

has not forfeited his right to reformation; and if labour is necessary to his reformation, as we believe it to be, he is still entitled to labour, and to deprive him of it is a cruel wrong. Care, it is needless to say, must be taken that in doing justice to the prisoner no injustice is done to any other part of the community.

If Mr. Meredith wants to win, or to run well, he should lose no time in assuring the people that he believes himself to have men competent to administer the Province. The general misgiving on that point is likely to be fatal to him. It is understood that Mr. M. C. Cameron has declined to leave the Bench. His accession would have been a great addition of strength to Mr. Meredith; but it is impossible to regret a decision which preserves the judiciary from the contamination of party politics. The fact is that extreme localism in elections is telling upon the quality of our legislators; if it is carried much further, we shall have an Assembly of respectable farmers with nobody competent to administer the Province.

THE authority of Dr. Ryerson is invoked in favour of a Ministry of Education. The words of that venerated personage were not always the faithful index of his thoughts. "The complexity of our educational institutions" was nothing new when he recommended the substitution of a Minister for the Council on that ground. What was new was the efficiency of the Council, which had been recently reformed, and instead of acting as a mask for the Doctor's autocracy, overhauled his text-books, inquired into the management of his Depository, and freely exercised its powers of election. Suddenly it became necessary on constitutional grounds that the Council should be killed, and that the Chief Superintendent should have a pension.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, the other day, at Harvard, called attention to the fact that of the Presidents a large proportion had not been educated at a University. He did not do this in a demagogic or Philistinish spirit, for he is above affecting the Railsplitter. The early Presidents were English gentlemen, and it is only with Jackson that the truly democratic line begins, and the real tendencies of election by universal suffrage are disclosed. Democracy is still crude, and the relations between it and culture are not yet adjusted. It is hardly possible to rise in public life, under democracy as it is, without demagogism, and the more highly educated a man is, the less successful as a demagogue he is likely to be. Nay, democracy, as it is, has even a suspicious dislike of cultivated intelligence, which it regards as a sort of aristocracy. This must be borne while the fruit of time is ripening. The kingdom of political science will some day come; the reign of political passion will end, and demagogism and wire-pulling will go to their own place. In the meantime there is the Press, in which more and more, not in the halls of assemblies styled deliberative, the real deliberation goes on; and the Presidents of the Press, if the Universities do their duty to political science, will still be University men. The highly educated man may at all events keep mob rule out of his own soul.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND did not, as we understand his utterances at the Harvard banquet, say anything against the free criticism by the Press of his public conduct. He complained of the impertinent intrusion of newspapers behind the scenes of his private life, and especially of the annoyance which he had suffered from the reporters during his wedding tour. Perhaps on this point he is too sensitive, and speaks with too much warmth. Curiosity, however prying, is not malice; and it is natural that the public should crave for information about the doings of those in whom it feels a deep interest, and whose personality it longs to realise, though undoubtedly the limit is passed when a reporter dogs the President through his wedding tour, or watches the movements of the Queen of England at Balmoral through a telescope. There is very little harm in mere gossip, though it is not the talk of the gods. We have watched a little country journal in the States, year after year, giving the minutest details about the doings of everybody of note in the village, and yet never saying a word which could cause anybody real pain. Social scandal is another thing, and it must be owned that of late the appetite for it, or at least the volume of the journalism which panders to that appetite, has fearfully increased, while the feeling against the libeller has lost force. He is no longer ostracised by society, or shunned as a literary leper by his brethren of the Press. Macaulay denotes the unspeakable infamy of a proposal by saying that it is one which the editor of the *Satirist* could not make to the editor of the *Age*. But the lineal representatives of the editor of the *Satirist* and the editor of the *Age* are now the arbiters of reputation, the great powers of society, and even the companions of royalty.

IN the midst of all the socialistic theories and movements in England Mr. Phelps, the American Ambassador, has been giving a lecture at Edinburgh and setting forth, in language which is described as admirably lucid and cogent, the doctrine that "the possession of property is an inherent right, that Governments exist for its protection as well as for the protection of life and liberty, and that an invasion of it in the supposed interest of the poor always ends in making the burthen of the poor heavier to them!" Mr. Phelps represents what is now the Conservative side of the Atlantic. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York preaches in the same strain, pointing out that the denial of private ownership would be the stagnation of industry and the death of enterprise.

It is a mistake to suppose that Wales, at the last election, went Gladstonite on Disunionist grounds, though the great apostle of Disunionism is now trying to kindle the fire there as well as in Scotland, and apparently not without effect. The issue upon which the people voted at the last election was Disestablishment. To the Celts of Wales, the staidness and solemnity of Anglicanism have proved as little congenial as to the other Celts, and the mass of the people are Calvinistic Methodists. Naturally, they do not like to pay tithe. To pay tithe they will not much longer be compelled, for it is evident that Disestablishment in Wales is coming. It will probably be supported by moderate Liberals, and even by some Conservatives as well as by Radicals. Conservatives are beginning to see that Government must be relieved as much as possible of every unnecessary strain. The Anglican Church has, at all events, a highly educated clergy, and it is practically favourable to intellectual freedom. Whether by its abolition, and by the substitution of an unqualified domination of the Calvinistic Methodist minister, Welsh civilisation will be greatly the gainer may perhaps be doubted. But, as Lord Selborne nobly said in the Bradlaugh case, Christianity is justice. It is not just, and therefore it is not Christian, to compel people to pay tithe to a religion in which they do not believe.

A REMARK is called for also about the apparent Gladstonism of Scotland, to which, as well as to that of Wales, the sympathisers with Parnellism among ourselves appeal. The Disunionists would certainly have strong evidence in their favour if they could boast with truth that the good sense of Scotland was on their side. But there is in Glasgow and other Scotch cities a very large Irish element, the vote of which was, of course, cast solid for Dismemberment. There is also an artisan vote which, in Edinburgh especially, was cast pretty solid on the same side, and which is largely governed by influences alien to the old Scotch character, and identical with those which govern the vote of the Radical or socialistic artisan in Manchester or Leeds. The fact is that, in the great cities, the old Scotch character, like the old Scotch theology which formed its chief ingredient, is beginning to break up; so, at least, say some who ought to know Scotland well. The personal feeling for Mr. Gladstone, who had transferred the honour of his nativity from England to "dear old Scotland," told a good deal, but this is a different thing from agreement with his policy. There is no more trustworthy index of the good sense of Scotland than the *Scotsman*, which remains steadfastly Unionist, though it is favourable, as most Unionists are, to the extension of local self-government. The signal defeat of the Separatist, Dr. Playfair, by the Unionist, Lord Iddesleigh, in the contest for the Rectorship of Edinburgh University, seems to show that one important element at all events is not on the Separatist side.

MR. GLADSTONE is striving desperately to get the Liberals to reunite under his leadership, and help him to turn out the Government. It is touching to see the old man's inextinguishable thirst of power. He appeals to the Liberal Unionists, if they will not embrace his Irish policy, at least to join him in forcing the hand of the Government, which he assures them it is their manifest duty to do. This lure does not take. He then summons them either to recognise him as their leader or renounce Liberalism, which again they silently decline. He countenances Sir George Trevelyan, whom he did his utmost to turn out of Parliament at the last election, in running as a Unionist-Radical candidate against a Conservative for Brighton, hoping to break up the Conservative-Unionist alliance; but this move also comes to nothing. It is all in vain. There is, we are assured, a sufficient number of men resolved that the author of the Irish Government Bill shall not again hold power. Liberals, however strong may be their convictions, if they are patriots and men of sense, see that till the present peril is over; there is nothing for it but to support the only body of men which is strong enough, and which can be trusted, to save the nation from dismemberment, and that for this vital object it is