

policemen have been sent to restore peace. It is a pity the selection of men should have been made from a force which is too small to answer all the needs of the city.

CUBA, like the British West Indies, has been appealing to the Mother Country to put forth a helping hand to succour the sugar industry. The prayer of the petition has been granted; a decree having been published at Madrid by which the sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico is to be admitted into Spain free of duty, and a drawback is to be allowed on what goes to foreign countries. If cable reports may be trusted, Cuba is also to have the benefit of a commercial treaty with the United States. The free admission of the sugar of Cuba and Porto Rico has drawn a protest from the native producers of sugar in Malaga and Granada, who contend that colonial sugar ought to pay a good round duty for their special benefit. But a delegation from these same producers who waited on the Minister for the Colonies, before the decree had passed, found remonstrance unavailing. Two months ago the hope was expressed in Cuba that the sugar produced in the island would find free admission into the United States; but it is not probable that the treaty now said to have been agreed upon goes so far as to make Cuban sugar free. The return to the original principle of colonial administration is possible to Spain, because, in respect to Cuba, she has continued to exact it in her own favour. The one-sided nature of the benefits has hitherto been a cause of serious injury and deep-seated discontent to Cuba. In this action on the part of Spain the West India colonies of other nations will find something to envy; but England is not in a position to follow the example of colonial reaction. England derives no direct benefit from her West India colonies as Spain does from Cuba, and she owes nothing by way of counterpoise; on the contrary, she finds the West Indies burthensome and importunate in asking concessions, in the form of countervailing duties, which it is not in her power to grant. The defenders of the artificial encouragement which France and Germany give to the exportation of their refined sugars will derive new courage from the decision of Spain to admit Cuban sugar free; and the desperate hope that an international conference could induce these nations to change their policy in favour of sugar producers in the British West Indies and sugar refiners in Great Britain may now be definitely abandoned. Indeed, nothing but the delusion of self-interest ever caused anyone to put faith in a remedy of which there was no rational hope of attainment. But if England cannot herself grant the relief sought by her West India colonies, Lord Derby is quite willing that they should find in Canada a market for the free admission of their sugar, even though the change involves the necessity of their annexation to this Confederation.

"BYSTANDER" ON CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.

CANADA has a serious interest in the events which are pending in the Mother Country, for England is still the fountain-head of our civilization, and any disaster which would befall her would be morally felt here. But it is idle to attempt to extract a trustworthy estimate of the situation from the stream of conflicting rumours and surmises which chase each other along the wires. No one who is not on the spot can tell which way the current is running. The contest seems to have taken very distinctly the shape of a struggle between the Lords and the Nation, as to the ultimate issue of which there can be no doubt, whatever may be the immediate result. There have been popular demonstrations on a large scale in favour of the Lords as well as against them, but those in their favour seem to have been wanting in spontaneity and to have required the adventitious stimulus of picnics and the throwing open of noblemen's parks. As in 1831, a party in the Lords, prescient of fate, is trying to bring the Order to reason; but Lord Salisbury and those about him seem to believe that by forcing a dissolution, which must precede a swamping creation of peers, they might bring themselves into power; and their councils are darkened not only by their ambition, but by their intense personal hatred of Mr. Gladstone. Have the Tories really made up their minds, as they profess to have done, that the Franchise Bill must pass? If they have it would seem folly to put everything to hazard for the sake of the difference between two forms of a Redistribution Bill which, in any case, must be framed by Liberal hands. When you have consented to be eaten there is little use in cavilling at the sauce. But a shadow from another quarter is falling on the scene. It would seem that the Parnellites had a great interest in the Franchise Bill, as they proclaim that it would bring them a large accession of strength; but they appear to feel that they have a greater interest in baffling all legislation, wrecking every Government and throwing everything into confusion. Possibly they may be somewhat alarmed by the spread of the movement among the labourers, for the tenant farmer in

Ireland has been a worse oppressor of the labourer than the landlord has of the tenant farmer. It looks as if they were inclined to coalesce with the Tories, the violent section of whom is ready for the alliance. The Liberal Party has a decided majority over Tories and Parnellites combined; but hardly a majority large enough to enforce the surrender of the Lords. "The negotiations," says the cable, "between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell have been broken off." For "Mr. Gladstone" we should read "Mr. Chamberlain," who has been playing this game from the beginning, though the Prime Minister cannot be held unaccountable for the machinations of his aspiring subordinate. If Mr. Parnell were a reformer, whether political or agrarian, however extreme, or even revolutionary, and however hostile he might be to the Government, there could be no objection to negotiating with him for the passing of the Franchise Bill so long as no principle were betrayed on either side. But he is not a reformer: he is a declared enemy of the realm; he openly and avowedly aims at its dismemberment and its ruin; he seeks to compass these objects through an alliance with a foreign organization which has twice invaded the Queen's dominions and is publicly taking up subscriptions for the destruction of her subjects. Negotiation or intercourse with him of any kind is therefore surely forbidden by duty and honour to any British Government. Nor is the dictate of true wisdom at variance with that of duty and honour. It is by these wretched tamperings with conspirators who it was evident from the outset were implacable and insatiable that the rebellion, which firmness might have extinguished in its birth, has been nursed and pampered into its present formidable dimensions. Such a curse is faction even in the land where it is supposed to be best regulated and most under control. In defeating the Franchise Bill, however, the Irish may after all be unwittingly doing a service to the country. It is a measure for which the nation can well afford to wait, if the respite thus afforded to statesmen brings reflection and leads them to turn their minds to a comprehensive revision of the Constitution in its different parts and in its general balance, instead of hurrying forward blind extensions of the suffrage.

SOME of our contemporaries not unnaturally scouted the idea that such a scheme as the annexation of Jamaica to Canada could be receiving the serious attention of practical politicians. But students are not the only dreamers. Practical politicians in Jamaica at all events are earnestly pressing the measure. Yet surely no dream ever was more extravagant. Not only is Jamaica two thousand miles off, but Cuba and Haiti lie between. In the present state of the world, or any state in which the world is likely to be for generations to come, let the Peace Society do what it can, a reasonable security against external attack will be an indispensable condition of all political arrangements; and it is strange that men, styling themselves practical, should be ready totally to disregard this necessity. Belgium, Holland or Switzerland, it is true, would be unable to defend itself against the attack of one of the great powers at its side: but each of them has a considerable force, and they are protected both by European guarantees and by the mutual jealousies of the great powers. Canada is safe in the unaggressive character of her only neighbour. But a federation of Canada and Jamaica, or of Canada and the West Indian Islands, would be at the mercy of any filibustering republic which could fit out a few gun-boats. Cuba may any day fall into anarchy, and become a dangerous and piratical neighbour. The moderation of the United States, and their unwillingness to extend their territory, have been more than once decisively proved. They were proved by the rejection of St. Domingo, as well as in that of St. Thomas, and by the forbearance shown notwithstanding repeated provocations in the case of Mexico. But as this federation would be an ostentatious move in the direction of building up an Anti-American Empire, the people of the United States could hardly be expected to regard it with a friendly eye, or in case of need to mediate in its favour. Its only defender would be England; and that there are limits, and very visible limits, to the powers of England as a protectress, beset as she is with enemies and dangers on every side, Jingoism itself must be beginning to perceive. The political consequences to the Dominion of a union with Jamaica can only be regarded with horror. The population of Jamaica is now about 600,000, of whom not more than 12,000 are whites, the white population having decreased, while the black population has increased rapidly of late years. The unfitness of such a population, the negro being what he is, for free institutions, if it could ever have been doubtful, has been proved by experiment, at once disastrous and decisive, in the case of Jamaica itself, and in that of St. Domingo. In Jamaica the bloody farce terminated in the eager return to the condition of a Crown colony, it having become apparent that only by the strong hand of a Royal governor could peace be possibly kept between the races. But the Jamaican delegation in the Dominion Parliament, if proportioned to the