

Home Rule Question was the primary cause of the revolt of the Unionists, so it is undoubtedly the most potent force in holding them to their continued alliance with the Conservatives. Whether this question, in its peculiarly Irish shape, will now disappear for a length of time below the horizon of British politics or will still continue to play the part of chief disturber in all efforts at Parliamentary progress, will be determined mainly by the character of the leader of the Irish forces who may be brought to the front in the next Parliament. The power of obstruction will still exist, though it will depend upon the skill and determination of the chosen Home Rule leader, to what extent it shall be made available as a Parliamentary force. As to the other great reforms for which the defeated party have been fighting, such as Welsh Disestablishment, one man one vote, local veto, etc., though it is possible that they may remain in abeyance for a time, it would be idle to count on their disappearance from British politics, even in the coming Parliament, especially seeing that it is by no means to be supposed that the Liberal instincts and tendencies of the dissentients who form so influential a part of the Unionist or coalition majority, have been or can be either rooted out or suppressed.

The Glorious
Twelfth.

The glorious twelfth has come and gone, and our prognostications of its peaceful and amiable character have been amply fulfilled. Some of the processionists were not precisely in the condition which has been described as a "state of bigoted tee-totalism"; but there was not much to complain of in this respect; and there were many slight evidences that the old animosities have passed away. An enthusiastic adherent of the opposite side waved a green flag over the procession, and was not assaulted (he was at a safe elevation), but was greeted with laughter and cheers. One of the brightest of the airs played by some of the bands was the Jacobite tune, "Will Ye no Come Back Again?" Shades of Dutch William and German George, what do you think of your loyal Orangemen calling back the Young Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie?

The Pan-American
Congress

When these lines come into the hands of our readers, the Pan-American Congress of Religion and Education will be well on its way. Numbers of visitors from all parts of the United States will avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting our beautiful city, as well as "assisting" in the proceedings of the Congress. Many of our leading citizens are, unfortunately, away for their holidays; but there are some hundreds or thousands of rational beings left, so that there will be no lack of material sufficient to make the Congress a success. We would remind our readers that no concession of individual opinion is implied in being present as a speaker or hearer. No restraint is imposed upon any one save that which his own good sense, self-respect, and respect for others may dictate. We promise ourselves much instruction and illumination and stimulus from the discussions. One thing they can hardly fail to foster—peace and good will and mutual understanding; and it is by such means that the good time must be hastened when man to man the world throughout shall brothers be.

"Better Times" in
the United
States.

The evidences of returning prosperity in the United States are many and multiplying. One of the best, and, at the same time, most remarkable proofs of the reality of the improvement is the announcement from various quar-

ters of increase in wages of employees, not as the result of strikes, but by the voluntary action of employers. The *New York World*, contrasting the present condition and prospects of business and trade with the gloom and hopelessness of a year ago, says: "Now the national finances are upon a secure basis. The railroads are earning more and spending more. The factories, too, have sprung into new activity. Those which were closed for lack of business, a year ago, are now running on full time. Cotton, wheat, wool, and the other staples of agricultural production have come into increased demand at greatly increased prices. The iron, steel, and coal industries have become active and profitable, where a year ago they were nearly dead. . . . The depleted Treasury has been replenished, so that the gold reserve now stands above \$107,000,000 and, although the Government expenditures have exceeded receipts by about \$45,000,000, for the year, there is plenty of money in the Treasury, and the prospect of ample revenues for the next fiscal year is excellent." This is, of course, the voice of a friend of the Administration, interested in making the picture as bright as possible, but some of the leading Republican papers are scarcely less sanguine in their descriptions and anticipations. As on a former occasion, the full force of the depression did not fall upon Canada until a later date than that at which it was most felt in the United States, and the return of prosperity was correspondingly tardy, so it will probably be now. Nevertheless, even here the reaction is distinctly apparent, and there seems good reason to hope for the best, though the injury to the crop from the unusual drought will, it is to be feared, considerably retard the process.

McKinleyism vs.
Wilsonism.

As was to be expected, the advocates of high and low tariffs, respectively, are using all their ingenuity to explain the rapid return of prosperity in such a manner as to give the greatest possible credit to their rival parties and economic theories. The nut is manifestly a pretty hard one for the McKinleyites to crack. The *New York Evening Post*, an Independent journal, says:

"It is worth noting that almost all the concerns paying these increased wages belong to the class most highly protected under the old tariff, and that in many cases their proprietors were loud in their protestations that the Wilson bill meant ruin to their industries and starvation to their workmen. Some of the more moderate were willing to admit, in confidential conversation, that they might struggle along, but only by reducing wages to the 'European level.' But wages seem to be fast getting back to the McKinley level, and, if the present pace continues, they will soon attain a greater height. Such a phenomenon would be entirely inexplicable from the protectionist's point of view, but it is exactly what the free-traders predicted. The same thing happened in England, and for many reasons our manufacturers will be much easier to convert than the English landed interest."

On the other hand the high protectionist journals are striving to make the best of a difficult case by trying to persuade themselves and their readers that the wonderful change for the better is due to anticipations of a restored tariff under a Republican regime. But the fact probably is that even should the Republicans return to power, as they are very likely to do, at the next opportunity, they will be very slow to make radical changes in a policy under which the nation is prospering. While it is pretty certain that the return of "good times" is not primarily due to either of the causes assigned, but to others lying much deeper, the facts are, nevertheless, demonstrating, to the satisfaction, one would suppose, of everyone willing to know the truth, that the previous prosperity of the nation could not have been the result of the McKinley tariff, seeing that equal or greater