

of mismanagement abroad and triumphant treason at home may never be revived. The electors have emphatically condemned the late Government on both accounts; and it is the duty of their successors to fulfil the new mandate—as much to make the Union a reality, as to administer the foreign affairs of the Empire in the interest of the Empire instead of its enemies.

THE Italian papers state that the Pope has purchased the Palace Mignanelli, for the sum of £60,000, and intends fitting it up as a printing and publishing office, which will probably entail an additional expense of about £20,000. It is said that His Holiness has long been engaged in publishing religious works, and that the business has grown to large dimensions.

THERE are said to be 5,000 patent medicines of American concoction now on the market, and the trade amounts to twenty-two million dollars per annum. Of this, ten million dollars are expended in advertising, and the net profits are set down at five million dollars. What a basis for newspaper prosperity to rest on! Is it wonder that newspapers have their moral vagaries, when they are so largely supported by this huge bribe?

ONE of the most curious of French duels was a meeting which took place between a cavalry officer and a senator. The senator had choice of weapons, and in a most chivalrous spirit, although he had never been on a horse, elected to fight with sabres on horseback. The combat took place, and was brought to an abrupt termination by the cavalry officer tumbling off his charger. It is only fair to his memory to state that the accident was due to the fact that when standing up in his stirrups to smite his antagonist, one of the leathers broke, and over he went.

THE *English Churchman* notes as “one unfortunate result” of the late general election that a greater number of Roman Catholics have been sent to Parliament than at any general election since the Papal James II. lost the throne of England. Five Romanists are now members—two being Conservatives and three Gladstonites. The fact that of nine Jewish candidates who solicited the suffrages of the electors, seven have been returned, in each case with a decisive majority, does not seem to have caused uneasiness to the *Churchman*, who, however, can surely not believe that a money lender is any better a citizen than a member of an ancient Catholic family.

AFTER wondering whether Sir Adolphe Caron represented the soldiers or the sailors when he responded to the toast of the “Army and Navy” at the Lord Mayor’s banquet, one next wonders what reference he could have made to the Canadian assistance sent to Egypt that elicited loud cheers. Probably the company were not disposed to be critical; but surely they must have remembered while he was speaking that whereas New South Wales sent troops to the Soudan at the colony’s sole cost, all the assistance sent from Canada, at the cost of the British Government, were a few raftsmen and *voyageurs*, to whom the Government had besides to pay higher wages than they could earn in Canada.

THE extinction of “starlight” in the day light is not due to the vapours of the atmosphere; but to the “stronger” vibrations of sunlight, which prevent our eyes perceiving the weaker vibrations of starlight, exactly as a stronger sound, say a cannon-shot, prevents us from hearing a smaller noise, say a mouse piping, or, as is well-known, a larger disturbance in water extinguishes a smaller one. The smaller noise, the smaller sound waves, and the smaller light vibrations are not perceived by our senses when the greater impressions or disturbances occupy them. There is not the slightest necessity of elaborate theories on “ether,” when the limit of the susceptibility of our senses offers a sufficient explanation why we cannot see the light of all and every star in the universe.

THE London correspondent of the *Manchester Courier* writes:—“The Duke of Norfolk, whose life-long intimacy with Cardinal Newman is still closely maintained, endeavoured, when Cardinal Manning issued his deliverance on Home Rule, to obtain from Cardinal Newman a counterblast against disruption. Cardinal Newman is more of the English and less of the Roman Catholic than his fellow-pervert, Cardinal Manning. He has declined, however, to follow Cardinal Manning’s example, although in sympathy with the Duke of Norfolk in condemning Cardinal Manning’s interference. Cardinal Newman’s health is now most uncertain, and his condition altogether precarious. Symptoms of paralysis, attended with aphasia, indicate the break-up of a fine, if not a broad and robust, nature.

THE Paris newspapers, writes the *Times* correspondent there, are not very successful in their attempts to give Mr. Gladstone’s title in the original English. Some give it as “Great Old Man,” others as “Old Great Man.” They deserve credit, however, for no longer speaking of “Lord Gladstone,” which appellation a few years ago was not unfrequent. If the better-informed journalists twitted their contemporaries with the blunder, the triumphant retort was that he was First Lord of the Treasury, and consequently must be a lord; but Mr. Gladstone’s loss of the Premiership twice in thirteen months seems to have shaken the French belief in his nobility. Even second-rate journalists have an inkling of the absurdity of supposing him to be a lord when in office, and a simple “Mr.” when in Opposition.

THE prospects of the Women Suffragists are looking brighter of late. The English Women’s Suffrage Society had its annual meeting in London the other day, and everybody was in high spirits. Since the last great extension of the suffrage in England, it is argued, the ground has been cut away from under the feet of their opponents: it is absurd to talk about the “unfitness” of women for political privileges when an Act of Parliament has made a capable citizen of practically every adult male person. That women understand politics, and are a good deal interested in them, they have shown very convincingly at the last and the present general election. And, best of all, a majority of the Conservatives and Gladstonian Liberals elected to the new House are said to be in favour of the suffrage for women.

APPROPOS of the fisheries question, the London *Spectator* says of the new Foreign Secretary: “With a fisheries dispute on hand with the United States, there is at least some comfort in the prospect of having so reasonable a Foreign Secretary, and one so well acquainted with the policy and attitude of the American Republic, as Lord Iddesleigh. As Sir Stafford Northcote, he took part in one of the best acts of Mr. Gladstone’s first Administration, the Alabama Treaty,—a part for which he did not escape the censure of his own friends. With him at the head of our foreign affairs, we shall at least have no reason to apprehend either impudence or boastfulness, and we may hope that he will show a wise firmness and tenacity. He is above all things rational, and though rationality does not always carry its due weight with Powers like Russia, with such States as the American Union, already friendly in disposition, and full of practical common-sense, Lord Iddesleigh is just the man to negotiate successfully.”

JUST as M. de Freycinet had succeeded in putting quite an innocent face on the New Hebrides business comes news from New Caledonia blurring out the whole truth of the affair. The expedition was secretly organised, secretly despatched, and was unquestionably meant to be a surprise. The idea was to confront the English Foreign Office with a *fait accompli*. Thanks to the energy with which the Australian Governments have spoken, there is an end of doubt. On no terms will they consent to the acquisition by the French of authority over the New Hebrides, and so almost the last business Lord Rosebery had to do was to inform M. de Freycinet that the existing treaty must be observed. So far, well. But the awkward fact remains that, though the act of annexation has been disavowed or explained away, a French force is still on one of the islands. The pretext for sending it there is of the thinnest; but there it is, and the Australians will decline to be satisfied till arrangements have been made for its withdrawal.

NOTICING a short address delivered by Lady Goldsmid on the occasion of unveiling a drinking fountain erected on the Thames Embankment by women in gratitude to the late Mr. Fawcett for his services in the cause of women, the London *Spectator* in answer to an ironical reference made by Lady Goldsmid to the “masculine conviction that women neither could nor should trouble themselves about public or political affairs. They had their households, their husbands, and their children to look after and attend to,”—observes that “the very fact that women have their husbands and children to attend to should be a reason for their taking a deep interest in public affairs and political matters, and exerting a great influence over them, not for neglecting them. But it is quite another question what the nature of that influence should be, and how it can be best exerted. For our own part, we do not think it would be increased, but diminished, by forcing women into those positions which must be and must remain eminently combative and militant.”

A WRITER in a French newspaper gives particulars of an interview he had last winter, in Chicago, with one Harry Colcord, now scene-painter to a