

independent form of local government which Irish extremists now seek ; but we do believe that a measure of local government similar to that enjoyed by the Canadian Provinces will speedily be extended to the four provinces of Ireland. Irishmen in Ireland have as much right to the management of purely local affairs as have Nova Scotians in Nova Scotia, and he who denies this right must indeed be a prejudiced man. Home rule for the Church of England in England is also one of the great questions of the day in Britain. As matters now stand the Church is virtually controlled by, and at the mercy of, a parliament in which a large proportion of the members are adherents of other denominations. This body has the power, not only to disestablish the Church, but also to wrench from her grasp the magnificent endowments of her benefactors. The members of the Church of England are now alive to this danger, and they propose, if possible, to provide against the possibility of its occurrence. Reforms in the Church itself will be immediately made with this end in view. The right of the laity to a direct share in the government and administration of the Church must be acknowledged, traffic in livings and abuses of patronage abolished, the removal of criminous and incompetent clergy provided for, and the revision of the Church's formularies set about. With these points gained, the Church will undoubtedly have a stronger hold upon the sympathies of the English people, and her disendowment will then become practically impossible.

#### AGGRESSIVE SERBIA HUMBLLED.

The recent disturbances in the Balkan provinces have been a complete surprise to Europe, and public opinion has in consequence turned a perfect summersault. The annexation of Eastern Roumelia, with its Bulgarian inhabitants, was a project dear to the heart of Prince Alexander, and in its carrying out he made himself doubly popular with his subjects. But King Milan, the jealous Servian monarch, stimulated by the promise of Austrian support, could not tolerate the idea of Bulgaria's extension, and he at once prepared to chastise Alexander for having dared so much. Through Austrian agencies, Europe and America were fired with telegrams announcing the advance of the Servian forces, the success of the Servian troops, and the murderous effects of the Servian cannonade. But when the din of battle had ceased, and the smoke cleared away, the world found the vanquished Bulgarians were in truth the victors, with King Milan the aggressor retreating before the little army under the brave Prince Alexander. What might have been the consequences had the Bulgarians been allowed to follow up the advantages they had gained, it is difficult to say. But at the critical juncture when the army of King Milan was disorganized and routed, and when his domain was at the mercy of the brave Alexander, Austria interfered to check the further advance of the Bulgarians. Europe has learned a lesson from this short Balkan campaign which may have its effect in the future. Prince Alexander and his Bulgarian subjects have earned the respect to which they are entitled, while the cowardly King Milan has sunk in the public estimation to the level of that criminal class who seek their own advancement through the misfortune of their neighbors.

#### PARTY EXTREMISTS.

Many of the most intelligent people in this country profess themselves weary of the unfairness and scurrility displayed by some political partizans when party interests are to be advanced. Educated, cultured, fairminded men say, so blinded by party prejudice do most of the writers for the press appear, that the utterances of our newspapers have ceased to be regarded as worthy of thoughtful consideration.

The spirit of extreme partizanship has apparently taken undisputed possession of the majority of Canadian journalists, those of most weeklies as well as those of the dailies. This unfortunate state of things has a tendency to render nugatory the efforts of honest journalists to correctly influence public opinion. The extreme political partizan is consciously and purposely oblivious of the ability and good qualities of the men—little matters it who they be—to whom he happens to be politically opposed.

If they are men of ability, honesty, and morality, he rarely hesitates to deny it, and to re-iterate his denial so long as he has a glimmer of hope that it will have any effect. When he has to deal with men whose many merits are conspicuously known to the public, he will usually acknowledge just as much as it seems to him futile to deny, and then, alleging counterbalancing demerits, will proceed to roundly abuse them through all the moods and tenses. When any of his political opponents in all honesty try to do what is right, and in the endeavor do something injudicious, he shows himself enthusiastically pleased, ascribes to them some unworthy motive, and greatly exaggerates the evil of the consequence. When these same men do something more than ordinarily praiseworthy, either it is not at all noticed by their partizan opponent, or else it is berated and belittled beyond recognition.

Ample evidence of the unfairness begotten of the spirit of partizanship is found in the treatment to which Hon. Edward Blake, the brilliant and clever leader of the Liberals, and Hon. J. S. D. Thompson the talented Minister of Justice, have been subjected by some of their respective political opponents. These two are able and eminent men who would probably attain to distinction in any country ; yet men have been found ready, and even anxious to cry down Mr. Blake because of his being a staunch and prominent Liberal ; and other men have with equal alacrity done their best to destroy Mr. Thompson's good name and good standing because of his being a distinguished Conservative. Every lie told to damage the popularity of such men as Blake and Thompson will in the end win for them sympathy from honest men, even from their political opponents.

#### THE NEW CONFEDERACY.

The Australian Colonies have taken the first step towards confederation, and although the confederacy is as yet incomplete, the beginning, so far made, has in it good promises for the future.

On the 25th of January, the first Federal Council will meet in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, in which the colonies of Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, will be represented.

The great unexplored region, included in the district known as Northern Australia, and the sparsely settled Colony of Western Australia, are not included in the new confederacy, but these comparatively sterile portions of the island continent are of little importance, as compared with the progressive and productive Colony of New South Wales, which still holds back, fearing that its autonomy would be restricted, were it to cast in its lot with that of its sister colonies. As New South Wales lies between Queensland and Victoria, the contiguity of the confederated colonies is broken, and unless the former join the federation, the success of the new scheme will be doubtful. The federation is made up of the following colonies :—

	Area in square miles.	Population.
Victoria .....	88,898	862,346
Queensland .....	669,529	213,525
South Australia.....	903,690	279,865
Tasmania.....	26,215	115,709

Total..... 1,688,332 1,471,445

The future of Australia is indeed hopeful. Her population, which is steadily increasing, comes of one common stock, and is not divided by those race prejudices which so weaken the Canadian confederation.

With the arrowroot, sugar, and gold of Queensland ; the wood and mineral products of New South Wales ; the wheat, wool, and gold, of Victoria ; the oats and timber of South Australia ; and the wool, tin, and gold of Tasmania, the Australian Colonies have the means of carrying on a large and lucrative trade with Britain, Canada, and the United States. The new confederacy, under the Southern cross, may be regarded as a brotherhood of loyal English-speaking States, which, sooner or later, will develop a British nationality, the elements of which will be more closely fused than they ever can be in the British Isles.

#### ILL-TREATMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND WOMEN.

The condition of the people of Newfoundland has long been known to be most unsatisfactory. In the small and isolated communities which inhabit the Island, labor is completely at the mercy of capital ; the working men and women have to depend, not only for employment, but for their supply of the necessaries of life, on employers to whom they are generally in arrears. But the suffering and degradation entailed upon the poor by this condition of things have only recently been shown in their utter hideousness. A large proportion of the population of Newfoundland are employed in the Labrador fisheries. Their wives and children spend the summer months on the mainland in curing fish, and return to their island homes for the winter. This necessitates their taking with them their whole stock of domestic animals—pigs, dogs, goats and poultry. The wretched women and children are packed away with these animals in dark, ill-ventilated holds, irrespective of sex or physical condition, during a passage of from ten days to a fortnight. The survivors, for many succumb to this terrible hardship, find their Labrador huts filled with the winter's snow and ice. In these damp quarters, they spend about four months in curing the cod taken by their husbands and brothers. In the fall, they are again huddled into the narrow, crowded holds of the vessels, from which there is practically no escape for them in case of shipwreck.

About 4,000 women are forced to submit to this inhuman treatment, in this age of civilization, and at the very threshold of our Dominion. The horrors of the slave trade excited the indignation and provoked the interference of civilized nations ; yet here, in a colony of the greatest nation on earth, for fifty years this cruel, brutal practice has been quietly tolerated. Now that attention has been called to it, we may hope that the Government of Newfoundland will put an end to the nefarious practice ; otherwise it will devolve upon Britain to interfere in the cause of humanity.

#### EDUCATION OF LADIES IN VIENNA.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times gives an interesting account of "The Education of Girls in Vienna." Up to fifteen years of age, they are kept at their studies, but are not entirely deprived of society. They dress very simply. Very few of them wear silk gowns before their school-days are over, and they have formally entered society. Immediately after leaving school, where they are well trained to appreciate science, literature and art, they go through a year's, and, in many cases, two years' training in the pantry and the kitchen, under some of the best cooks. The most of them do not, in later life, habitually cook—many of them never prepare a meal after the period of apprenticeship is over—but they are thus rendered independent of, and acquire control over, cooks and servants. In short, the Vienna girls learn to do everything in the way of house-keeping long before they begin house-keeping on their own account. When married, they are known to be eminently dutiful, affectionate and sensible, as wives and mothers. It was of them that Bayard Taylor thus wrote :—"An educated Austrian lady is as learned and accomplished as an English governess, as good a house-keeper and cook as a German, as witty and vivacious in society as a Parisian, as tender and devoted as an Italian, as handsome as a typical American—some of the most beautiful women in Europe being found in Vienna."