

## The Week.

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THE fact that in the session of Congress just closed the number of measures vetoed exceeded by four the number vetoed previously in the whole course of United States history, is a remarkable consequence of the peculiar attitude towards his party assumed by Mr. Cleveland. The House is a Democratic one, and the President is a Democrat: besides being Chief of the nation, he is Chief of the party that controls the Legislature; yet, in eight months, he has vetoed more measures, passed by his own supporters, than did his predecessors during a whole century. This is the first session of the new Congress, and leader and led have drawn widely apart—as widely as has Mr. Gladstone and the Liberal Party in England; and the reasons are not dissimilar in the two cases, although the analogy is not at all a close one. Mr. Gladstone broke away from his party and its policy in order, as a matter of abstract justice, as he conceived, to confer Home Rule on Ireland; Mr. Cleveland has broken away from his party in order the better to fulfil what he conceived to be his duty to the whole nation as its President. At this bare fact the analogy stops, for while Mr. Gladstone's departure from Liberal principles has been condemned by the sounder members of the party, and the English people in general, Mr. Cleveland's independence of the ordinary ties of party, appears, on the other hand, to be highly approved, if not by the politicians of his party, at any rate by his outside supporters in the nation. The party leaders in Congress complain that he isolates himself and does not consult with them on the measures proposed by the Executive. They therefore do not consult with him on their own measures, and in consequence, Congress ignores the recommendations of the Executive, and the Executive vetoes many of the bills passed by Congress. This is a deplorable waste of power that might be avoided by arrangement. There is this, however, to be said for the President's course: if he fell into the ways of the party leaders he would be following the example of all late preceding Presidents indeed; but in that rut would be lost all the reforms he has set his heart on—civil service reform, reform of the tariff, reciprocity with Canada, suspension of the silver coinage, and the rest. Some of these measures might have been furthered in the late session, if the President had negotiated with the party leaders; but it could have been only on the principle of give and take, and he is apparently averse to compromises. His hope of full success lies in the Independent Party which supports him in his reforms, holding itself aloof from party ties, in the dearth of real party issues—just, as in England, in the contrary case, the hope of permanently frustrating Mr. Gladstone's designs lies in the small body of Liberal Unionists, who have supplanted the Parnellites as arbiters of the fate of governments, and who hold the fort of Liberalism, independently of the leader and his great personal following, till the danger of Disintegration be passed. Whether or no Mr. Cleveland is to succeed in his patriotic object depends altogether on the endurance of the Independents, who are gaining strength in the country indeed, but have a very heavy task to counterbalance the many defections from the ranks of the party that must be caused by the President's neglect of party interests.

AT the risk of appearing a little disrespectful to that august body, the United States Senate, one may reasonably ask whether consideration of the Extradition Treaty would have been deferred till December, if it had not affected prejudicially a class of citizens, who, while they bedraggle the American flag in the mire and stain it with murder and outrage, yet have votes and wield a political influence that no United States legislator dare offend?

THIS continued rioting in Belfast is directly due to the agitation caused in Ireland by Mr. Gladstone's Irish Government proposals. It matters not whether the aggressors are Protestants or Catholics: the perpetual feud between the two that occasions these outbreaks is a convincing evidence that nothing but the strong hand of the Imperial Government prevents them from rushing at each other's throats. They hate each other so intensely that the slightest pretext is seized for a fight; and if the mere rumour of Home Rule has caused the violent collisions that have occurred

lately, what would the reality of Home Rule do! This certainty of civil war it is which, all other considerations apart, must for ever forbid the grant of Home Rule to Ireland by any British Government worthy of the name.

THE Rev. Henry Ward Beecher does not seem to be producing a favourable impression in England. He began his stay there by leading many of his hearers to believe from his behaviour that the American pulpit must be ordinarily a scene of buffoonery—that religion had got to such a pass in America that unless a preacher could season his truths with the quips and cranks of a humourist he had little chance to attain the eminent position reached by Mr. Beecher, the acceptability of whose strange performances was taken as a sample of the national taste in religious matters. And now, in a lecture on "The Reign of the Common People," he has given them a sample of both his politics and religion. He did not, he said, approve the conduct of the Nihilists of Russia, but "he could not help feeling that if he was surrounded by their circumstances, and goaded into rebellion by unjustly administered laws, he should certainly be a member of that community, for he was perfectly certain that the material he was made of was not suited to the composition of an abject slave." Whereupon the *Spectator* administers to him a lay sermon which he might profit by. It may be a very fair apology, the *Spectator* says, for a Nihilist who does not profess much of Christianity to say that he has been goaded into Nihilism by unjustly administered laws. But were not the laws of the Roman Empire unjustly administered in St. Paul's time, and yet did he dream of vaunting that because he could not be a slave he must take part in conspiracies striking at the very source of all order? We must say that we have not any very strong appreciation of the Christianity which sits so lightly on the political conscience as Mr. Beecher's appears to sit upon his. Christianity sowed a kind of Liberalism far deeper and more potent in its spiritual principle than any which would temporise with Nihilism, under a despotism even as cruel as the Czar's.

FOR two or three weeks it was thought that General Boulanger might be the coming man in France. As Minister of War he was prominently before the public, and this advantage he improved by dashing about the country and speechifying on every possible occasion. Being rich, he also was able to make a lavish display; and by this effectual means he soon came to be the man in France most talked about. He completely overshadowed the President of the Republic and his own colleagues, and was regarded as a Buonaparte—without victories. There were considered to be vast possibilities in him, and few would have been surprised any morning to find a Boulanger dynasty reigning in France. But alas, for the fickleness of fortune: this embryo great man, who, according to the Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, made his way into French favour mainly by covering himself with gold lace and other finery, and riding at a review on a 7,000-franc horse, has scarcely mounted the horse when he has met his Waterloo; and, singularly enough, his rout has come from a characteristic which contributed much to the undoing of his great prototype. Poor Boulanger!—and he is still without victories. But after writing to the Duc d'Aumale in 1880:—"Monseigneur, it is to you that I owe my nomination to the grade of General. Blessed shall be that day which shall recall me under your orders"—it was just a little too Napoleonic for modern taste to say in 1886, as he did in the Chamber of Deputies, when reminded during the discussion on the expulsion of the Princes that it was the Duc d'Aumale who made him general:—"I was named a general when Gen. Wolff commanded the *corps d'armée*, and when Gen. Farre was Minister of War. I do not suppose that the Duc d'Aumale had anything to do with my nomination."

REFERRING to the preparations being made for a centenary celebration of the storming of the Bastille three years hence, in 1889, at which it is hoped to buttress the Republic by various demonstrations, against the Royalists for one thing, the *London Spectator* says very truly:—"All this seems to us very artificial. Where there is fulness of life, there is no occasion to go about confiding to each other how full of life we are; nor, as a matter of fact, do we begin to boast of our vitality till we find it failing. If the French Republicans would try the policy of courage and confidence, instead of the policy of panic and precaution, we think they would do a great deal better. If they would leave every religious community in full enjoyment of its liberty, and allow peaceable princes to share that equality for which they cry out for peaceable peasants, they would not find it necessary to indulge in all this chatter only for the purpose of reassuring each other that they have nothing to fear. It is conscience, certainly, that makes cowards of the French Republicans."