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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The announcement in last Saturday's Gazette that those sections of certain acts which imposed rates of duties on sugars and molasses when imported indirectly from the country of production other than the rates imposed when the importation is direct, are suspended by proclamation until further notice, is a step in the right direction. Such discriminations, directed as they obviously were against the United States, were invidious and should never have been made. They are among the little things, little in more senses than one, which tend to mar the friendly relations which should be carefully cultivated between us and our next-door neighbours. May we accept this as an earnest of a change of policy in regard to such matters under Sir John Thompson's regime? We hope so. By the way, there is a somewhat similar provision in respect to the importation of tea and coffee, which needs to be dealt with in the same way. Whether the effect of the suspension of the clauses in respect to sugar will further

reduce the price remains to be seen. Probably the refiners' special protection will prevent that calamity.

The meagre telegrams which have come to hand touching the session of the Indian National Congress at Allahabad indicate that the organization is growing in strength, and its demands in popularity. The resolutions expressing regret that the people of India are not allowed to elect representatives to the Council of the Viceroy, and demanding the separation of judicial from executive functions in the government of the country, have so much of apparent reasonableness that one can readily foresee how the cry may grow from year to year until it becomes too strong to be longer resisted. Probably the concession will be made before that period arrives. Compliance with the demand for a native National Indian legislature is probably far in the future, as the mixed and mutually antagonistic character of the races and castes of India seem to render such a legislature, for the present at least, almost utterly impracticable. But there can be no doubt that little by little the principle of home rule must be conceded even in India. That principle is in the atmosphere of all countries over which the British flag floats.

Hard is the fate of the man of brains and conscience who, while in one of the great political parties, is not wholly of the party—not ready, that is, to play the game of follow-your-leader blindly to the end, whatever that end may be. The bitterness of such a fate is, if we may conclude from recent articles in The Empire, about to be proved by Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who has had the temerity to differ from the party leaders on two or three occasions, though he has never hitherto pushed his independence so far as to make it seriously embarrassing. Mr. McCarthy's latest crime, so far as known to the public, was his expression of opinion at Mr. Parkin's lecture, in favour of a ten per cent. reduction of the tariff on British goods. Whether this weakening faith in the merits of high taxation is the head and front of his present offending, or whether he is suspected of being about to propagate some more radical heresy, we know not. The Empire's "savage onslaught"—those are good newspaper words, we believe, and are certainly more than usually appropriate in this case—seems to point to something to be revealed, vastly more depraved and desperate than anything of which Mr. McCarthy has yet been guilty. The public await developments.

As has been anticipated since the announcement, through Mgr. Satolli, of the new and progressive policy of the Holy See in respect to the public schools of the United States, Dr. McGlynn has been restored to the priestly office in the Roman Catholic Church. The conditions, if any, on which this action has been based are not yet known. Public curiosity is excited without regard to the ques-

tion whether and to what extent restoration means approval of Dr. McGlynn's political and other public utterances since his secession. The beginning of his trouble was his open advocacy of Henry George as a candidate for the mayoralty of New York, notwithstanding the Archbishop's inhibition. His rebellion culminated in his refusal to obey a summons to Rome, to answer for his contumacy. His restoration to the functions of the priesthood is the last of a series of triumphs for the Liberal Catholics in the United States. Meanwhile, the opponents of the new school policy are said to be making strenuous efforts to have Mgr. Satolli discredited and his recommendations repudiated at Rome. But what has already transpired makes it pretty clear that the Legate has not exceeded his powers, and the astute leaders in the Vatican are not much given to saying "yea" and "nay" in the same breath.

A good deal has been said in Canadian papers, pro and con, in reference to the declarations made at the recent agricultural conference in England, in favour of protection for farmers. The following summing up by a writer in The Christian Union, an ardent free-trader, of course, no doubt fairly represents the case as it appears at present to a vast majority of the English people. We quote it as a sample, indicating the current of public opinion which will have to be overcome before real headway can be made in the direction of a tax on food products in England:—

"The close of the first day must have left all the more thoughtful friends of the farmer almost in despair. 'If that is a fairly representative gathering of British agriculturists,' one was tempted to say, 'their case is indeed hopeless.' Their one panacea for all their troubles was to give an artificial value to the food of the British population, for the benefit of their own comparatively small section of it. Nay, their case, indeed, was not even so good as that. There they were, a great throng of them, full of the wildest enthusiasm over proposals and suggestions which were not only hopelessly beyond the bounds of practicability, but which, even if realized, every thoughtful person could see would not help them a bit. Land had gone down in value, rents had been reduced, and it seemed to be perfectly obvious that if these unreflecting farmers, whose stentorian roars at times almost lifted off the roof of St. James' Hall, really should get the moon they were crying for, and an import duty of five or ten shillings a quarter were put upon corn, the simple effect would be, not to increase the farmers' profits, but to give the landlord his higher rent and the land an artificial value. But they could not see it, and would not listen to anybody who had a word of caution or of warning for them."

A good deal of discussion has been caused in England by the statement said to have been made by Mr. Gladstone, in answer to an enquiry, to the effect that the Established Church "receives no assistance from public funds." The letter of enquiry which elicited this answer has not been made public. The form of the question, were it known, would in all probability throw a much-needed light