

his own co-religionists that he is trying to make friends with the Mammon of Unrighteousness on the other side? It rather looks as if the result of the operation was going to be that Bowell the Orangeman will be followed by Roman Catholic Quebec and Laurier the Roman Catholic will be followed by Protestant Canada. What a theme for satire! Some day the Romish Church may say "Change Kings and we will fight it over again." Perhaps a believer in human nature who is not cynical may assign, and justly assign, a proper motive both to the Premier and the leader of the Opposition, namely, that of doing justice. Cynicism is cheap and offensive, but politics now-a-days lead to a disbelief in all human nature, even that of the great ones of the earth.

Mr. Laurier's
Pluck.

Whichever way the result of the debate goes Mr. Laurier's reputation will be the gainer. Like Ajax defying the lightning, he has defied the thunders of the hierarchy of his own Church. Such a plain unequivocal "mind your own business" has rarely been uttered by one of the faithful. Mr. Laurier's subsequent career will be anxiously watched. If he succeeds he will have done so with all the honours of war. If he fails he will fail because he has been knifed by his Church, and because the elements of evil are as yet too strong for the elements of good in this world. But he will receive the admiration and respect of all right thinking men. His manly words will ring down the ages as an outspoken protest against ecclesiastical dictation. He will rank as the Canadian Cavour. He may feel certain that every Protestant and every liberal Roman Catholic will stand by him to the last.

Spain
and the
United States.

The Senate of the United States has adopted a resolution favouring the granting of belligerent rights to the Cuban rebels. During the discussion of the resolution several animated and frank remarks were made about Spain which nations less proud and more self-restrained than the Spanish might possibly have winked at under the circumstances and discreetly ascribed the remarks to "the political necessities of the hour." But Spain is not England. The Consulate of the United States at Barcelona was promptly surrounded by a mob and showered with stones and brickbats, whilst in Madrid the United States Legation had to be guarded by police and a force of gendarmes to prevent the citizens from carrying it by storm. The American Minister to Spain, Hon. Hannis Taylor, found it more convenient to remain quietly at home in the bosom of his family than to court a hostile demonstration by appearing in the street. Had he ventured forth he would have seen the flag of his country torn into shreds and trampled under foot and heard the shouts of the populace as they glorified Spain and defied the Americans, crying "Down with the United States!" The Spanish Government did not approve of these manifestations of ill-will and did what they could to restrain the people. They have expressed their regret at the violence displayed, but while offering complete reparation they pointed out that the language employed by some of the Senators in speaking on the Cuban resolution was uncalled for and unjust. The Spanish Prime Minister, Canovas Del Castillo, maintains that the pretensions of the Cubans are ridiculous, that their savagery merits the condemnation of all civilized nations, and that, instead of conducting legitimate warfare, the rebels burn, rob, and murder on all sides, and upon every occasion flee from the Spanish regular troops without attempting to hold possession of a town or even a mountain pass, and that they, therefore, ought not to be regarded as upon an equality with the regular soldiers of the Spanish army.

Further
Action.

On Monday the United States House of Representatives joined in the resolution passed on Saturday by the Senate, recognizing the Cubans as belligerents. Mr. Boutelle and one or two other members who objected to the resolution were not suffered to speak, and it passed by a vote of 263 to 17. The French and Spanish newspapers think that is too much of the Monroe doctrine, and the Figaro warningly remarks that American statesmen would do well not to exasperate Europe. But the Americans are evidently still in an aggressive mood, and it is probable that the President will consider that to give effect to the demand of Congress will be a proper and popular thing to do. A proclamation to the effect that a state of public war exists in Cuba, and that both Cubans and Spaniards are entitled to equal rights in American ports and territory would immensely strengthen the hands of the rebels. To be recognized as practically an independent nation by so powerful and near a neighbour as the United States would be a large and favourable factor in the cause of independence.

An
American Sicily.

The irritation of Spain at the speeches in the Senate of the United States and at the resolutions of the Senate and Congress relative to Cuba are not quite unintelligible. Cuba is a Spanish possession and the interference of the United States with the Spanish attempts to retain that possession is decidedly unpleasant. The speeches and resolutions encourage the rebels and make it harder and more expensive for Spain to hold her own. Viewed from an impartial stand-point it cannot be said that *Cuba Libre* would be a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. The end of the interference of the United States would be the annexation of the island to the Union, or anarchy. Whether humanity or civilization would gain by Cuba becoming the Sicily of the American Republic is not open to much argument. But the effect upon the Union itself is a curious speculation. If the Americans take the island as a compensation for their expenses in a Spanish war they will have extended their territories for the first time beyond the limits of the mainland. That they will stop at Cuba will be very unlikely. The West India Islands will be the next object of their desire. On the other hand, Spain has allies in Europe who would stand by her in this trouble. France would probably go as far even as active intervention. The United States may not have the walk-over they apparently expect. The effect on Spain itself will probably be the establishment of a Spanish Republic. Which ever way the ball rolls it will roll into difficult and dangerous ground.

New Brunswick's
Prosperity.

Our friends the Liberals have for so long been associated in our minds with gloomy predictions and depressing views of things that we were quite unprepared for Mr. Mitchell's cheery and sanguine remarks the other day in the New Brunswick Legislature. We knew that Canada had come through the period of trade depression better than any country in the world, and that New Brunswick had come through better than any other part of the Dominion, but we did not know that a Liberal Provincial Secretary would declare it, and so emphatically as did Mr. Mitchell. He has every reason to be proud of his beautiful and enterprising Province. We are not surprised that he is enthusiastic in her praise. St. John, the commercial capital, and now the winter port of the Dominion, has a history of remarkable interest. In the