

Election about to take place Mr. Gladstone will be in a position "to undo by an overwhelming majority the so-called Union," yet every branch of the League is urged to "prepare promptly for the coming crisis, to remit all funds on hand, so that the money may be forwarded to Ireland and be made available, if necessary, for the approaching campaign." What crisis is coming, if Mr. Gladstone is to be so overwhelmingly successful? and what campaign is to follow, *if necessary*? It cannot surely be another campaign of dynamite and murder, for the same document assures us that, "with the exception of a handful of misguided Loyalists in Belfast, the people of Ireland have, in spite of the desperate, disgraceful attempts of Salisbury, Churchill, and Chamberlain to foment religious strife throughout Ireland, shown the world that the days of stupid religious bigotry and intolerance amongst Irishmen have forever passed away." And the days of agrarian crime, moonlighting, cattle-houghing, boycotting, and murder and outrage by knife and dynamite have of course passed away too.

If Mr. Gladstone be beaten at the polls, the abdication of the uncrowned King of Ireland is likely to follow. At the Fenian Convention to be held at Chicago, in August, the conduct of the Parliamentary campaign by Mr. Parnell is to be discussed; and, as by that time, it may be hoped, the people of England will have shown unmistakably that they have no intention to surrender to Fenianism, we may expect that the Parnellite method of warfare will be discarded and a return made to dynamite and open insurrection. Ever since the Kilmainham Treaty Mr. Parnell appears to have been drawing apart from the Extremists in America. That treaty was scoffed at by the *Irish World* as a Parnellite surrender, and when the Gladstone Home Rule Bill was introduced the same paper, it will be remembered, repudiated it utterly. At the Cincinnati Convention, two or three years ago, Mr. Parnell, addressing an Irish-American audience, declared he would never rest till the last link that bound Ireland to England was severed, and he has frequently said much the same thing since; but at the last moment, when, on the night of the division on the Gladstone Bill, Home Rule of any kind seemed to be slipping from his grasp, he professed his willingness to accept a very moderate measure indeed. It cannot, however, be supposed that such a measure would satisfy the Extremists on this side of the Atlantic; in offering to accept it Mr. Parnell was perhaps simply carrying out the instructions of his employers, whose aim it has of late been to publicly praise Mr. Gladstone's Bill in order to bamboozle the nation into granting what, supposed to be a finality, would really be accepted by the Fenians only as a means of getting more—a stepping-stone, and a huge step, to Separation. But Mr. Parnell has failed even to get this; and if the approaching elections should confirm his failure, he will have either to place himself in hostility to the American-Irish Extremists or to go heartily with them in their methods. Which will he do? In the first case he may count on the support of the rival Nationalist organisation—what is known as the Hoffman House Party—who are comparatively moderate and respectable, but, therefore, weaker. In the other case he can hardly expect still to retain his command—at any rate he will lose any independence he now possesses; and what will be his chances when Government is again re-established in England, as it must be?

AMONG the many weak arguments with which Mr. Gladstone attempted to buttress his Disunion Bill, perhaps the strongest was his pretension that it is the local autonomy of Austria and Hungary that keeps the Austrian State together. This sounded very well, and coming from Mr. Gladstone it would be very convincing to all who are ignorant of or have forgotten the words Mr. Gladstone had to eat in 1880, when he succeeded to power after making in his election campaign an equally wild statement about this same Austrian Power. Yet, in fact, nothing can be further from the truth than that local autonomy is in any way a source of strength to Austria-Hungary; and this, singularly enough, is illustrated most clearly by a serious quarrel that has lately taken place between the two countries, and that is now going on. "Some officers at Pesth recently placed a wreath on the statue of an officer who distinguished himself in 'putting down' the Hungarians, and the Magyars were very angry. A Magyar journalist insulted the old Archduke Albrecht, and the students raised a riot against the officer, General Janski, who had prompted the laying of the wreath. The Austrian army took dire offence, and the Emperor was compelled to interfere. General Janski was directed not to enter Hungary, and the journalist was compelled to apologise; but the riots are going on, and the soldiery have at last been ordered to fire. As the Emperor holds himself bound to protect the honour of the army, the incident might be exceedingly serious; but, fortunately, the leading Hungarians are quieting their people. They know that the Empire must

hold together, or its kingdoms will be absorbed in detail by Germany and Russia. This conviction is the basis of the Emperor's power, but it does not suffice to prevent Austrians and Magyars fighting whenever they dare, in spite of the 'dual' arrangement, which but for the Emperor would be unworkable." This is the sort of dual or multiple Empire Mr. Gladstone contemplates for Britain with such pleasure. But let but an Englishman dare to lay a wreath on the tomb of Lord Frederick Cavendish or Mr. Burke and we shall have all Ireland in a ferment of insurrection against the Crown; and possibly by that time the ill-jointed Empire will have sunk so low that, like Austria-Hungary, it will be held together only through fear of absorption by France or Holland.

THE enterprise of the German syndicate who proposed a few months ago to lend China a good many millions of money (first borrowed from England) in return for the exclusive privilege of opening up commerce and constructing railways in the interior of China—the bulk of the money being spent in Germany—has been untimely nipped in the bud by the reply of the Viceroy of China to a delegation from the syndicate, to the effect that China would build railways when she was able to manufacture the materials needed in their construction within her own dominions. And so the accomplishment of this scheme to supplant England in the position of paramount influence in China has seemingly been deferred to the era of universal Free Trade.

AN estimate published of the quantity of money in circulation in Germany at the beginning of the current year, as compared with 1871, affords a striking illustration of the truth that war arouses a nation to commercial activity. In 1871, the currency of all sorts needed to carry on German trade amounted to £115,200,000 sterling; it is now £157,750,000—an increase which shows that the national courage aroused by a great war may be most useful in promoting commerce, for to the success of commercial enterprise courage is as essential as to the success of war.

SOON after the restoration, Mademoiselle Mars appeared on the stage wearing a tricolor ribbon, which so enraged the parterre and the Gardes du Corps that she was obliged to take it off and apologize on the spot. "Ces canailles de Gardes du Corps," she was heard to mutter, which they, hearing, very foolishly sent one of their officers on the following morning to demand an apology. She was in bed when he arrived, but her maid went into her room to announce him, leaving the door open, when Mademoiselle Mars cried out, "What is it?" "Madame, it is one of the officers of the Gardes du Corps, who particularly wishes to speak to you." "Tell him," she answered, "that Mars has nothing whatever to do with the Gardes du Corps."

SIGNOR BRIGNOLI was telling one day that once, while he was singing in concert for a charitable object, the prima donna was suddenly attacked with a singer's sore throat; and it became necessary for some one to apologize to the audience. The manager declared he was suffering from nervousness, and could not do it; and he begged Brignoli to make the explanation. The tenor, going forward, said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to say Madame N. eez a little horse this evening." Peals of laughter greeted this announcement; and the tenor looked puzzled, thinking the audience misunderstood him. He advanced once more, and with thundering emphasis roared out, "I say Madame N. eez a little horse dis evening." Another roar of laughter, amid which a voice in the gallery cried out, "Then, if she is a horse, why not trot her out?" Then the mistake was plain to him, and Brignoli laughed as heartily as any one.

THE London *Spectator* says: Foreign opinion would seem to be, in the main, friendly to Home Rule, upon two grounds. The Radical and Romanist papers think it would be either a democratic victory or a victory for Catholicism, while the Conservative journals, and especially the Royalist journals of France, think that it would substantially weaken the external power of Great Britain. Only the journals which, like the Italian *Diritto*, seriously dread any diminution of English influence in the world, are heartily with the Unionists. As no nation ever quite understands another, foreign opinion on domestic affairs is not usually of much value; but the secession of a province is hardly a domestic affair. American opinion is separate; but not to mention the anxiety of parties in America to catch the Irish vote, the people of the United States are accustomed to Federalism, and, in spite of their civil war, think it the natural arrangement for freemen. If ever a State of the Union falls entirely into Irish hands, which might happen if Irishmen really wished to be self-governing, our friends across the water will probably reconsider their opinion, and perhaps stretch their Constitution a little.