

HAVING presumed to speak of His Excellency's duties, we will go on to say that in regard to the appointment of Lieutenant-Governors his function appears to us to be not simply that of a mask for party appointments. Under our wonderful system of constitutional shams, the King, in these as in other nominations, is an automaton worked by the Prime Minister. This we understand, though a Lieutenant-Governor is the actual representative of the Governor-General. But the Governor-General is bound, we conceive, to uphold the rule of appointment. He is bound to require that at the end of the prescribed term either a fresh appointment or a definite re-appointment shall be made, and not to allow the office to degenerate, as it is degenerating, into a salary payable during the pleasure of the Prime Minister. The money comes not from the pocket of the Prime Minister, but from that of the Province, and the Province has a right to the advantage for which it pays. That Government House is a social centre is the chief argument for the retention of the office. But it is impossible that a Lieutenant-Governor should make his residence a social centre if he is a tenant on sufferance from week to week, which, so far as anybody knows, is the present position of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. The Province, we repeat, has rights in this matter, which it is the duty of the Governor-General to guard.

THE belief which prevailed that the Conservative leader had made up his mind to hold another Session was again succeeded by an expectation of a dissolution early in the new year. The Prime Minister, notwithstanding his evident weakness on the stump, has been everywhere received with an enthusiasm of which his party is anxious to take advantage while it may. It is apprehended that unless Reciprocity can be obtained, or negotiations for it put in a hopeful train, there will be nothing for the Government to bring before the country in the Session; while the Opposition has, no doubt, a budget of scandals to produce. Quebec is still in an angry mood, but the Conservatives are beginning to look more to Ontario as their future basis than to Quebec. Supposing, therefore, that the prerogative of dissolution has been made over unconditionally by the Governor-General to the Prime Minister, and supposing Mr. Meredith does not get very badly beaten in the Local Elections, there are some who think that we shall have an election in January. To ourselves present indications seem to point to a short Session, commencing about the middle of next month. Probably nothing has been yet settled. Come the contest when it may, the probability, so far as can be discerned at present, is that the Government will be sustained by a reduced majority. It is difficult to see at least where the Opposition is to look for so large a gain as is necessary to turn the scale.

It is creditable to at least two American newspapers that they decline to publish the evidence in the Campbell divorce case cabled to this continent every day as "news." On what principle the conductors of leading journals can reconcile their conscience to relating these offensive particulars in every home they obtain access to, we are at a loss to understand. The disgusting stuff comes as news, which we suppose they have to pay for; but surely this does not for a moment excuse its being thrust under the notice of every young man or woman that reads a newspaper. It is not probable that any considerable portion of newspaper readers desire to know these particulars; but even if so, that again would not warrant the pandering to a vicious taste. The evil must lie in the conductors of the newspapers: a moral weakness that would lead them into any service of the devil that they could profit by. This shameful story is of no interest to any decent American or Canadian. The knowledge that such doings go on makes one blush for humanity; and we wish for no closer acquaintance. We hope other newspapers than the two we know of have refused to soil their pages with the evil thing; but we must do honour at any rate to these two—the Nashville, Tenn., *Union*, which absolutely "refused publication to a very full account of the evidence received by cable," and to the *Mobile Register* which also set an example to its contemporaries in these words: "The details of the divorce case between Lady and Lord Campbell, in London, though received by cable from that metropolis, are of such a nature as to necessitate their expurgation from the columns of the *Register*." The love of such filth is a survival of our animal state. It generally goes with the love of libel, and the same journals usually pander to both tastes.

AMERICANS will probably admit that if there is a weak point in the Republic, it is criminal justice. In San Francisco the other day, a rough, well known to the police, went up to a little school girl who was on her way home with her lesson-books, and shot her dead. This was in broad daylight, and on one of the principal streets. The man was arrested and held for trial; but a mass meeting was held, and an immense mob went to the

jail to lynch him. Why did they do this? Because they believed that, flagrant as the case was, public justice would fail. They had good reason for that belief. In Kentucky it seems to be absolutely impossible to get murder punished. In States more civilised than Kentucky, and free from the taint of slavery, which everywhere produced sanguinary recklessness, the life of a murderer would probably be accepted by an insurance office as equally good with that of any other man, perhaps better, as the murderer is in safe keeping. Legal chicane conspires with dishonesty in the jury box. The Anarchists, at Chicago, butcher a number of policemen. The policemen die on the spot, victims to their duty, no legal technicality interfering. But chicane throws its protecting arms round the sacred persons of the assassins, and it seems more than doubtful whether they will ever pay the penalty of their crime. What effect their impunity will have on the spirit of the police may be easily imagined. The question is whether it might not be expedient to lynch some particularly learned judge. Even when by a miracle a conviction is obtained, false humanity steps in. The very people who, when enraged by the failure of justice, take to lynching, will sign petitions against the execution of the death penalty by the hand of justice on the foulest murderer. Some years ago in the State of New York a miscreant was convicted of what was known to be only the last of a series of murders, including those of his wife and child. The usual attempt was made to save his precious life, the New York *Tribune* leading the cry, and to the stock plea of insanity was added, on this occasion, the plea that the villain had invented a universal language, so that to hang him would be to extinguish the light of science. The Governor of New York appointed two commissions, one to decide whether the murderer was insane, the other to decide whether he had invented a universal language; and both having reported in the negative, for once a murderer was hanged. The long delay which, also from motives of false humanity, is interposed between sentence and execution, also has a very bad effect. The crime is forgotten and the criminal becomes an object of pity and interest. Let Americans say what they will, they envy the certainty, the promptitude, and the dignity of British and Canadian justice.

OUGHT a man in the civilised state to be permitted not only to repudiate his own debts, but to murder, mutilate, torture, or ruin any other man whose conscience enjoins him to pay them? Is this one of a citizen's natural liberties? If it is, the Act which deprives him of it deserves to be called a Coercion Act. Once more let us direct attention to the fact that recourse is had to these measures, not for the purpose of guarding the lives of British officials, one only of whom in the whole course of this history has fallen a victim to the Irish knife, but to keep Irishmen from perpetrating acts of savagery against each other. If civil liberty is in any way abridged, it is simply and solely because it is so used as to lead to that which every moral being regards as crime, and which could not be left unchecked without dissolving civil society. For some time past it has suited the purpose of the Irish leaders, who wished to play into Mr. Gladstone's hands, that there should be a suspension of outrage; and by the exercise of their power of suspending it they have shown that its agents are under their control, and that the responsibility is morally theirs. Now, as a peaceful settlement of the Land Question by purchase or reduction of rents comes in view, it suits the purpose of the leaders that the reign of violence should recommence, and there is accordingly just need for repression. Either the necessary measures of repression must be adopted or Government must abdicate, for a government which fails to protect the lives and property of law-abiding citizens is worse than no government at all: it only serves to restrain those who obey it from defending themselves against their assailants, as they might in a state of avowed anarchy, with the strong hand. If the Government, instead of merely tying the hands of the Loyalists behind their backs while it leaves those of the Nationalists free, were formally to withdraw and allow civil war to commence, it is by no means certain, in spite of the disparity of numbers, that the Loyalists would not hold their own.

WE must admit, however, that it has always appeared to us that it would be better, instead of confining the Acts to Ireland, to make them applicable to the whole of the United Kingdom. If this were done, and if the Acts prohibited nothing but what the moral sense of the whole civilised world pronounces criminal, no outcry could be raised against them. They would, of course, have practical effect in Ireland only: the English and Scotch are not given to moonlighting, nor do they seek redress of political or economical grievances by shooting defenceless men and women, cutting off the udders of cows, or firing into rooms where children are asleep. But the moral character and the necessity of the law would be made apparent by its extension to the entire realm. Measures directed