

Professor Huxley, alive with cod-fish, herring and mackerel to a depth varying from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet; and the total annual catch of cod-fish does not exceed the quantity to be found in the distance of half a mile square. The coast fishing, owing to the run of the fish, is often the best; and the three-mile limit of this exclusive property is what is always the subject of special arrangement. In any new bargain with the United States the coast fisheries will necessarily be included. The general subject of the trade relations between the two countries is of still more importance, and if anything is to be done they will come under review. That Sir John is anxious to have the Canadian Pacific route made use of to carry the British mails to the East is no secret; and it is certainly not improbable that when he reaches England he may bring the subject up. Though these may be among the reasons for the visit, there may be others; but, apart from the possible condition of his own health, these are the most probable.

LORD ROSEBERY has thrown out the suggestion that the representative element in the House of Lords might be increased by the admission of elective members from the Colonies. Such representation would be of no value to the Colonies, and it would not—though Lord Rosebery probably thinks it would—be likely to have any liberalizing tendency on the House of Lords. There are Colonists to whom a seat in the House of Lords would become an object of burning ambition; but, when elected, they would be certain to fall under the aristocratic influences by which they would find themselves surrounded at Westminster, and they would cease to be representatives except in name. If Canada has any interests which require protection in the House of Lords—and it would be difficult to see what they are—they might more safely be confided to some English members whose position in the social hierarchy of the great metropolis is already determined, and who would not yield to blandishments before which Colonial representatives would be almost certain to fall. Under the system of election suggested, Canada would have the name of being represented in the House of Lords without the reality. The democratic instinct of the Colonies could not be brought into harmony with the predominant tone of the House of Lords; and the indulgence of the desire of the electorate to criticise what was done there would not tend to increase the good feeling between the Colonies and the Parent State. Lord Rosebery admits that Colonial representation in the House of Commons is out of the question; but he fails to see that Colonial representation in the House of Lords would be worse than useless, though it would assuredly be mischievous, because delusive.

ONE political party has formally decided to make the municipal elections in Toronto a party fight. The challenge will be accepted by the other party, no matter what professions may be made. The defenders of the intrusion of party politics in municipal affairs, strange to say, admit and deplore the evils of the practice. Their excuse is that when one party takes its stand on party lines and the other does not the fight is unequal, and a victory is snatched by unfair means. Of the fatal results of party rule in municipal management the Tweed régime affords more than sufficient proof. That there has long been a party element in the municipal contests of Toronto is beyond doubt; but so long as party was not everything, good men were sometimes elected on their merits and without much reference to politics. Sometimes the candidates were men who had never taken sides in politics, and whose unobtrusive opinions had not recommended them to either party. Henceforth all this will be changed; no one will be qualified to be a candidate unless he be a pronounced partisan. There will be some advantage in knowing on what grounds the contest is proceeding. An open party fight is better than one carried on behind a masked battery, the knowledge of the existence of which is confined to the initiated. Unscrupulous politicians will not observe the neutrality which they preach or decry, as suits the occasion; and they have an advantage over the voter who avoids devious courses and suspects no intrigues on the other side. The mayoralty elections in Toronto have generally been contested on party grounds; and though the motive has often been veiled, the cloven foot could be seen by any one who kept his eyes open. And the party spirit once aroused was almost certain to determine the vote on the whole ticket. Still, so long as the election was not avowedly a party fight, there was always a reserve force which had only to be called into action to ensure the success of the best man. This reserve force exists at all times, whether the election be avowedly carried on in a party spirit or not; but as an available fund on which to draw, it will be minimized by the raising of the party flag. As appeal to this force often affords the only means of reformation, the step taken by the ward politicians of Toronto is a distinct loss to the cause of honest municipal government.

THE defeat which the Scott Act advocates have met in St. Catharines is a decided indication that a turn in the tide has come. The electors were made fully acquainted with the disastrous working of the Act in other places, and they decided that the evils of secret whiskey-drinking should not be inflicted on St. Catharines. Toronto has for some time been marked for attack by the Scott Act men, but though the petitions have been signed, the onset is delayed; the threatened appeal to the electorate remains suspended over the interests which would be seriously affected by the success of the movement. Banks, brewers, and commerce have many millions at stake; and they ought to be allowed to know at the earliest date what fate is in store for them. It is difficult to believe that the assailants have any real hope of success, and though they have the legal right to harass the owners of capital engaged in the business, the destruction of which is aimed at, they have no moral right to torture their intended victims with the agony of prolonged suspense. January is now said to be fixed as the date for the trial of strength in Toronto, and delay beyond that month would be inexcusable. The case is not one in which delay would add to the chances of success; new converts to enforced repression are not being made, if at all, in any defined ratio that promises success within a given time. Meanwhile the state of uncertainty which exists is embarrassing and injurious to all concerned, and it will be a relief when it is put an end to.

WHAT will be the results of the approaching elections in England is still doubtful in the extreme. The candid and well-informed *Spectator*, as we have already seen, ventures to believe that Mr. Gladstone's difficulties will consist only in the excess of his success. So many sections will ally themselves under his banner, that to keep them harmoniously together will be his most formidable task. On the other hand, well-informed correspondents assert that they will in no way be surprised if the Liberal majority should result in a practical minority. It may be fairly assumed that the repulsive influences of Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Randolph Churchill will counterbalance each other. Many Whigs and Moderate Liberals will, no doubt, go over to the Conservative side, terrified by the socialistic radicalism of the former; while not a few Tories, fearing the quicksands of the latter's demagogic conservatism, will either cast anchor by abstaining from voting, or steer over to the opposite quarter. A heavy weight is thrown into the scale against the Liberals by the more fanatical members of the Liberation Society, who, like the champions of Prohibition, are devoid of public spirit, and will force on the issue even if it wreck the Liberals. That in this direction mischief is brewing is evident from Mr. Gladstone's endeavour to thrust them by a long pole from the Liberal barque. In this contest Lord Salisbury perceives his advantage, and zealously follows it up by conspiring with the Liberation Society to force the question of the Disestablishment of the Church. The Church naturally takes arms with the Conservatives. The two Archbishops, however, are moderate and dignified in their tone: the Primate owes his appointment directly to the Liberal leader. The Archbishop of York, though receiving his present post at the hands of Lord Palmerston, yet virtually is indebted to the same source for his preferment. Here and there we find a dignitary who is openly opposed to Mr. Gladstone. Archdeacon Denison declares that cheers for him are equivalent to cheers for the Evil One. Many Liberal laymen with strong religious tendencies have thrown in their lot with the Church Party. Typical of these are Earl Grey, with his Conservative instincts, and Lord Selborne, on account of his deep-seated orthodox views. Another favourable omen for the Tory Party of which we must not lose sight is the fact that they have appreciably gained in municipal elections. The middle class opulence of the boroughs also will sufficiently shrink from Mr. Chamberlain's communistic principles to cause them to do more than merely halt between two opinions. Pocket here will prove itself stronger than party. On which side the agricultural labourers will throw the greater weight is altogether uncertain. Everything considered, no prediction is possible. Our own impression is that the result will be the worst of all, namely, an even balance; and this means that Mr. Parnell will hold the scales. Neither party possesses patriotism enough to refrain from bidding for his vote, knowing that this means a victory for the other side. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the nation is on the verge of Dismemberment.

A POPULAR election cannot apparently be managed without "a cry"—a condition of things not altogether complimentary to the sincerity of party leaders, or to the intelligence of the electorate. In the pending British elections in many places the cry is "the Church is in danger." In Mr. Gladstone's opinion, as expressed in his manifesto, subsequent explanatory letters, and in his Midlothian speeches, the time for the settle-