

men; nor with the newspapers; nor with the general public. It is already clear that the Colonial Conference announced for February will never be held. In fact, Lord Bury has, at the mere dread of such a conference, withdrawn from the chairmanship of the committee appointed to bring it about. It is certain that other satellites of the Court or Ministry will follow his bright example. But they might wait for the Colonies to pronounce its fate, for notwithstanding the weak meaningless despatches quoted by Mr. Youl, there are now reaching England unmistakeable signs of a healthy public opinion in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, that no conference will be assented to by those Colonies. The "scheme is simply impossible," says one authority. "We are well satisfied with things as they are," asserts a powerful journal; "It is considered quite impracticable and useless," is the opinion of another eminent publicist. So from one colony after another the voice of common sense prevails to discourage and condemn the project. What, then, are the results? A good letter from Sir Henry Drummond Wolff about colonial Government; an excellent suggestion from the Earl of Carnarvon about New Zealand; a most admirable paper from Sir Henry Bartle Frere, showing that India and New Zealand may help each other in a period of warfare; a magnificent development of Earl Granville's character as diplomatist and statesman; and above all, healthy, vigorous, refreshing proofs, abundantly afforded, that England and the Colonies are necessary for each other; that there is no wish on either side for separation; and that when real tangible difficulties shall arise, there is head and heart enough