

THE BYSTANDER.

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TWO assemblies, styled deliberative, have met, one in Canada, the other in England—

“ They meet in clouds of smoke and dust,
With sword sway and with lance's thrust,
And such a yell is there —”

Whether it is better to plant the blow on your opponent's ribs, or between his eyes, is the chief subject of “deliberation.” In England, however, the battle is about great questions, the decision of which may settle the destiny of the nation. Here there are great questions of a certain kind, but on these both the armies are on the same side. Tory and Grit are equally Anti-Nationalist: in truth, the Grit is even the more Anti-Nationalist of the two. The chief subject to which, if there were a Liberal Opposition, its criticism would be directed, is the Railway policy, which is leading the country through financial disaster to compulsory annexation; and it is precisely on this point that the tongues of the Grit leaders are most fatally tied by their own acts as well as by their general fear of the powers of toadyism which menace with calumny any Canadian who stands up for the special interests of Canada.

The policy which lavishes the resources of Canada in building railways for the purpose of politically annexing British Columbia and Manitoba is Imperialism. The word is used in no disrespectful sense. There are many good and able men