

they were used against himself. One thing is certain: the breach between the Gladstone Liberals and the Hartington Unionists is steadily widening. The leaders are no longer on friendly terms, and there is every probability that this section of the House and the influence they carry is permanently lost to the Liberal party.

#### THE FISHERIES.

It appears probable that our fisheries will be protected this year at least as thoroughly as they were in 1886, and that war with the United States will not be the consequence. The Retaliation Bill has been duly labelled "buncombe," and laid on the shelf by President Cleveland, whose really remarkable common sense would not appear so very remarkable if it were not so strongly in contrast with many of the precedents of his office. An American statesman of high position must be clever, and he may be profound, but good, sound, ordinary common sense is the last thing the American public would expect from a man of eminence in public affairs. He is expected to keep that commodity for his own private use, and in all public matters to act with such brilliancy and originality as would convince even his valet; if he had one, that he is a hero indeed. Or, failing so to distinguish himself, he is expected to do just what the public neither expects nor likes, of course under the pressure of party exigencies, and to be excused accordingly by his party friends and duly abused by his enemies. Mr. Cleveland has broken a precedent, so long set and so religiously followed, that his first term will probably have passed before the public have recovered from their astonishment, and they will give him a second term just to watch what he is capable of doing. So remarkable a phenomenon as the only President, since Washington, able to rise above the conditions surrounding him, deserves careful study, and the newspaper reports of the President's sayings and doings are more worthy of attention than the long articles the *Century* is monthly devoting to Abraham Lincoln, who was just as much a hero or a martyr as was King Charles I. He was simply an honest man, who conscientiously used his abilities to the best advantage in a position of difficulty far beyond the capacity of any ordinary statesman.

#### PARLIAMENTARY HUMOUR.

THE budget debates have been generally business-like, but occasionally enlivened by flashes of wit and touches of extravagance. Mr. Mackenzie's geniality seems to increase with advancing years, and his innocent enquiries as to the duties to be levied on new portfolios and K.C.M.G. collars set the House in a roar. Mr. Cartwright's criticisms were as severe as the public had a right to expect from that source, but he made only one notable miss and one palpable hit. His laboured proof that the burdens of taxation and mortgage are equal to the value of all the farming land in Ontario proves nothing, for Henry George's millennium has not yet arrived, and land does not bear all the fiscal burdens of the country. His best hit was a comparison of the finance minister's brilliant prophecies of North-West progress with the actual facts of the case. To this no reply

was possible, the mountainous extravagance of the Government having produced little more than the proverbial mouse in the way of results.

#### UNSPORTSMANLIKE SPORT.

SEVERE, but not altogether unjust, was the witty Frenchman who pictured his ideal Johnny Bull rising on a fine morning and saying "This is lovely weather. Let us go out and kill something." Yet the true sportsman always has liberal notions of the "law" that each species of game is fairly entitled to, and recognizes fully the wide distinction between slaughter and sport. Battue-shooting is not sport, but Canadians cannot afford to throw stones while even worse practices prevail among themselves. Shooting game out of season is the most prevalent, and is not nearly so unpopular as it ought to be among the outside public, who seldom take the trouble to inform against offenders. The terrible slaughter of moose which has almost exterminated that noble game ought to be checked by the recent prohibition of all moose hunting for three years, but nothing can save large game to satisfy the curiosity of future generations but the creation of more national parks like those of Yosemite, Banff Springs and Muskoka. The fact that so many governments are taking steps in the right direction, and assuming that the people they govern have some sensibilities finer than those emanating from their stomachs, shows a trend in the right direction, but there is still something to be done in the way of educating the popular will up to a strict enforcement of game laws. Witness the recent wholesale destruction of fish by dynamite in the river Thames, by which illegal haul hundreds of fishermen will probably lose a good day's sport this summer.

#### POLITICS IN FRANCE.

THE defeat of the French Ministry on their Budget estimates indicates that the French people are at last beginning to weary under two such intolerable burdens as the interest on their debt and the army estimates. If the prudent and economical, who really form the majority in France, could not have found means to voice their murmurs, there would have been little prospect of stability for the republic that has now lasted longer than the rule of Napoleon I., and which stands third in order of duration among the different governments that have existed since the Revolution. The difficulty of forming a new ministry is one likely to be often met with in a Legislative Chamber divided by more than one principle, and therefore not readily and necessarily divisible into two main bodies—a majority and a minority—like the British House of Commons. There the difficulty is obviated by means of coalitions which have reduced four essentially independent parties into two main divisions.

#### CHECKMATE TO WILLIAM.

THE Rev. William Inglis has been so effectually sat upon by the Synod of Toronto and Kingston that the public have probably heard the last of him and his grievances for some time to come. This is well, for he had come to be generally regarded as a nuisance which it was highly desirable to abate. On the 5th inst. he addressed a letter to