

who was my guest during his stay in Quebec, but it deals mainly with the Irish question, and shows the trend of Conservative public opinion regarding local self-government in Ireland, and the possible consequences of such a step. On this topic, Lord Lytton held very strong and pronounced views. His presentation of the situation, at that period, based as it is on the standpoint of party, is most instructive and full of interest. The allusion to *Chansons Populaires* may not be understood in the United States. The book is a collection of songs in the French language, sung in Quebec province, principally borrowed from old France, and collected by Mr. Ernest Gagnon. Lord Lytton, in a later letter, again expressed his delight at receiving the volume :—

“ KNEBORTH HOUSE, STEVENAGE,
“ Sept. 29, 1885.

“ Many thanks for your interesting letter of the 5th September, which reached me amongst the glaciers of Bel Alp. I am greatly pleased with what little I have yet been able to read of the volume of *Chansons Populaires* you have so kindly sent me.

“ Pray, if he is still with you when you get this letter, remember me most affectionately to Archdeacon Farrar. I sincerely trust that he will not only enjoy his visit to Canada, but gain by its refreshment from the fatiguing effects of the incessant work of all kinds to which his life at home is so actively and conscientiously devoted.

“ We are here awaiting, with a curiosity more or less anxious, the result of the coming election, and whatever may be the result of it, its character seems likely to resemble that of the elections in France, where it is anticipated that the Opportunists will be left without any *locus standi* between the avowed Conservatives and the advanced Radicals. The Irish policy proclaimed by Mr. Chamberlain seems to me to go to a point which, if reached, would render the union so intoler-

able that it could not be much longer maintained.

“ I have always thought that there is one form of Home Rule which would be even worse than Irish independence, and that is a local government for Ireland which would systematically oppress the Protestants and the landlords, and yet constitutionally empowered to call upon the whole force of the United Kingdom to back it up in all its measures.

“ The Bulgarian revolution has made a splash in very turbid and dirty waters, which, if the diplomatists fail to prevent their overflow may throw the whole of Europe into a considerable mess.

“ With kind regards to Mrs. Stewart,
“ Yours truly,
“ LYTTON.”

The fifth letter has a remark on my monograph on Count Frontenac, twice Governor of Canada, under the French *régime*, and an appreciative note about Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, whose satisfactory mission to Washington, as chairman of the Fisheries Commission, will be remembered. The treaty which resulted from this conference was signed in 1888. Lord Lytton discusses the political condition of things in Ireland, as usual, and praises unstintedly the ability, fearlessness and firmness of Mr. Balfour, then beginning a career which has placed him in the front rank of Conservative statesmen. Lord Lytton writes forcibly of the events of the day, as he understands them, and events have, in some measure, sustained his predictions.

“ KNEBORTH, 26 Oct., 1887.

“ I must apologize for not having sooner thanked you for your letter of the 27th August. But I wished before doing so to read the monograph on Frontenac, which you were so good as to send me with it. I was absent when the monograph reached Knebworth, and did not return here till some weeks later. During my ab-