

ought to be willing to take her own affairs in charges. The difficulties of diplomatic tutelage are shown to be as great as those of political guardianship now abandoned. In the next place the writer of the article referred to points with great force to the fact that a national spirit, a feeling of permanence, national pride and a really manly sentiment are impossible while Canada is a dependency, formed to consult and defer to the wishes of a Government, which is, and can be, but incidentally interested in this one of many colonies. Meanwhile, he continues, Canada is becoming Americanized. British Canada cherishes an antipathy against the United States, "but this antipathy is not a rampart of adamant—it falls down at the clinking of a pulse.... The belief that annexation would be commercially advantageous to us, is constantly in the minds of our people and not seldom on their lips." The attachment of French Canada to the confederation, meanwhile, "is merely of a negative kind," and that part of the Dominion is becoming rapidly Americanized. Imperial confederation is deemed altogether impracticable by this writer, and colonial independence is insisted upon as the only escape from impending evil the only measure competent to make Canada what she ought to be.

The Toronto *Globe* taken up the several propositions in the article of which we have given an outline, and disputes them severally and collectively, but it does not disprove them simply because they rest on facts and cannot be refuted. There is arising a serious question as to the right of Canada to lay taxes on imports in a form desired by a great and growing country. Should England deny the privilege, she would instantly increase the vexation, annoyance and humiliation of the Canadians. The tendency of Canada to become Americanized is a question of fact and observation on which we do admit the *Globe* to be trustworthy authority. The absence of a true spirit of independence could not be better exemplified than by the dickering of the ministry with the home government to get a compensatory indorsement of Pacific Railroad bonds as a consideration for the ratification of the Washington treaty. Canada did not dare to refuse ratification, but she asked and got pay for doing what—if we may believe government and opposition—was utterly and universally distasteful.

Let us look into the future. There is a prospect, of which neither Englishmen nor Canadians dare whisper, that Great Britain will sooner or later be forced into war by the two giants of the north of Europe, Germany and Russia. The issue of the conflict, and we say it with sorrow, must be to deprive England, if not of some of her dependencies, at least of a measure of the influence and greatness she now enjoys. We believe it will be worse for the world, but Great Britain, with all the allies she can master, cannot stand up against the Czar and the Kaiser. What part is Canada to take in such a war? Will she send her volunteers to help the army? for she has no navy. We doubt it, and we hesitate to believe that even the noble instinct which restrains a son or daughter from abandoning a mother in distress will be equal to the strain put upon it in such an emergency, even if England does not anticipate the desertion by giving Canada her freedom papers. Whether independence will be followed by union with this country is not at present a practical question. We believe, however, it will be so followed, because the commercial and political advantages of union are superior to those of independence. —*British Advertiser.*

THE PROGRESS OF OUR COLONIES.—The *Standard*, in its reviews of the year, says:—"That part of the history of the year which relates to the progress of our colonies in their relation to the mother country has been chiefly marked by a sensible growth of public opinion as to the importance of our colonial empire, and a corresponding improvement in the attitude of the Government towards what is called the Colonial Question. There has occurred, in fact, a complete change of front in the colonial policy of Mr. Gladstone's Administration, partly due to the attention attracted to our dealings with Canada in respect to the share taken by her in the Alabama negotiations, partly to the pressure of a better educated public opinion, but more directly perhaps to the announcement made by Mr. Disraeli at the Crystal Palace of a Conservative programme in which one of the three main points was the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. The adoption of so popular and at the same time strictly Conservative article of faith by the Conservative leader naturally aroused the jealousy of the Liberal party, which up to that time had played fast and loose with the colonies. With a programme exhausted even to the ballot, and with no revolutions in prospect which it would be safe for the party to undertake, it was felt by the Liberals that they could not afford to give up to the opposition so useful and attractive a cry as the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. Therefore, although only a few months before opinions adverse to the future continuance of the colonial connection had been freely uttered in public by members of the Government and their adherents, and although ever since the entrance of the Gladstone Ministry into office no opportunity had been lost for discrediting and rebuffing the agitation in favour of a closer union with the colonies, no time was lost in veering round to the other side. The theories of certain Liberal doctrinaires and public writers, which had been in so much favour hitherto, and which if not openly avowed had been practically adopted by the Government in their treatment of the colonies, were suddenly cast aside. Mr. Gladstone's own declaration and expositions of Imperial policy notwithstanding, the public were asked to believe that the maintenance of the colonial empire had been ever an object of principal solicitude with the Liberal Government, and a well affected air of astonishment was assumed that any one should be rash enough to advocate a dissolution of the colonial connection, or bold enough to charge the Ministry with any such design. The final renunciation of the old Liberal and Gladstonian doctrines relating to the mutual duties of England and her colonies was made at the banquet held in celebration of the opening of the Australian Electric Telegraph, at which Lord Kimberley presided.

THE IRISH CHURCH SUSTENTATION FUND.—Within all wide London's bounds, the *Rock* says, no sermon has yet been preached in behalf of our suffering sister Church of Ireland! This circumstance—and, indeed, the general remissness and apathy on the subject—have led the venerable Bishop of Durham to depart, as he declares, from his ordinary practice of never preaching beyond the limits of his own diocese, and to engage to advocate the claims of the Sustentation Fund on the first or second Sunday in June, at the Church of St. Michael, Chester Square.

CHANGES IN THE CABINET.—Gossip is busy with the reconstruction of the Government, and mentions the retirement of Earl Spencer, and the shifting of Mr. Bruce to some other position, Mr. Childers succeeding him. There are also speculations as to some place being found for Mr. Ayrton. In regard to this last arrangement, there are some venemous persons who would quote a certain speech by Lady Anne to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, touching the only place for which she considered him fit. But this would be most improper. India, however, is not too warm for Mr. Ayrton, as he came thence, and we own that, if love of his natal soil should prompt him to demand an Oriental appointment, our compassion for the poor Indians and their over-tutored minds would not conquer the more selfish feeling with which we should hear the news. Earl Spencer has long been heartily tired of Ireland, and thus we cannot understand, as he must have plenty of excitement there—Feman riots, Belfast riots, and an agrarian outrage twice a week ought to be enough for the most blasé official. "Topsy last night, and Topsy again this morning; what more would you have? Do you want to be a hangel? was the just remonstrance of a "flesh-and-blood" husband to his grumbling spouse. As for shifting Mr. Bruce we (*Daily News*) have had our little quarrels with him, but he is a valuable official, all the same, and we would rather make shift with him than shift him to make room for Mr. Childers, for the fact that Mr. Childers does not show off well in sudden debate is not absolutely convincing proof that he would make a good Home Secretary. On the whole, *quædam mæmora*, which was Sir Robert Walpole's motto, would be an excellent one for Mr. Gladstone, in this and other matters. He is too good a man to play cards, we dare say, but he may take it from those who are not so good that a hand is strengthened by mereuffling. But he understands the theatre. Let him borrow a hint from Mr. Punch's cartoon, and insist that his actors shall be thoroughly "up in their parts," and show proper respect to their generous benefactors, the public—Punch (the cartoon represents a green room. Mr. Ayrton, dressed as a Vulgarian, with hat kept on and bloated umbrella on his shoulder, angrily remonstrates with the serenely haughty Mr. Gladstone) "Change the cast! Hang it, gov'nor, you're never going to cut me out or my favourite and highly popular part of the 'winking gentleman'."

The Birmingham *Post* has reason to believe that "the acquisition of the railway by the State is now seriously engaging the attention of the Government: and that an investigation is in progress conducted by a member of the Cabinet, in conjunction with one of our ablest permanent officials—to collect the information necessary to enable the Government to come to a conclusion as to the opportunity and the terms of purchase. It is not improbable that a beginning may be made next year with the Irish railway, and if this negotiation proves at all satisfactory, it will probably be followed by the larger operations involved in the acquisition of the English lines."

It is reported that the Queen has ordered from a granite work at Aberdeen a sarcophagus and pedestal of Peterhead granite in which the remains of the late Emperor Napoleon may be placed until their ultimate destination is determined.

The discussion of the bill for the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico was continued yesterday. No progress reported.