

pectedly accepted at Rome some years ago, and Bishop Lafleche, of Three Rivers, in whom he found a sure ally, is threatened with the Division of his diocese, which is one of the smallest in the Province. Bishop Bourget is broken down in health and not likely ever to regain his physical strength. The outlook for the Jesuits is not bright: nothing could give their various schemes a chance of success but the approbation of Monseigneur Smeulders, and that, if given at all, must be in scant measure; but they may comfort themselves with the reflection that if they find themselves thwarted at Rome it will be because what they aim to do is inopportune rather than that the objection to it by the Vatican is fundamental.

THE charge is made that M. Senécal subscribed one hundred thousand dollars to help the Federal Government to carry the elections in 1882. The charge as first made by a partisan journal was explicit; its denial by another partisan journal of a different colour was made without circumlocution. Under the circumstances, there is nothing for the public to do but to wait for the evidence which so far there has been no attempt to produce. That M. Senécal would have any scruples about bribing electors, his own admissions do not permit us to doubt; but that he has, or had in 1882, hundreds of thousands of dollars to play pitch and toss with at the doors of the poll-houses may well be doubted. Still this is a point which cannot any more than the main charge be decided in the absence of the evidence. When the evidence on which the charge rests is made public, the public will be able to judge of its validity. Till then judgment must be suspended.

IN the electric state of Europe an unusual activity at Portsmouth, accidentally coinciding with the hasty assembling of a Cabinet Council, has been enough to spread the belief that England was on the brink of war. Had England been on the brink of war the activity would not have been confined to Portsmouth. War between England and Germany is a moral impossibility. However irritated Bismarck might be, he would be restrained by the Emperor, who is still the real sovereign. If he wants Heligoland, surely he may have it; for the usefulness of that ridiculous possession ceased with the Continental system of Napoleon, during the continuance of which it was a post of advantage. It is only a pity that the island was not long ago freely and gracefully offered to the nation to which it belongs. Of war with France there is more danger. She is in an extremely malignant mood, her wounded vanity craving for a vent. Her Government is demagogic; and she is doing things in several quarters which may any day lead to trouble. The Egyptian imbroglio, however, appears to be regarded in England as the main cause of these meetings of the Cabinet. It is evidently in a most entangled state. But in reading the criticisms of the journals on the conduct of the Government, it is unfortunately necessary to bear in mind that leading organs of the Press in England, as everywhere else, are under the influence of the Jews, who, with the Rothschilds at their head, are bent on using British diplomacy and arms for the collection of their usurious debts from the unfortunate people of Egypt.

UNTIL the recent announcement that the would-be member for Northampton had scored a point in the Court of Appeal which may invalidate previous decisions, it was supposed in parliamentary circles that the Bradlaugh incident was dead and buried. But now, to the disgust of his opponents—though his acumen has compelled the admiration of the lawyers—there is a chance that the non-jurist may yet turn out to be duly sworn in as a member of the British House of Commons.

THE Redistribution Bill in England appears to be a sort of political chameleon. It meets the approbation at once of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain. Yet the extinction of the small boroughs, the elections for which have been generally carried by wealth and personal interest, can hardly fail to prove a loss to the Conservatives. The increase of the Metropolitan representation, if we may judge from experience, will tend in the same direction. Ratified by the leaders of the two great parties, the Bill is regarded as sure to pass. But it must have many enemies among those who enjoyed or were looking forward to seats under the old system and who will now be either excluded altogether or compelled to change their ground and cultivate the favour of a different constituency. This spectacle of hasty readjustment affords infinite amusement to beholders on the spot. Since bribery of the ordinary kind has been put down by the stringency of the law, nursing boroughs, as it is called, by subscriptions, donations, Christmas gifts and entertainments has been the favourite by-path of Parliamentary ambition. Those who during the last four years have been investing a good deal of money, as well as a good deal of flummery, in this way must find it a sore trial of their patriotism to resign the fruit. Hence

there will be a good deal of opposition, which though unavowed, and though it will avoid direct attack, may obliquely and in covert ways seek to obstruct the passage of the Bill. Mr. Courtney, who has seceded from the Government on the question of minority representation, and is stumping the country in favour of that principle, is member for the doomed borough of Liskeard. His agitation, so far as its direct object is concerned, will come to nothing; but it may form a stalking horse for the manoeuvres of personal discontent. Abdication is not less distasteful to a governing assembly than to a king. When Gambetta proposed a change in the mode of electing the Chamber which would have unseated a number of its members, he fell at once from the pinnacle of his power. There is likely yet to be some bush-fighting, though there will be no battle in the open field. If Mr. Gladstone's health does not fail and he remains leader, his authority will no doubt bear down opposition; but there is no saying what may happen in regard to this on any question, if his commanding presence is withdrawn.

THE remarks made by a writer in our last number on the attempt of Mr. Gladstone's new Irish Secretary to cajole the Nationalists by pandering to their slanderous hatred of the British Government and people received emphatic confirmation almost before they were through the Press. Both Mr. Healy and Mr. Biggar requited their flatterer and would-be ally with a torrent of that abuse in command of which, as well as in aptitude for hunting on the trail of the filthiest and most revolting scandals, these patriot chiefs far excel Paoli, Washington and Garibaldi. At the same time the great Conciliator himself is brought up from Hawarden to London to attend a Cabinet Council under an escort of detectives, which appears to be considered more necessary than ever. It cannot be supposed that British statesmen are incapable of seeing that which stares them in the face; probably they rather choose not to see a fact fatal to the policy to which they are committed. No cajolery or bribes can avail anything, since the only channel through which they can reach the apprehension of the Irish people is one which turns everything to gall and venom. The Irish neither hear nor read anything but the speeches and writings of men incurably bent on fomenting hatred of England and her government; because their aim and the goal of their ambition is not reform or redress of grievances but the dismemberment of the United Kingdom. Even before this crisis, when cheerful language was held by statesmen who thought that they had got to the end of Irish troubles, less sanguine observers pointed to the Fenian literature of all kinds, political, historical, biographical, poetical and religious which formed the sole mental food of the people, and prognosticated fresh disturbance from that source. National education, the gift of the Imperial Government to Ireland, however great a blessing in other respects, has practically increased disaffection by opening the popular mind to its infusion. One antidote to the poison there was, and, in the opinion of all those who know Ireland best, it would have been effective. Had the Court performed the duty which it has inexcusably neglected, and cultivated by personal presence the affection of the Irish people, whose attachment to persons is much stronger than their attachment to institutions, the demagogue would not so easily have usurped the throne of the legitimate sovereign. It is but just to the Irish to remember that the government, though it has not been for half a century at least otherwise than beneficent, has been distant and almost alien. Twenty years ago a writer on the Irish question proposed, in addition to Disestablishment and the reform of the Land Law, frequent visits of the Court to Ireland, and one or two short sessions of the Imperial Parliament at Dublin to legislate for Irish grievances on the spot, and at the same time to make Parliament, as the supreme legislature and as a power of beneficence, familiar to the imagination of the Irish people. These remedies were not heroic; yet if applied in time they might have been effectual. Now, of course, they would come too late.

AMONG the minor stimulants of revolutionary sentiment have been the foolish sayings of the privileged. The French Princess, so often cited, who when told that her father's subjects had no bread to eat suggested that they might eat cake, and the French Duchess who said of a defunct Duke that God would think twice before he damned a man of that quality, contributed their little quota to the contempt and odium which overwhelmed the Court and aristocracy of France. An effect of the same sort was produced in England some time ago by the amiable Duke of Norfolk, who at a time of public dearth, wrote a letter to the *Times*, advising the people, who had not wherewithal to buy bread, to mix a little curry powder with their food. Now, to a question of Lord Rosebery, as to the best means of putting an end to the scandalous paucity of attendance in the House of Lords, Lord Walsingham replies, and