

miserable man, now in the Kingston penitentiary, was spoken of plainly as "the murderer" while the case was still before a court of law, and even before the trial began. Surely, an outrage on justice. At the present moment Clara Ford is declared to be a murderess by the same agencies, a proceeding quite likely to prejudice the public mind, and, of course, the jury who will have to render a verdict in her case. How long is this to be allowed?

Toronto has been favoured lately with Distinguished Visitors. visits from one or two distinguished men of letters, who are travelling through Canada and the neighbouring Republic lecturing as they go. It was a pleasure to welcome and to listen to both Dr. Conan Doyle and Mr. David Christie Murray, the latter of whom is an orator as well a novelist. Whilst in Toronto, Dr. Doyle remarked to a reporter that the first favourable review he ever had was printed in a Toronto journal, the name of which he had forgotten. He dates his success from its publication. We are sorry that Dr. Doyle has forgotten the name of THE WEEK, but we are very glad to know that our appreciative review of "Micah Clarke" was of so much benefit to him. By the way, it is to be hoped that should Mr. Murray take it into his clever head to write anything about Canada that he will deal more kindly with us than he did with the Australians. It is gratifying to know that, after lecturing in New York on the 10th December, Mr. Murray will again visit Toronto and deliver one of his fine lectures in the Massey Music Hall.

China and Japan. With the fall of Port Arthur, the last hope of the Chinese must have departed. Their utter inability to offer any effective resistance to the advance of their victorious foe has been proved too clearly to admit of further doubt, even in the minds of the Celestials, themselves. This result was almost a foregone conclusion from the first great victory of the Japanese in Corea. It seems, indeed, impossible to doubt that the moral effect of those first triumphs, acting upon both nations, has done much to render the succession of easy victories possible. China is ready, we are now told, to make any terms with the victor, short of a cession of territory. Should Japan agree to accept a very heavy indemnity, which is the utmost which can now be expected of her, what would be the effect upon the future of China? The prestige of the reigning dynasty would be gone. The resources of the Empire would be crippled for long years to come. The Powers seem to be greatly alarmed lest the integrity of the Empire should be broken, and chaos follow among the numerous tribes and races which compose it. But with the weakness and humiliation and loss of prestige of such a defeat would not chaos pretty surely come in any case? Is there any principle of unity, any common bond of interest or sentiment, strong enough to hold together the great agglomeration of peoples, once the reverence for the ancient royal house was destroyed? On the other hand, what ground is there for hoping that Japan will prove more magnanimous than Germany, under similar circumstances? May she not use with effect the Bismarckian argument, drawn from the necessity of taking hostage for the future good behaviour of her rival and enemy? In any event, it seems not at all improbable that the ultimate effect will be the upbreak of the ancient kingdom. This might and would, probably, lead to the horrors of internal war and anarchy. But the strong arm of the European powers would find in that an irresistible argument for intervention and the partition of the Empire. Who can say that this might not be the best thing in the long run for the world and for humanity?

The French in Madagascar.

Though the French representatives have granted the credit asked by the Government for the campaign in Madagascar, the difficulties in carrying the expedition to a successful conclusion are neither few nor small. The population of the Island is probably considerably larger than that of Canada. The Malagasy, especially the Hovas, the predominant tribe, are brave and warlike. Their power of resistance will depend largely, of course, upon the strength of their military organization, and their knowledge of modern weapons and military tactics. Upon these points no one seemed to know very much, the forces at the command of the Malagasy Government being variously estimated all the way from practically nil up to 70,000 well drilled and well armed men. If, however, France sets about the conquest—for such may, we suppose, not unfairly be regarded as the ultimate aim of the expedition, however disguised—in earnest, and her movements are not too much hampered by the powerful opposition they are sure to meet with at home, there can be little doubt as to the result, so far as operations on the seaboard are concerned. But with the capture of the important seaports, or even the defeat of the Malagasy forces on land, the task of the conquerors would probably be only commenced. The French have not hitherto been successful as colonizers—it is doubtful whether any republic can be—and the task of ruling over six or seven millions of unwilling subjects, occupying a territory larger than that of Great Britain, would be a formidable one even for the wisest and most vigorous colonizing nation. It is not unlikely that the movement may stop considerably short of complete subjugation, as the French Chambers soon tire of voting large sums for colonizing expeditions.

Russia and the Dardanelles.

However idle it would be to base any predictions upon the rumours which are, or were last week, afloat in England and on the continent with reference to an alleged *rapprochement* between Russia and Great Britain, it would be folly to disregard wholly such indications as those which have been given to the public of the two nations by the statement in Lord Rosebery's recent speech, on the one hand, and by the marked and even ostentatious attention shown to the Prince of Wales by the young Czar, on the occasion of his father's funeral, on the other. In view of the stress which has long been laid by the British and other maritime powers upon the closing of the Dardanelles against the passage of men-of-war of all nations—a restriction designed in a large measure, no doubt, to keep the Russian fleet from having direct access to the Mediterranean—one is disposed, at first thought, to cry "Impossible!" "Absurd!" at the idea of Britain's withdrawing her objection, either openly or tacitly, and permitting the provision of the treaties of 1841 and 1856 in this particular to be quietly set aside. Yet, on fuller reflection, it is not so clear, after all, that this might not be a good stroke of policy as well as a generous concession on Great Britain's part. There can be no doubt that the humiliation involved in this clause of the treaties in question is particularly and constantly galling to Russia, and is one of the prime causes of that perpetual unrest on the part of her rulers which keeps the powers chronically watchful and suspicious of her movements. It may be questionable policy to keep a great nation thus constantly chafing against a barrier which prevents her from taking advantage of a route marked out by nature as a highway for trade. It is just possible that an act of generosity might now be appreciated by the great northern power, and might lead to a state of feeling which would be a better safeguard against aggression than any treaty restriction can possibly furnish. All Europe will anxiously await further developments.