

progress and prosperity of the country. All seeming little differences with respect to British Columbia and other matters, will be readily explained and adjusted. Mr. Geo. Brown follows the Premier in a few days, and will return, it is said, to his adopted country as Sir George Brown.

THERE are many things which indicate that Mr. Gladstone may at no distant day again become Prime Minister of Great Britain. Mr. Disraeli is becoming old, and it is said feeble. His party is not so strong as it was a short time ago. His ostensibly two main pillars of strength—"beer and the bible"—will not always support him as well as they did during the last general election. The *Nation* newspaper of Toronto pertinently says:—

"Circumstances court Mr. Gladstone's resumption of his command. For the close division in the Burials Bill and the change in the results of by-elections are not the only things which indicate that the political tide in England begins to turn. It can no longer be doubted that the Government, though on ordinary occasions it retains its great majority in the House, is rapidly losing the confidence both of Parliament and of the nation. Its legislation will evidently come to nothing this session, as it did in the last: and though the nation is far from being in an earnest or strenuous mood, and in fact discarded Mr. Gladstone for being earnest and strenuous, it does not like to see mere failure. A shrewd and cool observer says: 'The superstition prevalent in England and, like many more deeply rooted superstitions, sedulously fostered by the Tory party and the Tory press, that Mr. Disraeli, in the rôle of Lord Palmerston, is a heaven-born leader of the House of Commons is fast dying out. People are awakening to serious doubts of his infallibility. It does not require a Political Expostulation to proclaim it to the world. He makes small mistakes almost every night and large ones almost every week. But he has the knack of recovering himself by a happy hit from time to time, and these recoveries prolong the death-bed superstition of his infallibility.' It seems doubtful whether, even if his health holds out, the Conservative Premier will get through a third session without foundering; and in that case, whether Mr. Gladstone is still 'The People's William' or not, he is William The Inevitable, and we shall see him in power again. Of the suspicion of Popish leanings, which did him much harm with the masses, he has pretty well purged himself; while the Publicans and the other 'harassed interests' have had time to forget, if not to forgive."

THE frequency and destructiveness of fires in centres of population point strongly to the urgent need of greater precautions and