

SIR CHARLES TUPPER has reached Ottawa in safety, and has been promptly interviewed by the ubiquitous reporters at our national capital. Sir Charles was at first reticent as to the object of his journey, but after an interview with Sir John Macdonald he became more communicative. He declares that his mission has nothing whatever to do with the impending elections, and that he did not even know of them until he reached New York. His real object in crossing the Atlantic at this stormy season of the year was to discuss "very important public questions with Sir John and the Government." These very important public questions are stated to be "in connection with the proposed Canadian treaty with Spain, and certain changes in the Imperial Institute." That anybody is expected to believe such a tale as this seems incredible, more especially when Sir Charles himself intimates that he does not believe he will return to London. That he came out with a certain definite purpose fully agreed upon between himself and the head of the Government may safely be taken for granted. It may also be assumed that he will take an active part in the present campaign, and that the roar of his lungs will resound from more than one hustings. The rumour that he will oppose Mr. Blake in West Durham is probably unfounded. It is much more likely that he will lead the van of the campaign in his native province of Nova Scotia, where all his oratory and personal influence will be urgently needed by the adherents of the Government. The latest despatches from Ottawa announce, as might have been anticipated, that he will accept a place in the Government.

THE recent debate on the Edmunds Fishery Bill in the United States Senate evoked an amount of loud and splenetic talk which had much better have been left unsaid. Some of the speakers expressed themselves with a degree of acrimony and ill-temper which astonished the more sober-minded of their audience. For this display of irritation it is only reasonable that some allowance should be made, but it does not reflect much credit on the good sense of those who indulged in it. There never was a time in the history of the world when it was so desirable, in the interests of mankind, that a good understanding should exist between the two great English-speaking nations. Those who sit in the councils of the nation incur a serious responsibility when they seek to inflame animosities which arose from mutual misapprehension and mutual want of forbearance. These animosities are things of the past, and ought to have been dead and buried long ago. In this matter of the fisheries we are of opinion that we have the best of the argument, but we are far from believing that all the right is on one side and all the wrong on the other. It is a case for temperate discussion and dispassionate arbitration, not for inconsiderate aggressiveness or blatant displays of the eagle's claws.

THE Woodstock *Sentinel-Review* of Friday, January 21st, has a trenchant article on "Fiction in Politics," which deserves to receive a wide circulation throughout the land at the present time. As all readers of the newspapers know, the tone of the Canadian party press has become a crying

disgrace to the country. Nothing is too low, petty or mean for the hired journalistic assassin, whose only mission in life is to serve, according to his lights, the interests of his party. His delight is to stab his opponent in the back, or where that is impracticable to at least strike him below the belt. He has no sort of regard for truth, justice, or even common decency.

"We do not believe," says the *Sentinel-Review*, "indeed we deny that all Conservative politicians are liars; and we are quite willing to admit, too, that some Liberal politicians are—whenever a lie will serve their purpose better than the truth. About political speakers and political writers who will deliberately repeat or assert what they know to be untrue of their opponents, or in the discussion of public questions, there can be but one opinion among decent people. Whether they are party men or 'independents' they are a pest to society and to political life that should be eradicated. That such shameless liars are too common in Canada no one can deny, any more than that public opinion here too often condones their infamy. Those who will expose and run down to political death such living libels upon the honour of public life will render a high service to the country. And those newspapers that expect their reporters and leader writers to lie in the hope of securing a party advantage should be driven from the homes of the people to make way for what is decent and pure."

Canada has made considerable progress in civilization, and it is high time that public opinion should frown down this tainted survival of incapacity and savagery.

BRITISH politics are still in an unsettled and far from satisfactory condition. About this there is no doubt, but the information at our command is still so meagre that considerable doubt exists about everything else. All the "news" we receive comes so palpably tainted with an American bias that beyond the few positive statements of fact it is worthless. So far as can be judged at this distance from the scene of action, Lord Randolph Churchill has acted with an unwise precipitation which, while it has damaged the Government, will much more seriously damage his own political future by reviving in men's minds those ideas of his instability which his satisfactory record as leader of the House had done much to remove. One thing is certain: wisely or unwisely, intentionally or not, Lord Randolph's action will do more to hurry forward a sweeping civil service reform than years of agitation. The prodigal expenditure in all departments of the civil service is something quite beyond the power of ordinary belief, and the "soft snaps" are very soft and very numerous. The accession of Mr. Goschen is an event of great importance to the ministry. As a financier he stands high. As a politician he is a tower of strength among that party, so numerous and so steadily increasing in England, the "moderate" middle class; and as a man of great wealth and influence in the money markets of the world, he is of course a considerable social force. Mr. Gladstone made his reputation as Chancellor of the Exchequer during a period of unrivalled prosperity. He scored a great success by clearing the customs' tariff of a long list of articles, the tax on which never paid the cost of collection. Give Mr. Goschen fair play, and he will make quite as useful, though