

ment will be turned to home affairs. Not a movement will be made in the direction of the disestablishment of the Church of England, for Mr. Gladstone has made up his mind that the problem of disendowment is too difficult for any living man to solve. It is quite possible that the Irish land laws will be overhauled, but the English law of primogeniture will, in all likelihood, remain untouched.

But what will be British policy toward the Colonies under the Liberal Government? It is a little hazardous to discuss this matter in Canada, for a statement of facts is usually taken for the advocacy of a scheme. An effort to estimate passing events, and in the light of past and present forecast the future, is regarded and denounced as disloyalty, and such like dreadful crimes. However, I shall try it a little longer, in the hope that the tone of criticism adopted toward the SPECTATOR will tone down, or that if it does not I shall have strength to survive it. I do not think that the Government, which is to be, will take any decided step of its own accord to get rid of the responsibilities the Colonial system imposes upon the Imperial Parliament. Had we not adopted the National Policy the relation of Canada to England would not have been a matter for discussion; but now Sir A. Galt's mission makes it imperative that our case shall be considered, and whenever the demand is made for a direct gift or guarantee for building the Pacific Railway, I shall be surprised if we are not told that since we have undertaken to decide upon commercial protection we had better assume the arrangement of all our other affairs. It is certain that we shall get no gift of money from the Home Government; and as we do not desire to change our relations with Great Britain it would be better, perhaps, not to raise the question in any way.

Even the *Globe* of Toronto has taken the alarm, and ventures to hope and believe, "that the Liberal party will not suppose that their victory is an encouragement to refrain from an Imperial, as well as a 'jingo' party. Mr. Gladstone's Government was condemned in 1874 in part because he had gone to the extreme directly opposite (will the careful writer in the *Globe* tell us when and where he saw an extreme a little to the right or to the left or behind?) to that with which Lord Beaconsfield may be charged." The *Globe* is wrong altogether. In 1874 there was little or no discontent with Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy; "*sanitas sanitatum, omnia sanitas*" upset the Government then. The people desired a change, and a change they effected. The *Globe* means to refer to British interest in the colonies, of course, for the idea of an Imperial Federation seems to have penetrated its skull, but the *Globe* may rest assured that if the question should come up for debate it will have a short shrift and a speedy execution.

Miss Burdett-Coutts has long been a great success in the matter of spending money liberally and wisely, and it would have been all the better for her general reputation for good sense and charity if she had kept aloof from politics. Her first venture in that region was a failure. When asked to contribute something to the fund for the election of Mr. Gladstone's son to Parliament, she risked a public expression of opinion as to the relative merits of the two great parties in the matter of foreign policy. Although Mr. Gladstone, the younger, has not secured the seat, Miss Burdett-Coutts has made it manifest that she had better let political questions alone.

Next to the triumph of Mr. Gladstone at Midlothian, I count the triumph of the electors of Stoke in relegating Dr. Kenealy to private life. They returned him to Parliament out of what the Americans would call "pure cussedness;" but a merciful Providence has permitted them to return to their moral and political senses.

Northampton has returned Bradlaugh and Labouchere. The churches ought to set up two or three mission stations in that town.

The Mansion House Relief Committee announce that they have received since Thursday's meeting the sum of £2,600, of which amount £1,000 was received from Brisbane and £1,500 from Melbourne, Australia. The total amount received to date is £134,481, and the amount expended £90,086. Grants were made at Saturday's meeting amounting to £1,150. The total amount received from Australia thus far is £83,000. The Duchess of Marlborough, writing to the Lord

Mayor of London acknowledging the receipt of £2,000, says the distress is on the wane, and she believes the various funds will suffice to cope with it.

The perturbed state of political affairs in England seems to have had but little effect upon the market, fortunately. Says the *World* :—

"In spite of the distracting influences of a General Election and the narrow range within which speculative business is restricted, prices have remained firm, and in home railways, as well as in Consols, the tendency has been upwards. Now that the market is relieved of the apprehension of a new issue of Consols, through the Chancellor's plan of paying off his deficits by terminable annuities, there has been a rally; while the influence of fine weather, good traffics, and prospects of holiday increases has been distinctly favourable in railways. The apprehension of dearer money, which was so potent a few weeks ago, has greatly subsided, although the reality is nearer than it was, all the permanent causes that have been taking up its value continuing steadily to operate. As is often the case on the Stock Exchange, the anticipation is more powerful than the reality. It is natural to conclude that, as prices are so firm and the tendency upwards now, when there is comparatively little business doing, we are likely to have another speculative rush which will carry up values to a higher level, once the elections are well over, if there are no political difficulties. If there be no change of Government—for that would have a disturbing effect—there is every likelihood of brisk times; for even dearer money, if the rise be not too precipitate, will not now have the influence the apprehension of it had recently. There is a general expectation, therefore, that after the new Parliament has been elected, and if there are no unwelcome changes of a disturbing order, we may count upon a time of renewed activity."

Cardinal Manning is soon to leave England for Rome, to complete arrangements for conducting an English pilgrimage to Lourdes during the coming summer. The Cardinal has long had unlimited confidence in the credulity of some portion of the English people, but my impression is that he will not have a very large following in his journey to Lourdes.

I have received several communications concerning what I said last week as to the money sent yearly by the Montreal Sulpicians to Paris. Rev. M. Bonissant, the Assistant Treasurer to the Seminary in the absence of Rev. M. Larue, authorizes me to say that no money is sent to Paris by the Sulpicians here, except: first, what is paid for books received for school purposes; and second, what is paid on behalf of the board and educational expenses of young ecclesiastics of the Order while studying at the mother house in that city.

Of course, I accept the statement of the Secretary in all good faith, but I had what appeared good authority for saying \$40,000 per year are sent to Paris by the Sulpicians of Montreal. And the notion is gone far afield. Many among the Catholics believe it to be true, and for their sakes it would just as well, perhaps, if M. Bonissant would give a yet clearer statement of the case.

Whatever may be the amount expended in this way, the Sulpicians are to be commended for sending their bright and promising young clerics over to Paris for an education. It is the best thing they can do for the young men and the Church they have promised to serve with their highest of thought and speech and life; for Canada can hardly afford them the kind of education they need to enable them to meet the wants of the age. Other colleges here might follow the example with benefit to the Churches.

I am told that the Bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister was suggested by Mr. M. H. Gault to Mr. Girouard. Mr. Gault was encouraged to bring it forward, or to get some one else to bring it forward, I hear, by an ecclesiastic who occupies a high position in the Church, but who subsequently, to the chagrin and disappointment of Mr. Gault, signed a round robin against it. But the Bill is getting support from all the clergy who are not bound by a misconception and misapplication of Scripture, and it is to be sincerely hoped that it will become law.

All political parties without distinction will be glad to see Senator Macpherson resume his position at Ottawa as Speaker of the Senate and member of the Cabinet. The appointment was in every respect one of the best Sir John A. Macdonald has made, and the Premier is generally singularly fortunate in his choice of men when he has a