

disgust at the coquetting of the Opposition with rebellion. Amid the medley of influences, political, religious, local, ethnological and commercial, which jostled each other in the late chaotic contest, the strongest seems to have been the N.P. Mr. Blake's real convictions, as to the suitableness of a Protectionist system for Canada, are, no doubt, the same as those of his financial lieutenant, Sir Richard Cartwright, and of all well-informed and disinterested judges. But after long wavering he has at last hauled down his flag upon the pretext that the increased expenditure renders the tariff necessary; whereas, if the tariff is protective, it must be, as has been said before, not a gain but a sacrifice of revenue, the very object of protection being to prevent importation. His surrender, as might have been expected, has won over no Protectionists, while it has lost him some Free Traders, especially in the Maritime Provinces, and cut him off from the benefit of the reaction which, if the N.P. is what he and we believe it to be, is in the end sure to come. He had better have stood to his guns even if he was not bold enough to encounter the N.P. with its natural antidote, Commercial Union. His strong point is the general and well-founded belief in the purity of his character and his enmity to corruption. As our champion against corruption he has still a hopeful, as well as a noble, part to play. That the moral sense of the people has been deadened by familiarity with abuse, and by indiscriminate accusations, the votes just polled by some of the most infamous dealers in corruption, only too clearly show; but though deadened it is not extinct, and a courageous advocate of reform will have his reward.

To attempt to conceal the fact that the Government has a large majority is futile. Anything may be made out of anything if you count as an Independent Sir Donald Smith, a magnate of the C. P. R., whom Mr. Blake the other day was accusing of bribing the Prime Minister by a present of diamonds to his wife, or Mr. Ross, of Lisgar, who carried a certificate of his Ministerialism under the hand of Sir John Macdonald. Yet the situation will not be understood till the new Parliament has been a month or two in Session. By what means have the Provinces, especially the Maritime Provinces, been carried? Is it true that their votes have been purchased by lavish promises of local expenditure? If it is, what will happen when the bills given by the Government fall due? Pressure for payment is not likely to be deferred when the existence of the firm and the value of its paper depend upon the continuance at its head of a chief in his seventy-third year. Above all, what will Quebec do? Will the Dominion parties, or either of them, be able really to incorporate it, and induce it to act for Dominion objects, or will it act apart and for objects of its own? If it acts for objects of its own, what will those objects be? Will they be merely pelf, or will they be ecclesiastical ascendancy and French nationality? How will Mr. Blake, supposing him to be raised to power by the Quebec vote, be able, as a Liberal, to satisfy the demands which are embodied in the Encyclical, or, as one of the English-speaking race, to lend himself to its extrusion by French encroachment? What seems most probable at present is that we shall have a counterpart of Ireland, allying itself with the two parties alternately in its own interest, overturning each of them when it has served its turn, and making government impossible. But in two or three months the curtain will rise.

SIR HENRY JAMES has been exulting over the reduction of expenditure at elections, which he takes to denote increased purity. But corruption is Protean in its forms. A borough may be corrupted by "nursing" as well as by buying votes at elections. We have known a borough in England actually rented by large Christmas gifts which were distributed among all the poorer electors, without asking any questions about their votes, they being only assured that the gifts would continue so long as the beneficent donor remained their member. Constituencies too large to be bribed individually may be bribed in the lump by promises of public jobs. We shall presently see what has been done in this way at the late elections for the Dominion. Under the old system a few rogues were bought; under the new system multitudes of respectable people are corrupted.

ONCE more we express our sincere regret that the wage-earning class were not able to send a genuine representative and spokesman to the Dominion Parliament. At the same time we once more point out that the way to success is to avoid, instead of cultivating, the appearance of antagonism towards the community at large, and to nominate genuine workmen, worthy types of their order, not "Jawsmiths," as the New York Tribune happily cites them.

CONGRESS has come to the end of the session, as usual, without having done any real business. Not only has there been no important legislation,

but even the Appropriation Bills have not been considered. The blame is laid on the House, but it really rests on the whole Machine, though the waste of time by the House, and the worthlessness of that body, are, no doubt, especially conspicuous. The system of two Chambers necessarily leads to a deadlock when the same Party is not in the majority in both; and at Washington one Chamber is Democratic, while the other is Republican. But a perpetual obstacle to the progress of legislation is the elective Presidency, for which both parties are always scheming, manoeuvring, and filibustering, instead of giving their minds to the business of legislation. In the general slaughter, the Retaliation Bill meets its doom.

THE British Government, we are told, upon the recommendation of Lord Cowper's Commission, is contemplating a great scheme of "State-aided emigration," especially to the Canadian North-west. To talk of "emigration," without specifying of what sort the emigrants are to be, is like talking of exportation without specifying the kind of goods. Farmers, with the means of setting up for themselves, or hardy farm-labourers, would be welcome in the North-west. But of such there is no redundancy in England: the number of farm-labourers in many English parishes, instead of increasing, has diminished of late years. The congestion is chiefly in the purlieus of the great cities, especially London; and to send those people to the North-west would be simply wholesale homicide. It would be almost as cruel to send thither the peasantry of Ireland, than whom, as we have said before, no people can be worse provided, more ignorant of anything that deserves the name of agriculture, or more unsuited for the life of the pioneer.

TWENTY moonlighters, armed with guns and revolvers, entered the dwelling of a farmer, named Murphy, who has two daughters. The bedrooms of the girls were entered, and the girls were forced upon their knees, while their hair was cut off and a quantity of tar was poured upon their heads. Other houses were entered, and their inmates were served in the same way. The crime of the girls was having spoken to policemen. The English *Queen*, commenting on the outrage, says that the cowardly mutilation of cattle is bad enough, but it is too bad that the Irish should offer personal violence of a degrading character to women, and their own countrywomen. With the single exception of the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish, all the outrages have been committed by the Irish on their own countrymen or countrywomen. What are nicknamed Coercion Acts are simply provisions for preventing Irishmen from butchering, maiming, torturing, and pillaging each other.

BISMARCK has again triumphed over the hydra of Parliamentary faction and cabal, though not without a struggle which showed how much depends on his personal power, and how great will be the danger of national dissolution when he is gone. His triumph is a strong guarantee for peace, which his fall and the military weakening of Germany consequent upon it, would almost certainly have tempted France to break. The large Socialistic Vote in Berlin and some other cities is not so alarming an event as it seems, since Socialism in Germany means rather impatience of military service, than desire of a social revolution. The Separatist victory in Alsace-Lorraine seems to show that it would have been better to give the reannexed Provinces an administration of their own till they had become quiet and contented, instead of incorporating them at once into the representative system of Germany, and arming them with votes, of which they were sure to make a hostile use.

SIR CHARLES DILKE, who is creeping back into public life through the Press, has an article in the *Fortnightly* on French politics, his special subject, in which he describes the popularity of Boulanger as greater than that of any one since Napoleon at the height of power, with the possible exception of Lafayette in 1830. If this is not an exaggeration, it is another curious proof of the tendency of democracy to a one-man power. Strange to say, Sir Charles Dilke scouts the notion that Boulanger is warlike. This paradox he defends by pointing out that Boulanger is constantly limiting expeditions intended to conquer colonies. But this Boulanger may do, simply from an unwillingness to expend or disperse his forces. In bringing the army, in every sense, up to the fighting point, while his organs appeal to the national desire of revenge, he is, at all events, doing that which would certainly lead to war if it were not for the qualms of the politicians, who must see that defeat would be the ruin of the Republic, and victory would make Boulanger dictator. Sir Charles Dilke asked a friend, who was going to Paris, to find out for him whether Boulanger was a man, a soldier, a mountebank, or an ass. The answer was that he was all four. It is a very dangerous combination.