

nations have hitherto seemed powerless to cope with the appalling condition of anarchy and blood-thirst that is spreading like a pestilence among the mysterious race that constitutes a third of the population of the globe. The crimes that have been committed against humanity by the Chinese people and their government remain unatoned for and their perpetrators unpunished. The huge, seething mass of corruption, barbarism and cruelty that represents the Chinese nation lies athwart the path of civilization, and England, as the foremost civilizing power in the world, and the power with by far the largest interests at stake in China, stands committed to a task of which no one can foresee the end, but which seems likely to tax all her resources physical and moral. The new century is opening amid a period of storm and stress in many quarters, and the responsibility of maintaining peace with honour is an arduous and heavy one indeed; but in the hands of the present advisers of the Queen, the interests of the Empire are as safe as human skill, foresight and experience can ensure, and we have no fears but that Lord Salisbury and his Cabinet will show themselves deserving to the full of the confidence the country has reposed in them.



The Republican Triumph. IN the United States, the victory of Mr. McKinley and the Republican Party has been the victory of Imperialism—the term generally employed to express that expansion of the national and patriotic sentiment that refuses to limit itself to its own domestic concerns, but accepts its responsibilities and claims its share in the direction of those great international world movements that mark the advance of modern civilization. It is the victory of the policy that emancipated Cuba from the horrors of Spanish misrule, that is contending against anarchy in the Philippines and is taking an active, if an in-

effective, part in the settlement of the Chinese embroglio. On the other part, the defeat of Mr. Bryan, and the discomfiture of the unsavoury alliance of Bryanism and Tammany Hall, has happily demonstrated the refusal of the people of the United States to be allured by the eloquence of Mr. Bryan into any sentimental crusade against capital, or to give their sanction to any of those immoral and discreditable schemes for the repudiation of their national obligations or the depreciation of the national currency that were so freely and so attractively dangled before their eyes. We believe that in the United States, as in Great Britain, the victory has been on the side of good government and public honour, and that the people in each country have averted by their votes what would have been in either case little short of a national disaster.



The Liberal Government in Power.

IN Canada, where the issue has been rather one of men than of measures, the election passed off very quietly as compared with the agitation and fever heat of excitement and suspense to which, in the United States, both parties had worked themselves. The Liberal Government was returned to power by the votes of the French Roman Catholics of Quebec, and if there was reason to fear that this result would encourage the always active aggressiveness of the Roman Catholic priesthood, it would be a deplorable one for the country. We give Sir Wilfrid Laurier credit, however, for being, if not too enlightened a statesman, at any rate, too astute a politician, to make himself the tool of the Roman hierarchy, and there is too strong a Protestant and English-speaking element in his Cabinet to permit of any assumption of power on the part of the French Roman Catholic faction that would be resented by the Protestants in Ontario and Manitoba. We believe the Liberal Administration to be as clean as any