

judges. It is not unlikely that the chief difficulty in the negotiations will arise from Mr. Blaine's unwillingness to withdraw from the untenable position into which he suffered his zeal to hurry him. It is thought that the British proposal to admit Russia as a third party was devised to make it easy, as it certainly should, for Mr. Blaine to retreat. It is to be hoped that he will do so, so far as is necessary, in order to secure a dispassionate re-consideration of the whole question.

THERE can no longer be any doubt that the great Democratic victory in the United States was the outcome mainly of a genuine and spontaneous revolt against the McKinley Bill and the policy of which it is the exponent. Other causes, of more or less local or personal kinds, no doubt contributed to the result, but the most noteworthy fact remains that there has been a great uprising against the system of exorbitant and unnecessary taxation which, under the guise of protection, is artificially increasing the cost of many of the necessities of life in the United States. It adds to the significance of this fact that the Republican party was defeated mainly on the farm, though many of the obnoxious provisions of the new Tariff Act were ostensibly devised for the protection of the farmer. The Republican leaders are, it may readily be believed, in a quandary, and the party is in some danger of being further weakened by divided counsels. Some are very naturally disposed to bow to the storm by modifying the tariff in some of its most objectionable features as a concession to the popular feeling, and more especially by promoting reciprocity with neighbouring countries on this continent. Others are of opinion that the result is due to a want of intelligent appreciation on the part of the people of the great benefits conferred upon them by the policy of high protection, and that all that is needed to bring them to a better state of mind is a process of education such as two or three years of the operation of the McKinley Bill can hardly fail to bring. On the other hand, those Democratic leaders who have been opposed to the policy of high protection are naturally greatly encouraged. Many of them will, it is very likely, move on to more advanced positions, and make either Revenue Tariff, or even absolute Free Trade, their watchword in the approaching campaign. When we pointed out some months ago that the fundamental questions involved in the theories of Free Trade and Protection were up for discussion in the United States as never before, and that the ultimate result could hardly be favourable to the latter, we little thought that such progress as that now indicated would appear so soon. It is very unlikely that the process can stop where it now is. It is rather probable that the real contest has only begun, and that the tariff question will be the battle ground of United States politics for years to come.

THE sequel of the recent defeat of M. Tricoupis, the late Greek premier, and the advent of his rival, M. Delyannis, to the premiership, has apparently come sooner than might have been anticipated. Read in the light of the late political overturn in Greece, the brief despatch from Berlin, which appeared in the morning papers the other day, has a significance out of proportion to the prominence given it. The pith of that despatch is that the leaders of the Governments of Germany and Austria have deemed it necessary to intimate very decidedly to the Government at Athens that, in the event of its openly fomenting and assisting simultaneous risings in Crete, Epirus and Macedonia, as it proposed to do, the Dreibrund's squadron would blockade the coasts of Greece, thus rendering useless the navy upon which the Government must chiefly rely for success in a struggle with Turkey. The decisive character of this note is said to have prevented the outbreak of a blaze which would have been pretty sure to end in a great European conflagration. The despatch may not be fully authentic, but it has certainly an air of verisimilitude. It is well known in Europe that the unexpected and crushing defeat of Premier Tricoupis, after four years of wise and successful administration during which he had greatly improved the general influence and financial credit of his country, was due directly to the fact that his policy had not been bold enough to suit the mood of his countrymen. He had not done enough to advance the "Pan-Hellenic idea," which is generally the recovery of the Grecian countries now under the dominion of the Turk, and especially the emancipation of Crete. So strong had the popular feeling become that M. Tricoupis, who is regarded as the ablest of living Greeks, was himself fain to assure the electors that his cautious policy was designed

but as a preparation for a time of action which was not yet fully ripe. When that time should have come, the Government, he declared, would again devote itself to the Pan-Hellenic idea.

"The kingdom," he said in a speech made on the eve of the elections, "is ready to make still greater sacrifices, not for the good of the citizens of the kingdom, but for the great Hellenic idea for which it is working and will work, and towards the realization of which Europe has contributed. To-day we approach the end of the first period. We have not reached the stage of immediate action, but we are standing before the barrier; we are standing ready, so that when it falls we should take up the fight in earnest, assuring success for our end."

The speech, which was regarded as "almost a declaration of war on behalf of all non-enfranchised Greek communities," came too late. M. Delyannis, the Opposition leader, was put in power with an immense majority. The new premier had a reputation for rashness, which bid fair to qualify him for the dangerous enterprise which has fired the Greek imagination. The first result seems to be indicated, as we have said, in the brief despatch from Berlin. M. Delyannis has been checkmated at his first move. Whether he and his compatriots at home and in the restive Turkish provinces will for the present make a virtue of necessity, and wait in hope of a more favorable moment, or will rashly seize the first occasion to precipitate a struggle, which will be made hopeless, not by Turkish prowess but by the cautious policy of the triple alliance, remains to be seen. It is impossible not to sympathize with the brave descendants of this proud historic race, in the islands, in Macedonia, and in other parts of the Turkish dominion, in the aspirations which make them ready to face almost any odds and dare almost any danger in a desperate struggle for freedom. But the exigencies of the European situation afford them little room for hope at present.

PROMINENT CANADIANS—XXXI.

SKETCHES of the following Prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Sir Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander Macenzie, Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander MacLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sandford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir William Buell Richards, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P., Hon. Honoré Mercier, Q.C., Hon. William Macdougall, C.B., Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts, M.A., George Paxton Young, M.A., Hon. Auguste Real Angers, Principal Caven, D.D., William Ralph Meredith, LL.D., Q.C., M.P.P., Sir William Pearce Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., Senator the Hon. John Macdonald, the Hon. John Hawkins Hagarty, D.C.L., Chief Justice of Ontario, Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, and Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion.

THE MOST REV. CORNELIUS O'BRIEN, ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCH-BISHOP OF HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

THE son of Irish parents—a Wexford County father, and a mother whose birth-place was in the great County of Cork—Cornelius O'Brien was born near New Glasgow, in Queen's County, Prince Edward Island, in the year 1843. His school education began under Robert Laird, an elder brother of the Honourable David Laird. Amongst his school mates were the future Lieut.-Governor of the North-West Territories, and the Honourable William W. Sullivan, now Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island. When about thirteen years of age, the future Archbishop left New Glasgow and went to school at Pubnico, chiefly with the view of learning French. Here he spent something over two years, and, after some months at home, went, at the age of sixteen, into mercantile business at Summerside. He continued at this occupation for some three years, and, when nineteen years of age, realized what had long been the strongest desire of his heart, and entered Saint Dunstan's College, Charlottetown, to study for the priesthood. After two years well spent at Saint Dunstan's, he went, in 1864, to the great College of Propaganda in Rome. Here he might have entered the class of Philosophy, but wishing to perfect himself in classics chose to begin with Rhetoric. In the curriculum of Propaganda the rhetoric year is followed by two years of philosophy, under which head are included logic, psychology, metaphysics and ethics, as well as mathematics and physics. At the competitive examination, which closed the second year of philosophy, he won the gold medal for excellence. This medal is awarded only to a student who takes first place in three out of the four subjects to which the second year in philosophy is devoted. Young O'Brien not only took the necessary three first places but stood second in the fourth subject. How difficult an achievement this was may be judged from the fact that the classes of Propaganda are attended not only by the students of that institution, but by those of the American, Irish, and Greek colleges as well. The whole number of students in attendance at the Propaganda lectures in 1867 was about two hundred and sixty, of whom nearly forty were competitors with the subject of this sketch at the close of the course of philosophy. When it is remembered that those young men were intellectually the pick of the Catholic

world, and when attention is called to the further fact that, at any rate in recent times, the coveted medal is not won more than once in ten years, one can begin to realize what a combination of mental ability and continuous effort is demanded from the successful aspirant. After a brilliant course of theological study extending over four years, young O'Brien left Rome in 1871, a doctor of divinity and of philosophy. Returning to Prince Edward Island, he became professor and also prefect of studies in Saint Dunstan's College, and for two academic years devoted over five hours of each working day to imparting to others portions of the vast store of knowledge which he had himself acquired. In October, 1873, Doctor O'Brien was transferred to the Cathedral, as principal priest in charge, but remained for less than a year. His health gave way, and, in September, 1874, he was appointed to the parish of Indian River, which is in Prince County and near Summerside. The next eight years were passed almost without interruption in the quiet and comparative leisure of this retreat. But Doctor O'Brien's leisure was not idle. During this period he wrote and published his "Philosophy of the Bible Vindicated," a book of some three hundred pages, and one which, from its character, must have involved an amount of mental work out of all proportion to its size, and also "Mater Admirabilis," a theological and devotional work on the Virgin Mary.

In 1880 Doctor O'Brien accompanied Bishop McIntyre, of Charlottetown, to Rome, in the capacity of secretary, and in the following year revisited the Eternal City, in company with Archbishop Hannan, of Halifax, and at his special request. It would appear that during those two visits Doctor O'Brien must have made a favourable impression upon the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome; because, not long after the death of Archbishop Hannan, he was chosen to fill the vacant See. The Bull nominating Doctor O'Brien Archbishop, of Halifax, bore date on December 2nd, 1882, and his consecration took place at Saint Mary's Cathedral, in Halifax, on the feast of Saint Agnes—the 21st of January, 1883.

As a rule, the men chosen to be archbishops are already bishops, or if not, are vicars-general, or, at least, priests, well known in the capitals of the respective archdioceses; and some surprise was felt at the nomination of a priest from a comparatively obscure parish in Prince Edward Island to the metropolitan See of the Lower Provinces, while doubts were hinted by a few as to the wisdom of the choice made by the authorities at Rome. Events have justified the action of those authorities in departing from the course usually followed; while most of the doubters are now free to admit that it was they themselves who were mistaken.

The life of Archbishop O'Brien, since his assumption of office, has been a particularly busy one. The writer has not the information needed to give the details of the Archbishop's work, and, even if he had, this is, perhaps, hardly the occasion for doing so with any degree of minuteness. There can be no objection, however, to giving an outline of what has been done.

In 1883, the new archbishop began the work of erecting Saint Patrick's Church, in the City of Halifax, which had been contemplated by his predecessor. This work, which cost some \$75,000, was completed in 1885, and, what is remarkable in these days, without incurring any appreciable debt. In 1884, the building of Saint Joseph's Orphanage, which had been destroyed by fire, was re-erected. In the same year Archbishop O'Brien took part in the Council of Baltimore, and took advantage of his visit to make arrangements under which a colony of Christian Brothers came to Halifax, in 1885, and took charge of Saint Patrick's Home, a Reformatory for Catholic boys, then being opened. These undertakings did not, however, absorb the whole of the Archbishop's time and thought. In 1885, he published "After Weary Years," a novel based largely on his reminiscences of the Garibaldian attempts to gain possession of Rome, which preceded the conquest of 1870. In 1886, the Archbishop visited Rome, and in the same year took part in establishing at Halifax the Victoria Infirmary, a private hospital conducted by the Sisters of Charity, which has met with a gratifying measure of success. In 1887, he established an Infants' Home, which he placed under the care of the same sisterhood, and which shelters some twenty-five helpless little ones. In the same year he began the erection of the church of Saint Agnes, a handsome specimen of Roman architecture, which, being completed and paid for, has recently been dedicated; and also began the building of a fine new brick school-house for girls in the northern portion of Halifax, which was completed in 1888, and leased by the City School Board for a term of twenty years. As if all this was not enough, the Archbishop, in 1887, published a "Life of Saint Agnes." In 1888, the building of a new brick glebe-house for Saint Patrick's was begun, and in the following year the work was completed. Saint Joseph's Church, upon which work had been going on for some time, was finished in 1888; and in the same year an academy for boys was opened by the Christian Brothers on His Grace's recommendation. The year 1889 saw a fine brick school-house for girls begun in the southern end of the city, and the present year has seen the building completed. During 1889 certain costly and much needed repairs to the front of Saint Mary's Cathedral were finished. In the month of May last the Archbishop purchased the dwelling of the late Honourable James Butler, to be used as an archiepiscopal residence; and, shortly afterwards, a colony of nuns of the Good Shepherd came,