

Ayr; it has lost Carnarvon, where the Welsh Church question no doubt has force; it did not lose Windsor, though the Home Rule cable said it did. Appearances are at present favourable to the passage of its great measure, the Irish Land Bill. Lord Derby's judgment on such matters is usually a sound one, and he is certainly right in saying that the denunciations of the Parnellites are the highest praise of the Bill, inasmuch as they show that in the opinion of those agitators the Bill is likely, by satisfying agrarian demands, to allay political agitation. Political incendiarism in Ireland has never had any life except that which it derived from agrarian discontent. O'Connell's Repeal movement, though ostensibly carried on for years, can hardly be said ever to have assumed a serious form; it was little more than a standing pretext for collecting O'Connell's rent. Smith O'Brien's rebellion came at once to an end in a cabbage garden. Of all the murders, one only, that in the Phoenix Park, has been political; the rest have been agrarian. The political agitators were very far from being zealous supporters of Mr. Gladstone's Land Bills, because they knew that the success of those measures would be the death of their trade. Mr. Gladstone appears to be somewhat wavering in his opposition to the present Bill; at least his utterances do not satisfy the Parnellites; and though in his present mood he is pretty sure to find some warrant not only for opposition, but for obstruction, his hesitation can hardly fail to tell upon that moderate section of his followers which in its heart wants to see an end of the Irish question. That an agrarian settlement would for the present damp and perhaps extinguish the political conflagration is pretty certain; not so certain is it that the settlement itself would last. The land and climate of Ontario are far better suited for grain at least than those of Ireland, while between the energy, intelligence and frugality of the two sets of farmers there can be no comparison; yet the farms of Ontario, as we see, are heavily mortgaged. There is too much reason to fear that the creation of a peasant proprietary in Ireland, though it is assumed to be the grand panacea, would