

the purpose of threatening Russia, makes the American-Irish calculation that seven millions sterling would buy out the landlords in Ireland, and transfer the soil on easy terms to the tenants who till it; and it then points its moral with the remark that "if the money, or twice as much, were needed to shoot down mutineers in India, or to back up the odious rule of the tottering Turk, it would be voted without a word of objection," and demands why the money should not be voted to give peace and prosperity to long-suffering Ireland. Ah, why indeed! save for the very sufficient reason that peace and prosperity obtained in this way are not at all what the Parnellites want. If twenty times the sum were voted—and this, according to Mr. Giffen, is nearer what would be required—peace and prosperity would be just as far from the Irish people as both are to-day,—unless with it the hatred of the American Irish towards England were gratified by the concession of Home Rule. The most recent declaration of the Irish leaders in Parliament that a land bill without Home Rule will not be accepted shows clearly enough that the demands of the Irish people for land are subordinate to the demands of the American Irish for political revolution.

MR. GLADSTONE is not happy in foreign affairs. Scarcely is the new Government seated in office when the aggression of foreigners recommences.

M. de Freycinet has informed the Earl of Rosebery that he has instructed the French Minister at Cairo to support the demands of Moukhtar Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner to Egypt, that the English evacuate Egypt, and that the British force there be replaced by a Turco-Egyptian army.

This action of M. de Freycinet, it must be admitted, is quite consistent with his policy when before in office. If he had had his way then, the French would have co-operated from the beginning with England in Egypt; but none the less it is instructive of the unhappy effect of Mr. Gladstone's personality on the fortunes of the Empire in this department to compare the tone of the French Government towards him with their meek acquiescence in the message of Lord Salisbury a few weeks earlier to the effect that French interference in Burmah would not be tolerated.

MR. CHILDERS, the Home Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Government, is a man of considerable ability, Parliamentary and Administrative; but he is a mere office-holder, with no reputation for high principle or force of character. The Under Secretary, Mr. Broadhurst, is a "labour" representative, put in, not for his fitness, but as a sop to the very class in which disturbances arise. These men, confronted by rampant disorder, are falling back upon the usual resorts of weakness, a Committee of Inquiry and a scapegoat. The scapegoat is Colonel Henderson, the chief of the police. Colonel Henderson may not have shown all the vigour that was desirable; but what subordinate ever shows vigour with such chiefs behind him? The only wonder is that the police and the military do not entirely give way. Mr. Gladstone, in his thirst for popularity, has fatally weakened the authority of Government, and is leading the nation as fast as he can to anarchy. In Ireland he has absolutely renounced the first duty of a ruler, and formally given up the country to the dominion of a terrorist league, of the head of which he is fain to purchase a temporary suspension of the extreme forces of outrage, by an undertaking in the course of a few months to sacrifice the unity of the nation. When a Government is not only always going out upon the balcony to parley with sedition, but stoops for the sake of holding office to expose itself and the nation to the last contumely at the hands of insolent conspirators, how can subordinates possibly be expected to act as they would if the power of the Executive were in firm and honourable hands? To Irish Loyalists the present Government is literally worse than no Government at all. Without it they might defend themselves, and it is by no means certain that, outnumbered as they are by the rebels, they could not on this, as on former occasions, defend themselves with success. The Chief Secretary whom Mr. Gladstone has sent to represent him at Dublin has arrived, it seems, at the conclusion that it is the best policy to leave Ireland to her own anarchic forces. But what this means is tying the hands of the Loyalists behind their backs, while the Leaguers cut their throats.

LORD SALISBURY has been receiving compliments not only from friends but from candid opponents on his management of affairs during his brief administration. In the department of diplomacy his dexterity certainly presented a strong contrast to what had gone before; and the only drawback was that, in supporting the Union of Roumelia with Bulgaria, he was completely reversing the policy with which he had signally identified himself as Foreign Minister under Lord Beaconsfield. The working programme which he presented to the Conservative Party was also, in the opinion of the best judges, skilfully framed, though it contained partial

concessions to State Socialism, which are likely to prove embarrassing to the party, while they will be futile as attempts to outbid or vie with the State Socialists in their own line. But nobody doubts Lord Salisbury's ability. The doubt is as to his strength, the quality most needed in this time of peril. Instead of strength he has once more shown fatal weakness. All the Conservatives now see that to come into office by an intrigue with the Parnellites was a most ruinous blunder, as well as a crime against political honour; and it appears that in their meeting at the Carlton the other day they gave clamorous utterance to their anguish. But some of them saw the truth at the time, and among that number must have been their sagacious chief; yet he allowed his judgment and his sense of honour to be overborne by the impudent and profligate vanity of Lord Randolph Churchill, an intriguer whose appearance on the scene is no small addition to the many disasters of the nation. Again, it must have been evident to Lord Salisbury that in meeting the new Parliament a firm stand on the Irish question was the dictate of good strategy as well as of high principle; yet he suffered himself again to be overruled by the same shallow and knavish counsels, once more to his disgrace and ruin. It seems that his health is now giving way, as the health of all our public men will soon give way if they are to be loaded, in addition to their Parliamentary and official work, with the cruel requirements of the Stump. Lord Hartington is nothing like so good a debater as Lord Salisbury, nor does he approach him in general talent; but he is a man whom nothing will ever persuade to do that which he thinks wrong. If the leadership of Union and Order should pass into his hands, the country will be the gainer by the change.

ONLY a few months ago Lord Randolph Churchill was carrying on an infamous intrigue with the Parnellites. His machinations in that quarter having led, as it was certain that they would, to nothing but ruin, he has now turned suddenly round and is making a frantic appeal to the sympathies of the Orangemen, whom but the other day he described as obstacles to the operations of his party. To-morrow, if the chances of the game should seem to change, he will turn round again and be once more devising "a policy which shall be attractive to the Celts," and repeating the rubbish about Charles I. and the Catholics which he has borrowed from Lord Beaconsfield. This political mountebank has already done irreparable mischief, as every man of sense and honour in his party too clearly sees. There is no small danger of his doing more mischief still. On the firmness and constancy of the Orangemen and of the Irish Loyalists generally the issue of the battle now turns, and it is of the most vital importance that no false step should be taken in that quarter. Anything like a premature resort to violence would be a fatal error. Nothing would please Mr. John Morley and his Irish confederates in Disunionism better than an excuse for treating the Loyalists as rebels, and using the Queen's troops against them. Then would follow a reaction in England against what would be represented as an Orange rebellion. Irish loyalty would be discredited, and Disunionism would triumph. Have the Loyalists no wise friend at hand to warn them against becoming the playthings of vanity and folly? Lord Salisbury must know perfectly well what Lord Randolph Churchill is and what he is doing. Why does he not, as head of the party, restrain him? The answer has been given already. Lord Salisbury, though a talented, is not a strong, man.

RATIONAL Christians have by this time generally acquiesced in the belief that the truths conveyed in the opening of Genesis are theological and moral, not scientific. It teaches the Unity of God, the creation of the universe by Him, the moral relation of man to his Maker; and on these points it is in perfect harmony with Science, which also proclaims the Unity of the Creator and Ruler in proclaiming the Universality of Law. Otherwise the language is only symbolical, as we plainly see when God is spoken of as walking in the garden, as taking a rib out of Adam's side, as making garments for Adam and Eve. A scientific revelation would have been wholly out of keeping with the intellectual state of primeval man, and at variance with that plan of gradual education, by progressive thought and effort, which is clearly ordained for the human race. Mr. Gladstone, however, has undertaken to prove that the revelation is scientific, and to base upon its anticipations of modern discovery a proof of its supernatural illumination. His fancy was caught apparently by a singular, but evidently accidental as well as imperfect, correspondence between the cosmogonical narrative of Genesis and the Nebular Hypothesis. With a courteous but crushing stroke of his critical sledge-hammer, Mr. Huxley reduced Mr. Gladstone's science, especially his geology, to a total wreck, and an attempt having been made by Mr. Gladstone to defend his essay, Mr. Huxley has repeated the death-blow. It is hoped, for the sake of religion, that there will be no more adventures in this direction. The language of Genesis, once more, is symbolical, and will only be exposed to confutation