

conspicuously that he should be elected again. He was, perhaps, the right man for the place when first chosen; at any rate, he had on the field won the right to the greatest honour the nation had to bestow, but beyond that nothing can be said. To speak of him as a statesman, even a politician, would be absurd; he is a soldier, but the States have no immediate need for a military President.

At last the very sensible question is being asked, why not give Mr. Hayes another term? And many are beginning to answer, why not, indeed? He has maintained a very difficult and trying position with a great deal of quiet dignity; his honesty has not been impeached; his Southern policy has confessedly been a splendid success, and nothing better could happen, perhaps, than that Mr. Hayes should have another term of office, so as to carry out the work he has inaugurated, with so good prospect of consolidating the nation.

Dr. Dawson's book on "Fossil Man" is out, and irreverent writers are asking if it is an autobiography, and whether the learned Dr. gives portraits of any of his friends? I can answer that it is not an autobiography, and there are no portraits. It is quite true that the Dr. is considerably antique in matters of theology, but it is also true that he is modern and well-versed in matters of antiquity. I would follow Dr. Dawson to the ends and the bowels of the earth, but when he soars to other worlds, I make an effort to stay behind.

The make up of the British Cabinet must be reassuring to those people and nations who imagined that Mr. Gladstone's radicalism and avowed "hands off" policy would lead to complications abroad. The Government will be practical and peaceable, if men may be judged by their past conduct and present utterances. No one can dream for a moment that such a Cabinet would consent to undertake to effect anything like a radical and revolutionary change in the English land laws, nor even in the Irish land laws. Neither are they likely to enter upon any sudden reversal of the foreign policy. They cannot wipe out the last six years and begin where they left off when they went out of office, but they must take things as they are and do the best they can. It is certain that the alliance with France, which twenty-five years have made strong, will be maintained; friendly relations with Russia will be sought after; Austria will get no encouragement in her policy of tyranny and aggression; Cyprus will be kept, of course, like some other worthless things Lord Beaconsfield acquired; the people of the Balkans will, at least, be allowed, if not encouraged, to form a free State, and "the unutterable Turk" will get no more money and no more promises.

But if the constitution of the Cabinet is reassuring in some quarters, it must cause great alarm in some others. Mr. Parnell and his 'ites are completely dished. They looked for a purely Whig Government, which would have given the Home Rulers a chance of applying to the Radicals for alliances, offensive and defensive, but by the admission of Mr. Chamberlain to the Cabinet, and Sir Charles Dilke in an influential position just outside, the Radical support is not only secured, but made enthusiastic. The great nonconformist bodies will be satisfied to wait for "disestablishment by development," for they know that while they have won over the sentiment of the country to their way of thinking, the matter of disendowment is not yet within the domain of practical politics.

I am curious to see what will be done with Bradlaugh. For, after all, this is a great and important question. The chosen representatives of the great British public will be called upon to pronounce upon the ethics of Atheism. Mr. Bradlaugh is a splendid speaker, a man who lives a good moral life, but an avowed republican and Atheist. He is by no means a man well versed in matters of science and metaphysics, and cannot be classed with such men as Huxley, Tyndall, Darwin and Spencer, so that he finds it easy to declare himself an Atheist out and out. And for the first time in English history Atheism is brought into practical politics. What can be done? Mr. Bradlaugh will not promise to sustain the Queen—that is to say, the Constitution—for he

does not believe it ought to be sustained; and he will not swear by God to do his duty, for he does not believe in God. This is very different from the case of the Jews or the Catholics. They recognized the teaching that there is one Supreme Being, to whom we are under moral obligation to do certain things; but Mr. Bradlaugh does not recognize any Supreme Being—not even public opinion—so that he has no standard of morality, and no defined sphere of duty. I do not see how the House of Commons can modify the oath to suit his case nor how he can represent any constituency in all England.

The political rulers of France are determined to carry out their policy of hostility to the Jesuits. The bishops have moved all of heaven and earth they could command. M. Lancy, a Republican and Catholic, has introduced an interpellation in the Chamber of Deputies, contesting the validity of the ancient statutes cited by the Government in support of the decree against unauthorised religious congregations; but M. Cazot, Minister of Justice, has convinced the Chamber that the laws are perfectly valid and have not fallen into disuse, and that the Republic was under obligation to defend itself against such adversaries to civil law as the Jesuits. So the Jesuits will have to go, and stay away for some time to come.

EDITOR.

### TORONTO AND ABOUT.

Art in Toronto is carried to excess, especially in painting. Our local artists seem to think they are accomplishing something remarkable if they mechanically turn out any number of water-colour sketches, from one to a hundred in a week. It is the veriest nonsense for these men to presume, because they turn out vast numbers of sketches quickly, they are therefore to be classed amongst first-rate artists. If Toronto artists would study more the finish of their pictures, and the quality of the execution than the quantity, the consummation of their hopes would likely be more speedily realised. The Ontario Society of Artists are to give an exhibition next month, and from what I can learn the pictures are not likely to very far surpass those of previous exhibitions. If this be true, it does not speak very well for the advance of the Fine Arts in Canada.

The Council of the Ontario School of Art, however, may be congratulated, not upon the great success of the work done by the students, but upon the marked improvement made since last season. The students' exhibition, although still very school-boyish, is far in advance of previous years, and if the students excel in the same ratio for the next five years, their exhibitions will be worth witnessing. No advantage can be gained in praising the Ontario School of Art too highly. Criticism and not flattery is what is needed; and severe criticism alone is what the Society is at present entitled to. The students are by no means sufficiently advanced or proficient to merit compliment; and the sooner they understand this the better for them and the Society. Toronto journals are in the habit of lauding to the skies the mediocre ability of many of the members of this school and the Ontario Society of Artists.

The Ontario Legislature undertakes the indebtedness of this Society, and the annual donation is increased. This is a very good thing for the Society, and I suspect will be found to be a very good thing for Ontario. Very little harm can be done in fostering the Fine Arts of a country.

Half a dozen times in the year an occasion gives rise to the question, Are female physicians desirable? This question has been asked and answered over and over again in Toronto. Debating societies have made it a subject of special study, and the decision has been in the negative. The question is pertinent in Toronto, as female practitioners are becoming numerous and notorious. There should be some sort of guarantee demanded that this doubtful class of physicians understand thoroughly the science of medicine other than through the medium of a \$20 fee to a Philadelphia diploma college. Female suffrage does not appear to be appreciated in Toronto.