

The only objections to such a plan are, first, that it is not so easy to draw off the life of a nation into a number of separate receptacles as it is to draw off liquor from a cask into bottles ; and secondly, that Great Britain, a power, with all her faults, of justice and of progress, would be erased from the map of the diplomatic world. Home Rule, however, for the present at least, is dead. A Radical victory at the next general election is possible and it might bring Home Rule as part of a revolutionary programme in its train, but a victory of Home Rulers on the direct issue there will not be. By the part which Canada, through her legislatures, has been made to play in countenancing and stimulating the attempt to dismember the Mother Country, the politicians may have gained Irish Catholic votes, the country has taken nothing but dishonour. Let it not be forgotten that it was the Tory leader who began the game. Sir John Macdonald is very indignant with those who say that his conduct with regard to the Jesuits' Estates Act was influenced by fear of the French vote. What influenced his conduct with regard to the Costigan Resolutions ?

—The Salisbury Government is preparing to make a grand effort to settle the Irish land question. No one who knows Ireland doubts that this is the root of the trouble. The political agitation springs out of it and would die if the land question were settled, everywhere at least except in the hot heads of Dublin and Cork. To do away with dual ownership is no doubt the object of the scheme. But is it certain that the abolition of landlordism will do away with dual ownership ? Will not the result be for the landlord to substitute the mortgagee ? The Canadian and American farmer is incomparably more thrifty than the peasant, miscalled a farmer, of Celtic Ireland is likely for generations to be. Yet Canadian and American farms are heavily mortgaged. Such a change would be a doubtful gain, since the landlord, unless he is very bad, does some sort of duty and in hard times is merciful : the mortgagee knows no