

Bill. These are worthy of the most careful considerations, as affecting not only the interests but possibly the reputation of the Dominion. But this is a question which should be kept quite distinct from the prior one of Canada's right to legislate for herself on a subject distinctly reserved to her by the British North America Act. It is true that, so far as we know, this right has not been called in question in so many words. But it is evident that if the Colonial Office may, in this way, delay the operation of a Bill relating to a matter within Canadian jurisdiction, from year to year, in order to discuss its content, our self-government might become practically a dead letter.

Trinity's New
Provost.

Canadians will be interested in learning that Trinity University has at last obtained a Provost. Readers of the *London Guardian* of April the 3rd might have noticed that the Reverend Edward Ashurst Welch, M.A., had resigned the Vicarage of the Church of the Venerable Bede, Gateshead, Diocese of Durham, to take up important educational work in the Colonies. The work referred to was the Provostship of Trinity. Mr. Welch has a brilliant record. He was Scholar of King's College, Cambridge. He obtained a First Class in the Classical Tripos when he took his B.A. degree in 1882, having won two years previously the Bell University Scholarship, and in 1884 he took Honours in the Theological Tripos. He spent a short time at the Leed's Training School in the same year, and was shortly afterwards ordained Deacon by the Bishop of London. From 1884 to 1886 he worked in London, and from 1886 to 1890 he was domestic chaplain to the late distinguished Bishop of Durham, Dr. Lightfoot. In this connection he resided with the Bishop and was also brought in close contact with those who were preparing for Orders in that Diocese. Mr. Welch's brilliant academic record, his wide practical experience, and his intimate connection with Bishop Lightfoot insure his being a sound scholar, a man versed in affairs, and a theologian of wide and liberal sympathies.

The Political Situ-
ation in England

Wise indeed would be the political seer who could foretell the resultant of all the complicated and conflicting political forces which are just now struggling for the mastery in England. On the Government side the position is perhaps no worse than at the opening of Parliament. In fact, the majority of forty-four who went into the lobby as supporters of its Dis-establishment Bill might be taken as in some sense an offset to the very narrow margins by which it has on more than one occasion been saved from shipwreck, were it not for the doubtful issue of the ordeal which awaits this and other Government bills in their committee stages. But with the uncertainty as to the health and future course of the Premier, the unreliability of the Parnellites, and the eccentricities of the advanced Radicals, the position of the Government is far from being enviable. On the other hand, if the allegations as to the dissensions and jealousies between the Tories and the Liberal-Unionists are in any degree trustworthy, there is imminent danger of a rupture which would greatly weaken the Opposition, while adding one to the abnormally numerous parties or factions already in the House. The currency of such rumours, however improbable they may be, as that of the resignation of the Premier, the resumption by Mr. Gladstone of the headship of his party, the return of Mr. Chamberlain to the leadership of the Radicals, etc., indicates the uncertainties of the situation, in the eyes of the British public. When we add to all these signs of instability the dangers of foreign complications in the Nile Valley and

in the East, it is easily seen that the coming season brings with it possibilities which may make the year 1895 an epoch in British history.

The Pope and the
English Church.

It is quite natural that the Pope of Rome, yearning for the unity of the Church and for the recognition of the supremacy of the Holy See, should turn wistful eyes to England, and mourn over the loss of that mighty nation which has almost taken possession of the habitable world. It is not wonderful that he should give expression to these aspirations, as he has done in a letter of which a translation has appeared in the *London Times*. But it is a little difficult to take this appeal of his Holiness quite seriously; and its contents make the writer seem still more ludicrous. The Pope dwells upon a quantity of practical and social matters respecting which there can be no wide difference, except in details, among those who profess the Christian religion. But there is not a single concession which would bring an Anglican of any school nearer to the Church of Rome. The absolute blindness of Pope Leo to the real causes of separation between the Churches may be discerned from the nature of an inducement to re-union offered at the end of the letter. A prayer to the Blessed Virgin is appended and an indulgence of 300 days is granted to those who shall piously recite this prayer. Now, when we remember that prayers to the Virgin are considered unlawful by nearly all English Churchmen, that indulgences are considered pure fiction, and that the notion of obtaining such indulgences by the recitation of a prayer would be regarded as a gross superstition, we may judge what progress his Holiness will make in the way of re-union. It is said that the Pope is re-considering the validity of English orders; but any effect which his approval of such orders could produce would only be to make those few clergymen of the English Church who may, at present, have any doubt on the subject quite satisfied with their position. Of any modification of Roman doctrine, of any relaxation of papal pretensions, there is not a word in the letter, which can only amuse those who have any knowledge of the characters of the two Churches.

Europe and
Asia.

It is, we suppose, certain that an agreement has been reached between China and Japan which ensures the cessation of the war, but that fact is probably about all that can be relied on as definitely known as yet about the matter. Of the various versions of the terms of the treaty that have been put in circulation up to the date of this writing, it is extremely doubtful if any can be relied on as representing the exact truth. Even were we able to accept any one version as reliable so far as it goes, there seems to be a general suspicion in European diplomatic circles that behind the terms of any such published version there will be a network of secret understandings and engagements shrewdly designed to baffle the insatiate avarice of the Western nations and to keep Asia for the Asiatics. It is hard to resist the impression that this suspicion may be to a large extent the product of jealousy of the remarkable successes which have made Japan mistress of the situation in the far East, and of mutual distrust lest some one of the great European powers should get the advantage of another in the rush for a share of the commercial spoils. One cannot but wonder, too, whether in the excitement arising out of the startling events of the victorious campaign of the Japanese, and the new situation which is the outcome, there may not be a tendency to greatly overrate the prowess of the victors, whose easy triumph seems, after all, to be quite as much due to the utter lack of organization and generalship on the part of her opponent, as to