

in his favour. The simple fact seems, however, to have been that in consequence of the addition to the lists of an unprecedentedly large number of new voters whose party affinities were unknown, of the uncertainty created by the Democratic divisions in New York, and of other unforeseen contingencies, the data for any reliable forecast were scanty, and the wisest could do little more than guess at the outcome.

THOUGH the election of Harrison and the general triumph of the Republicans are now certain, some time will necessarily elapse before the full returns can be analyzed with sufficient accuracy to warrant a conclusion as to the controlling force, or forces, if, indeed, there were any such, which brought about the results. Though the tariff issue was supreme in the press and on the platform during the campaign, and was probably the most potent factor in the complicated problem, there are many facts in the returns which must astonish and disappoint both the advocates and the opponents of tariff reduction. The tariff-reform cry seems to have been far less effective in the rural districts, and the protection cry far less effective in the great manufacturing centres, than must have been anticipated. Probably the chief significance of this fact is that the staid country voters are much less pervious to the arguments of agitators, much slower to transfer their party allegiance, than their more mercurial fellow-citizens in the great cities. On the whole it would be rash to accept the success of the Republicans as the settled verdict of the people of the United States on any one great question of principle or policy. Civil-Service Reform which elected Cleveland in 1884, though it could hardly be regarded as dead while Blaine was so prominent a figure in the Republican ranks, had been so sorely wounded in the house of its friends that it counted for little in the field. It is not clear that Anglophobia did much more for one party than the other, seeing how strenuously the leaders in both contended for honours in denouncing Canadian atrocities and hurling defiance at British gunboats. The Prohibition Party influenced the result but slightly, if at all. The Republican victory of 1888 will go down to history as a party triumph, the semi-accidental resultant of a great variety of converging and conflicting forces, nothing more.

FROM a Canadian point of view the result is a matter of indifference. There is some reason to hope that the President elect is too judicial in mind and too dignified in character to stoop to a policy of bluster or bullying. He seems committed, it is true, by one passage in his letter of acceptance, to the principle of retaliation, in case the privileges of trading in our harbours and trans-shipping in bond, whose denial seems now to be the burden of American grievance, are not conceded. He argues, plausibly enough for those who are disposed to leave history and treaties out of the account, that Canadian vessels cannot expect a hospitality in United States ports, which is denied to the vessels of the United States in Canadian ports. Treaties aside, these questions are of a kind which may, as we have before argued, be fairly open to reconsideration on the two grounds of policy and neighbourliness. If, as some are disposed to think, a Republican Administration will be bound to dispute the Canadian claim in regard to harbours, the retort will be easy that American vessels cannot expect to be permitted to usurp territorial rights in Canadian waters, while Canadian vessels are granted no corresponding rights in American waters. Should such views or the counsels of such patriots as Senator Frye prevail in the coming Republican Cabinet, the hope of an amicable settlement of the Fishery dispute will be remote indeed. In such a case Canada, after having gone to the utmost bounds in the way of friendly concession, will have only to accept the situation and guard her property as best she can.

THE Report, or rather the Reports—for there was a minority as well as a majority Report—of the English Royal Commission on Education, bids fair to revive in all its intensity the controversy which preceded and led up to the Act of 1870. Arrangements are being made for a great Educational Conference in London on the 20th and 21st inst. The circular summoning the Conference specifies the following as its objects:—

1. To oppose the appropriation of additional public money to denominational schools, and especially payments out of rates to denominational and other privately managed schools.
2. To oppose any sectarian departure from the provisions of the Act of 1870 relating to religious teaching; either by permitting the use of denominational formularies, or by compelling the marking of school registers before the commencement of religious teaching.
3. To promote the extension of the School Board system and the provision of schools of an unsectarian character, under the control of the elected representatives of the ratepayers, throughout England and Wales.
4. To secure increased facilities for the training of teachers in unsectarian colleges.

The circular is issued over the names of about fifty influential men,

including members of Parliament, Nonconformist ministers, members of School Boards and others. The Conference will be looked for with interest as indicating to some extent the strength of the Opposition with which the proposals of the majority of the Educational Commission will be met. In the event of the Government adopting those proposals and attempting to embody them in legislation, as it will probably do, one of the elements of complication will be the uncertainty as to the action of the Liberal Unionists. Will they subordinate their convictions on the matter of unsectarian education to their loyalty to the administration in its struggle against Home Rule? That is a question which is already being anxiously considered.

THE first annual report of the first railway in China has been published. This is a line with a grand total of about twenty-seven miles between Tongsan and Yung-chong, in the Province of Chihli, in North China. Its gross receipts are £13,000, and its net profits £4,900, which gives a dividend of 6 per cent. on the paid-up capital. There have been 1,166 first-class passengers, and 146,333 second-class passengers, or an average of about three first-class and 400 second-class passengers each day. This is not bad considering the strength of the almost invincible prejudices that have had to be broken down. It is noted that the conservatism of the upper classes gives way more slowly than that of the middle and lower classes, a fact which is not, we suppose, exceptional. The line is now extended to Tientsin, the great commercial capital of North China, and no doubt a large extension of traffic will follow.

THE question propounded by the Lord Bishop of Manchester at the recent Church Congress in that city, viz.: "How far might it be wise and right for the clergy to make known the well-established results of Biblical criticism in their ordinary teaching?" was one which does honour to his Christian courage and manliness. The fearless freedom and frankness which characterized many of the papers and discussions of the Church Congress stand out in refreshing contrast with the intolerant timidity which too often holds sway in such conventions. They suggest most favourable comparison, for instance, with such proceedings as those of the Charleston Presbytery which a few weeks ago forbade any public discussion of the action of the South Presbyterian Church in its recent condemnation of the theory of evolution as unorthodox and consequently inadmissible. It should be noted, however, that the South Carolina Synod has shown its greater breadth and wisdom by condemning the action of the Presbytery, and that an appeal has been taken from the Synod to the General Assembly, whose decision will be final. Still more futile, probably, is the compromise attempted at a Quarterly Meeting of the London (England) Baptist Association, which is trying to stay the divisive course of the "down-grade" controversy by a singularly illogical expedient. It has adopted a declaration prepared by a special committee, enumerating seven statements as "among the cardinal principles of the evangelical faith generally held by the churches of the Association," and at the same time depriving these statements of all ecclesiastical or binding authority by distinctly declaring in a preamble that they are not "to be regarded as a credal basis of the Association." The alternatives of a written creed and "no creed but the Bible," are distinct and easily understood, but a statement of belief which is binding only upon those who choose to accept it seems nugatory, if not a contradiction in terms. Meanwhile all these discussions are symptomatic of life and growth, rather than of decay or death. The most vigorous agitation is infinitely better than stagnation. It affords, amongst other encouragements, ground to hope that from all this turmoil will emerge the Church of the future, enlarged, strengthened, and broad-based on a foundation ample for all the grand proportions of the many-sided temple of eternal truth.

SCOTTISH HOME RULE.

It may safely be said that it is the Irish cry for Home Rule, and this alone, which has raised the Scottish Home Rule cry. And most persons who have really thought out the subject have seen, clearly enough, that, if the Irish demand were conceded, it would hardly be possible to stop there. It was probably the prospect of this extension of the federal theory which made Mr. Gladstone, in his first proposals, exclude Irish members altogether from the Imperial Parliament. According to that notion, Great Britain and Ireland would have formed two distinct kingdoms with one sovereign.

It was speedily apparent that such a theory could not be worked, inasmuch as the Imperial Parliament was to retain a power of veto on the action of the Irish Parliament, and this without Ireland being represented in the controlling authority. Accordingly, the next proposal was that