

land immediately after the close of the present session of Parliament. Such tales have been current before, but the present version is repeated with great confidence, and may possibly enough be true. His only possible successor as head of the Government would be Sir Charles Tupper, who is as distasteful to many Liberal Conservatives as is Sir Richard Cartwright to many Reformers. In short, the withdrawal of Sir John would probably enough wreck his party, and bring about the very thing most repugnant to Liberal Conservative traditions.

THE COMING MAN.

SUCH are a few of the indications of impending changes external and internal, in the Canadian horizon. All things considered, the future is ominous, but there is no reason to anticipate serious calamity, or to fear that the earth will cease to perform its diurnal revolution upon its axis. In the future, as in the past, public events will probably accommodate themselves one to another, and a state of chaos will be avoided. It is certainly hard to see who is to be THE COMING MAN in Canadian politics, but we do not despair of seeing him in the fulness of time.

THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.

ALL true friends of Irish liberty—and there are many to be found on both sides of the Home Rule controversy—will regret the position in which the Nationalist party now find themselves. Mr. Parnell's persistent efforts to bring the struggle within the bounds of constitutional forms seemed for a moment to be on the eve of accomplishing a brilliant victory, when he secured the powerful alliance of Mr. Gladstone. But that success was delayed by the Unionist secession. We say "delayed," because it is quite possible that prudence and moderation would have made Time himself an ally of the Grand Old Man, for all things are possible to him who can wait. But Mr. Gladstone is still as impetuous as in his younger days, and he flung himself into the arms of his new allies without reserve, thereby producing consequences that threaten disaster both to the Liberal party and the Home Rulers. The continuance of obstruction in the House of Commons by a powerful party is a far more serious matter than obstruction by a minority who have no other way of making themselves heard. The countenance lent to it by Mr. Gladstone has seriously injured his influence with the party, and possibly with the electors. The Plan of Campaign, too, was pushed beyond reasonable limits when so excellent a landlord as Lord Lansdowne was attacked and reviled. Mr. O'Brien's mission to Canada has been a disastrous failure, not only in awakening the feeling of loyalty in Canada and arraying it against the Nationalist cause, but in cooling many friends of Home Rule who were not prepared to go too far in its advocacy. Mr. O'Brien has accentuated his egregious failure by refusing to remain in Canada on the Queen's birthday, by making violent speeches to disloyal Irishmen and avowed enemies of Great Britain in his United States campaign, and by absolute falsehoods respecting the state of affairs in Canada. He represents the Governor-General as unpopular here, surrounded by a little knot of Orange sympathizers, and actually countenancing

and encouraging the violent assaults made on the Irish emissary. Our newspapers, including those friendly to Mr. O'Brien, give the most unqualified contradiction to all such statements, and the question will surely be asked: What credence can be given to Mr. O'Brien's statements with regard to affairs in Ireland when he cannot tell the truth about Canada? Mr. Parnell, too, made a grave mistake in refusing to ask legal redress for the injuries inflicted on him by the *Times* newspaper. He professes to doubt the impartiality of an English jury, when a few weeks ago he saw an English court inflict a fine of £500 on the publisher of the Black Pamphlet for making unproved accusations against himself and other Irish leaders. Such tactics as these have produced a most unfavourable impression, both in England and Canada, among persons who are at the same time lovers of justice, friends of Ireland, loyal to their Queen, to law and order, and to the institutions of their country. The Nationalist party had a great chance, but they have already done much to destroy it.

THE QUEEN'S COUNTY ELECTION CASE.

THE division on the Queen's County election case gave the Government the smallest majority of this session; a result scarcely to be wondered at considering the cause of dispute. Injustice, or even the appearance of injustice, is repugnant to every well-constituted mind, and the fact that a man may be allowed to retain his seat in Parliament after polling the minority vote requires a great deal of explanation to make it appear equitable, even to a thorough-going partisan. Mr. Baird made a very clever speech in defence of his position and conduct in the affair, and avowed his willingness to resign his seat if assured of a square vote on a fair and complete voters' list when he might offer himself for re-election. This produced a strong impression in his favour, but the fact remains that he did not get a majority of the votes cast, and that, pending another election, his opponent is entitled to the seat unless legally displaced. Several Conservative members appear to entertain this view. Prominent among these is Mr. Patterson, of Essex, well known to be one of the strongest Conservatives in the House. He is always foremost in opposition to anything savouring of trickery or unfairness, in which respect he is an honour to his party and an example to every man who thinks of his country first and his party next. There are too many bitter partisans on both sides who can only look at questions of right and wrong through party spectacles, and if there were more men like Mr. Patterson the case would have been settled in a manner much more satisfactory to the Government than the present result of a small majority after a bitter and noisy party wrangle which reflects little credit on either side.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

THE expenditure on immigration is being gradually reduced by our Provincial and Dominion Governments, and in both cases the opposition are trying to make it still smaller. Meantime the exodus—denied by the Grits in Mr. Mackenzie's time and by the Tories under the present regime—continues, and is an acknowledged fact on the other side of the