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London, Wednesday, Sept. 28.

UNDAS

POWERS OF COUNTY JUDGES. The Toronto Telegram, no doubt judging by some recent developments, reaches the conclusion that if "county judges are to exercise an extended jurisdiction there must be a change that will exalt men worthier of large authority or remove which render them unfit to discharge their high duties." Our contemporary adds: "Glorification of the county judiciary of Ontario as the wearers of the unsullied ermine amuses those who have an inside view of their honors. There are judges, as in York county, in whose integrity and ability all have confidence. There are others promoted to the bench out of a local law office who win a reputation for favoring the cause advocated by their professional successors. There must be some truth in the impression which prevails in so many county towns. It is common talk in these centers that no lawyer has a chance before the county judge except the barrister who is doing business at his honor's old stand. Justice is degraded by the favoritism and partisanship of some county judges, and the reformation of the inferior judiciary is one of the greatest works that Sir John Thompson can do." These are serious accusations and they should not be lightly turned aside. What is needed is probably more effective dealings with judges who fail in their duty, and prompt and thorough investigation into all cases of alleged misconduct. We are among those who believe that the law should be brought to the people, instead of their having to go to law. Therefore it is that we favor any reasonable scheme for decentralizing the higher courts as far as practicable, and for permitting the lower courts to decide as far as possible in all minor disputes regarding property or other rights and in general criminal matters. But there should be an appeal from a county judge to a higher authority in all matters affecting the elec toral rights of the people. If there had been that in the London voters' list case, Judge Elliot could not have been enabled to inforce his personal predilections, strengthened by his editorial plead-ings in the London Free Press, to the injury of over half the people of London, and despite the fact that six Superior Court judges have decided that his view of the question could be defended neither in equity nor in law. County judges, like the rest of us, are human, very buman, and Judge Elliot has destroyed the say an executive directly dependent on the confidence of the people in his decisions on electoral matters, while the conduct of the Dominion Government in refusing a William Pitt, when repudiated by the thorough investigation into the charges made against him by reputable citizens, has still further shown the absolute necessity which exists for a change in the regulation affecting these public servants.

verts to the cause. Sir William holds that all places devoted to the liquor business should be assessed and taxed for the support of those who suffer from the effects of the traffic.

MR. MEREDITH'S SUSPENSION.

We are naturally interested in everything that pertains to our former fellow-townsmar Mr. W. R. Meredith, M.P.P. Quite recently, whether with or without his consent we know not, the country has been treated to the novel spectacle of W. R. dangling midway between a department of the Government at Ottawa and his law office in To ronto. He has been retained in this position, according to the testimony of his friends, because, while a section of them desire to have him enter the Dominion Government ss a great Protestant champion, to balance the scales with Sir John Thompson, who is not trusted by this section, another divisany such arrangement. Thus, after the fashion of Mahommet's coffin, our former fellow-townsman is kept suspended, awaiting the development of events and the pacification of opponents. When the sus-pense will be brought to a close no one seems to be able to say, but some are doing a great deal of thinking. One of the thoughts audibly expressed takes the form of the conundrum why the Dominion Government should be regarded as in need of a Protestant champion while it has the edoubtable Mackenzie Bowell in it? Has be proved but a trader in religious proGLADSTONE'S REPLY TO ARGYLL

Mr. Gladstone has been 60 years in public life this month, and he is now approaching the 83rd anniversary of his birth; but he appears to be just as young and vigorous in his methods as ever. He ards' wives in Hamilton? has been visiting Wales, clambering around the mountains of that romantic principality with the agility of a man half his age, addressing large bodies of citizens on public topics, and at the same time finding opportunity to reply to the Duke of Argyll's attack on his home rule scheme. It would not be in accord with the

as to a legislative proposition to be laid before Parliament some months hence. But Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a paper previously written by the Duke of Argyll, has given to the readers of the North America Review considerable information in regar to the scope of the forthcoming measure for granting self-government to Ireland. The Duke of Argyll is a territorial magnate who has never looked with favor upon land to the democracy a greater shate in the management of their country. He has railed at the Irish because he believes they will not be good managers of their own local affairs; and he gave a good opening to Mr. Gladstone when he asserted that while the Liberal leader had represented the bill of 1886 as only giving back to Ireland a limited share of what she had once enjoyed, the fact was that "she never had bad a Parliament with one-tenth of the enormous power given by that scheme," All property and all liberty were, the Duke averred, left absolutely by the bill of 1886 at the mercy of the Irish Parliament. "So monstrous proposition," the Duke declared, "had never been made before by any statesman." In the North American Review Mr. Gladstone vindicates his assertion. The Irish Parliament of 1782—what is known as Grattan's Parliament-was in itself overeign and independent in the very ame sense as then was the Parliament Great Britain. On the other hand, the the 1rish Parliament proposed by Mr. Glad-stone in 1886 was explicitly accepted on behalf of Irish Nationalism by Mr. Parnell as "a subordinate Parliament." The Dublin Parliament of 1782 enjoyed the power to act upon peace and war and to control commerce and national taxation exclusively. The bill of 1886, as we all know, retained to imperial power the control of all these departments. To this the Duke of Argyll might answer that the Irish Parliament of 1782 was a Protestant assembly, and that the Irish tive was not responsible to the Dublin Legislature, Mr. Gladstone reminds his critic that the Irish Legislature of 1782 Mr. Gladstone reminds his admitted Roman Catholics to the franchise in 1793, and in 1795 was ready to make them eligible to take seats in the House of Commons when the recall of movement and rekindled the spirit of faction. At that time, too, the Protestants of the north declared that the recent changes had removed all ground of differ ences with England and had "united the lissolable mass." This declaration was subscribed by 45 corps of Protestant volunteers, proving that the Ulster men were not afraid to acknowledge the prin-ciple that their Catholic fellow-citizens

should have a representation proportionate to their numbers. As to the objection raised by the Duke, that the Irish Executive under the system of 1782 was not responsible to the Dublin Legislature, Mr. Gladstone points out that House was unmistakably on the side of his opponents during the interval. Mr. Gladstone further asserts that within his SIR WM. Dawson, the eminent scientist, in giving evidence before the Prohibition Commission, expressed the conviction that the Scott Act and a conviction that the scott Act a that the Scott Act and such local prohibitory measures, even when unof responsible government each of responsible government each hibited at Westminster. In almost every hibited at Westminster. In almost every hibited at Westminster. In almost every instance where local autonomy has been granted, however, responsible government each hibited at Westminster. In almost every instance where local autonomy has been granted, however, responsible government each hibited at Westminster. In almost every instance where local autonomy has been granted, however, responsible government each hibited at Westminster. In almost every hibited at Westminster. of responsible government except that exbut for the Act of Union responsible government would have followed the concession

of legislative autonomy in 1782. Thus are the bugbears of the Duke f Argyll effectively laid. What are the inferences that may be drawn from Mr. Gladstone's contrast between the Irish Parliament of 1782 and that advocated in 1886, and which will be proposed when Parliament meets in 1893? It is indisput able that the Irish executive shall be re sponsible to the Dublin Legislature. But the Irish Parliament will not have power to act upon peace or war, upon the army the navy or defense in general, or upon the regulation of commerce. It will have no ore right to impose tariffs than has the Government of Ontario. Powers over tax-ation it will have, or it could not meet its bligations. If it had the right to regu late the land laws, it need never be with out a decent revenue. Absentee landlord ism, which has taken so much out of Ire-land, may yet be made to pay something back to aid in running the country. But for a time, acting on a suggestion throws out by Mr. Parnell, the British Parliament may retain control of legislation on this critical question. The establishment of a State religion will be absolutely prohibited but the control of the constabulary and o the local judiciary will be relegated to the Irish Government, subject always to an appeal to the Privy Council, on which, it is understood, Ireland will have due representation.

The line of the naval parade in New York's Columbian ceremonies will be nearly three miles long.

TOPICS OF TO-DAY.

THE Hamilton Spectator jumps at the conclusion that women who are not drunkards do not know much about the effects of intoxicating liquors. Are there no drunk

There are, says Labouchere, many good radical parsons in London. One of their number was recently accosted by a Tory member of his flock, in high glee over the blection of a wealthy brewer. "Thank God!" exclaimed the Tory, "our candidate has been returned and the church is prehas been returned and the church is preserved." "Exactly," replied the rector"in spirits."

astomary usages that a British Prime Among the more important articles in the North American Review for October, Minister should now communicate to the public of this continent his intentions of course, Mr. Gladstene's reply to the Duke of Argyll's attack on home rule is chief. Others of more continental import-ance are by the Bishop of Albany on the chief. Others of more continental importance are by the Bishop of Albany on the "Excise Law and the Saloons," by Senator Vest on "The Real Issue"—meaning, however, the question of high or low taril; and by Mr. Theodore, Voorhees, general superintendent of the Central road, on "The Buffalo Strike." Lady Jeune criticises the critics of her article, "London Society," ane Governor Pennoyer of Oregon discusses certain "Paramount Questions of the Campaign." Mr. Henry Labouchere, talks about the foreign policy of England; and the other articles are as timely as usual.

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There is gloom and desolution among the

There is gloom and desolution among the telephone girls in Belgium. The telephones were recently acquired by the Government, but with the understanding that all the employes would be re-engaged after Dec. 31 next, when their present contract expires, if they passed an examination. They naturally regarded themselves as scure, as they were well trained to their duties. The official programme, however, causes consternation. In addition to the two national languages, French and Flemish, a thorough knowledge of English and German will be obligatory on the hello girls. They must be well up in geography, and submit a complete drawing of the map of Europe. Many other conditions of similar nature are to be imposed. And with all this salaries are to There is gloom and desolution among the ed. And with all this salaries are t largely reduced, in some cases 33 pe nt. While it is conceded that it would e advantageous to have one or two opera

REMARKABLE, UNIQUE, DAMAGING, (Toronto Week.) (Toronto Week.)

Mr. Elgar's letter in reply to the summons of the Caron commissioners to lay before them the names of the witnesses he proposed to call to give evidence in support of the charges formulated against Sir Adolphe Caron, was just what everythe, we suppose, expected it to be. It was, in fact, just what he gave Parliament pretty clearly to understand it would be, at the time of the appointment of the commission. clearly to understand it would be, at the time of the appointment of the commission. The way in which the letter has been received by the party press on either side is also just what might have been foretold with uncering certainty. The Government journals denounce his refusal to appear between the commissions of the property and appear between the commissions of the property and appear between the commissions. Journals denounce his retuest to appear be-fore the commission as prosecutor as a cowardly retreat. The Opposition applaud it as the only manly and self-respecting course. We must confess that, after giv-ing the matter the most impartial considercourse. We must confess that, after giving the matter the most impartial consideration of which we are capable, we are forced to agree with the latter view. Had the Government contented itself with simply referring the charges to a commission instead of to a Parliamentary committee, without changing their form in any way, the accuser, however he might deprecate their action as an infringement upon Parliamentary right and dignity, could scarcely have refused to produce his evidence before the tribunal chosen by the Parliamentary majority. But when the Government took the remarkable if not unique course of eliminating one of the principal charges and changing and adding to others, we cannot see how any wise man could be expected to step into the snare thus spread before his eyes. To us the issue seems to be in a nutshell. The changes made in the form of the charges either do materially modity their meaning or they do not. If they do, the evasion is apparent. If they do not, there could have been no valid reason for making them. In other words, the natural inference seems to be that, had the accused minister been impelled by the indignation



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