election under the new law is not far off. It is very likely that the present progressive Ministry may be retained in office.

A LETTER appears in another column taking us to task for having last week used the terms "Catholic" and "Episcopal" to designate the Churches which we are taught