

refusing her the right thus secured to her by the constitution. It is to be hoped that the Canadian Government will not cease to insist upon Canada's constitutional rights in the matter.

The Listowel horror, culminating last week in the full confession of the criminal, has brought out in strong relief the law-abiding character of Canadian citizens—a characteristic which has its basis in confidence in the efficacy of our judicial system. It is, we suppose, almost literally impossible to conceive of a more atrocious crime than the murder in question. No feature adapted not only to stir up the deepest horror and detestation, but to fan righteous indignation into a frenzied thirst for vengeance, such as cannot brook the slow movements of criminal justice, was wanting in this case. Such was the depth of this feeling actually aroused that there seemed at one time some reason to fear that the more hot-headed might take the case into their own hands the moment they could be tolerably sure of the murderer, or, in fact, even sooner. Yet, when the occasion arose, and the doer of the fiendish deed stood self-confessed and almost redhanded before them, the multitude calmly suffered the law to take its course, and no hand was raised to take speedy vengeance. Comparing this with what we know would almost surely have happened in a similar case in many States of the neighbouring Union, one is curious to understand the cause or causes of the difference. One of the principal of these causes is beyond question, as above intimated, the confidence Canadians have in the faithful execution of the law in Canada. There was, too, in this case, no tinge of the race hatred which has to do with much, though by no means with all, of the barbarous lynchings perpetrated in the United States. May it not be, too, that with our people, owing to the absence of intermixture of foreign blood of lower quality, there is more of the true Anglo-Saxon generosity of spirit, which makes it appear a shameful and cowardly thing for a crowd to attack a single defenceless culprit, and do him to death—a thousand enraged men, like a pack of wolves, hunting down one poor, cowering creature.

Be the cause what it may, we have reason to be proud of the self-restraint and love of fair-play manifested by our fellow-citizens in the neighbourhood which was the scene of this unspeakably horrible crime. The poor wretch may safely be left in the hands of the law. But the circumstances of the case are such that preventive or deterrent action should by no means cease with the infliction of the penalty decreed against the perpetrator of this one inhuman deed. The case has made startlingly clear what was well enough known before, that the presence of evil-looking tramps in all parts of the country is a

constant menace to the persons and property of the peaceable and kindly-disposed citizens. In the towns and cities the local by-laws, enforced by efficient police, may be a sufficient safeguard. But it is far otherwise in sparsely-settled country districts. It is surely time that some stringent measures were taken to abate this grievous nuisance and danger. Why should able-bodied beggars be permitted to infest the highways and byways, to be a source of terror to honest and industrious citizens? Probably there is hardly a day passes in some of the districts more exposed to this infliction, in which lonely women, whose men folk are necessarily out of hearing in the fields, are not put in terror, if not in jeopardy, by vagabonds of the class in question. We hope we should not be among the last to protest against indiscriminately harsh treatment of those who may in some cases be mere unfortunates, out of employment and "down in their luck." But the fact that there may be many such just entering upon the path which leads almost surely, not only to utter worthlessness, but to theft and robbery, if not to even worse crimes, makes it all the more desirable that measures should be taken to put a stop to all such peripatetic mendicancy, by apprehending every such man the moment he sets foot in the neighbourhood, giving him an opportunity to work if he is willing to work, and compelling him either to do some work provided, or to leave the place at once, if he proves unwilling to do honest labour. Will not some of our legislators take the matter up, and provide for more stringent vagrant laws, or more stringent enforcement of those we have?

It would, perhaps, be unfair to quote the old adage, "He who excuses, accuses," in reference to Lord Rosebery's recent speech, touching the foreign transactions and relations of his Cabinet. He could hardly have refrained from noticing in some way the mutterings of some of the papers favourable to his own party, even had he felt strong enough to disregard the more outspoken criticism of those representative journals which are either openly hostile, or are occupying a position of "armed neutrality." Then, again, a certain measure of frankness is to be expected from the leader of a democratic and radical administration. Nevertheless, it is pretty clear that the Premier's explanations have not explained to the satisfaction of the more jealously disposed of his unfriendly critics. Whatever force there may be, on the one hand, in his assumption that no British Cabinet could have refused or delayed to take action on China's intimation of a desire for peace and readiness to make sacrifices in order to obtain it, it remains still open to question whether the wisest government would, before acting, not have taken time to study the situation, to ponder carefully the chances of success and failure, taking into account the probability that a people like

the Japanese, flushed with victory and full of confidence in their own prowess, would accept any terms which were not *greatly* more advantageous than those which would have been accepted at the beginning of the war. There is, again, Lord Rosebery's failure to say a word with reference to the real cause of the hasty summoning of the Cabinet. All these things have conspired to prevent his explanations from being so fully and favourably accepted as might have been expected under other conditions.

Public interest in New York is divided between the triangular battle which is being waged for the Governorship, and the unsavoury facts which are being steadily and relentlessly laid bare by the Lexow Committee. In regard to both, the indications are hopeful. The very fact that there is a division in the Democratic camp is a healthful sign, seeing that the plane of cleavage follows distinctly moral lines. The nomination of a Democratic antagonist to Hill, even though, as is not unlikely, it should be the means of letting in the Republican candidate, will achieve a moral victory, inasmuch as it will show that there is a large body of Democrats who prefer party defeat with honour to party victory through corruption. In any event, the defeat of Tammany is thought to be almost assured, an event which would be in itself a great triumph for political morality. While this contest is going on in the political arena, an even more important struggle is being waged day by day before the Lexow Committee of Investigation. The relentless probing of Mr. Goff, who conducts the prosecution, has revealed, and is every day revealing, a mass of municipal corruption, which "smells to heaven," but there is reason to hope that the purifying and healing processes will follow. The methods of the city police, as revealed, are astounding, almost incredible. Their extortion and the terrorism, which was the weapon used, ramify in every direction. A witness who let his store for \$50 for a polling place was obliged to give \$15 of the \$50 to the police in order to have his store selected. That is just one sample of a thousand. The investigation is likely, it is said, to be continued throughout 1895. The glory of being the means of uncovering this terrible state of affairs belongs almost wholly to a single clergyman, Dr. Parkhurst, whose unflinching courage and marvellous tenacity of purpose were the compelling forces which brought about the investigation.

The fall of Caprivi is the political excitement of the moment in Germany; we might say, in Europe. The causes which have led to it will probably be better understood presently, but the suddenness of the change has taken the quidnuncs by surprise. For onlookers of other than German nationality the event has two important aspects. It is interesting as a new revela-