

measure to the liberalizing influence of Pitt, but they remained excluded from the House of Commons. This is not what Mr. Parnell wants. What he wants is the Irish Parliament of James II., which was Catholic and Nationalist, and passed a sweeping Act of Attainder against all the Protestant proprietors in Ireland, not excepting women and minors. His object, as he avowed the other day very plainly, is to drive the English and Scotch, who are also the Protestants, out of Ireland, and Grattan's Parliament would not serve his turn. Grattan's Parliament, it may be added, was a perpetual scene of bribery, drunkenness, quarrelling and duelling, such as no one acquainted with its disgraceful annals would wish to restore. It was kept from actual collision with the British Parliament only by the influence of the Crown, exercised chiefly in the form of systematic corruption. What would there be to keep the two Parliaments from collision now? Mr. Parnell knows that there would be nothing, and that at the present day a Parliament for Ireland means separation. Separation, under present circumstances, and in the mood in which the Irish now are, means enmity, and enmity means reconquest.

CRITICS of President Cleveland's Inaugural Address complain that it is too general and does not grapple closely enough with the difficult questions of the hour. But for what do they look in an Inaugural? A party harangue would be out of place, and equally out of place would be a declaration of opinion on diplomatic controversies with which the new Secretary of State is about to deal. The main lines of the President's policy were traced with sufficient clearness. He intends to be faithful to the leading principles of the Democratic Party in guarding the constitutional rights of the States, and arresting the progress of that tendency to centralization which the struggle for the Union inevitably produced. He desires to limit public expenditure to the actual needs of the Government. It follows that he must desire to reduce taxation, and, therefore, to reform the tariff. He promises honestly to give effect to the Civil Service Law, and what he promises he has both strength of will and integrity to perform. Upon the same principle, we may fairly hope, he will confine the number of official changes made on his accession within the narrowest limits which reasonable gratitude to his friends and consideration for his Government permits, thus taking the first step in the reascend from the foul abyss of the Spoils System, to have plunged the country into which is the opprobrium of the Democratic Party. Elected not by a mere party vote, but with the help of Independents, he is in a specially favourable position for asserting his freedom, as the holder of a public trust, from the tyrannical exigencies of faction. Read with reference to the situation and in the light of Mr. Cleveland's character, the Address is satisfactory on these vital points. Enough is said to constitute a new departure; enough, we may add, pretty surely to portend a speedy and happy rupture between the new President and the corrupt section of the Democratic Party. Tammany clings with desperate tenacity to the car of the victor; but it is likely to be shaken off in his career. With regard to foreign relations, the subject in which we as neighbours of the United States are most interested, no exception can be taken to the language of the President. He proclaims his adherence to the traditional policy of the Republic, which is that of independence and neutrality—"rejecting any share in foreign broils and quarrels upon other continents and repelling their intrusion here." There can be no more reason for the intrusion of European powers here than there is for the intrusion of the American Republic into the affairs of Europe. But in international affairs the profession of general principles in which all who accept civilized morality are pretty well agreed, is practically of less consequence as an assurance for fair dealing than the character of the Government itself; and the character of President Cleveland's Government will, we have every reason to hope, be straightforward, honourable, truthful and just.

THE members of the House of Representatives, who, before his inauguration tried to restrain President Cleveland from giving utterance to opinions adverse to the continued coinage of silver, forced from him an adverse reply. Their next step is to declare the independence of the Legislative branch of the Government, which means that they will not be influenced by opinions of the executive of which their own procedure involved the expression. They quote the *London Economist* to show that within the last three years prices had fallen twenty per cent., and they explain this fact by saying that money, owing to its scarcity, has appreciated to that extent. This oscillation, which has recently been in the downward direction, is not necessarily dependent on the amount of currency, excess or scarcity of which is however capable of raising or lowering prices. An excess of commodities, arising from over production and stagnation of trade, is responsible for the present decline in prices; periodically a rise

and fall of prices occur from the same causes. The statement that the increase of wealth in the United States requires an annual addition of forty millions to the currency is not sustained by a tittle of proof. Currency is used in only about six per cent. in all the transactions that take place; the rest is settled in cheques and drafts and other instruments in which the use of money is dispensed with. When Webster, whom the Congressmen quote, referred to gold and silver as being the legal standard, he was opposing the unredeemable paper issued under a vicious system of banking; and what he said is no warrant for the attempt to substitute for gold an excessive amount of coined silver worth at most eighty-five cents on the dollar. Nobody in the United States is suffering for want of currency; no one who has anything to sell for which there is a demand is prevented from selling by a scarcity of currency, though many are suffering from the want of something to exchange into money as well as from the possession of an excess of commodities of a kind for which there is no immediate demand.

"SINCE the 5th of January the French have been constantly engaged in the destruction of small craft, not only of junks from the mainland—which might be carrying contraband of war—but of fishing and trading craft, boats carrying firewood, dung, peanuts and charcoal. In fact, the hundred and one forms of small craft used by the Chinese to gain an honest livelihood have been shot, shelled, blown up, burnt, torpedoed, sunk, or scuttled along the coast. The survivors of their crews have been kidnapped and sent to Keelung to work the batteries. We have seen these mighty ships, among them the *Triomphante*, pursuing a little junk laden with dried fish, firing big guns, and round after round from the machine guns in the tops, at the poor junkmen. Hundreds of junks have been thus destroyed and the greatest misery has resulted." Such is the report of the Chinese correspondent of the *London Times*. He adds, that of the kidnapped boatmen many through illness, caused by denial of food and water, become unable to work. The French soldiers then stuck bayonets into them to make them move, and if that failed, the sufferers were shot. The correspondent's informant himself saw seventeen shot, some through the forehead, some through the ear, some through the breast, their only fault being inability to work from want of food. Such is the way in which "the most civilized of nations" carries on war: such in truth is the way in which she has always carried on war. To crown the whole, she has been evading the restrictions of international law by abstaining from a formal declaration of war, and the Chinese have been justly irritated at seeing Hong Kong, a British settlement, made a practical basis of French operations. There is no chance for the poor Chinese. They are a purely industrial people without any military spirit, without a military profession, without any strong sentiment, either patriotic or religious, to supply the place of martial training. Indifferent to life they are, but it is the fearlessness of apathy not of valour. The Krupp guns and other implements of European war which they have purchased, and in which they vainly put their trust, are nothing without soldiers behind them. The climate fights for them; that is all. But retribution may some day come, as it often has come, through the effects of crime on the character of the wrong-doer; and the varnished savages who are now slaking their cowardly lust of blood by the butchery of the helpless Chinese, may again avenge their victims by butchering each other in civil war.

THE release of Mr. Edmund Yates from prison will no doubt be hailed with loud applause by his fellow-labourers in the "social" line of journalism. To the journalist who regards his calling as an honourable profession and whose mark, when he plays the critic, is public wrong, not private weakness or family sorrow, the event will afford no particular satisfaction. Twice during his confinement Mr. Yates has greatly aggravated the offence for which he was imprisoned by dragging before the world family misfortunes, to which no man, not destitute of right feeling, would permit himself publicly to allude. If in his Memoir he has truly represented the offence for which he was expelled from the Garrick Club as slight, his subsequent conduct has made it clear that the members of the club knew their man. It is singular, or rather it is very natural, that one who, to push the circulation of his journal, can ruthlessly inflict the keenest pain on others, should himself prove totally wanting in fortitude and pour forth piteous appeals for mercy when he is called upon to submit to a brief confinement in a comfortable room, with liberty to see his friends, the means of amusement, and no severer restriction on his diet than limitation to half a pint of wine a day. By interposing in this case, while poor and ignorant offenders are allowed unpitied to undergo their full term of imprisonment with hard labour, the Government seems to indicate that the influence of social journalism and the fear of its vengeance are not unfelt even in the highest places.