

that Imperial Federation is full of vitality compared with Anglo-Saxon unity, which he calls the dream of daring and ambitious minds. But Anglo-Saxon unity is not, like Imperial Federation, a political movement, and therefore cannot be called upon to report political progress. It is a sentiment, and as a sentiment it does grow, though fitfully and with interruptions caused by Anglophobic demagogism pandering to the Irish vote. Has there not been going on during the last twenty years not only a marked reconciliation of the two great sections of the race, but a fusion—social, ecclesiastical, literary, and of every kind? Twenty years ago who would have thought that the requiem of General Grant would be sung in Westminster Abbey?

As the *Globe* is engaged in re-forming the broken ranks of the Liberal Party for a fresh advance against the enemy, we cannot help respectfully calling its serious attention to the attitude of the Prohibitionist wing. The representatives of that wing have in regular convention resolved that its vote shall be cast in all elections—even in the elections of School Trustees—against any candidate who does not pledge himself to support the Scott Act, no matter what, or how Liberal, his political opinions may be. The *Globe*, it is fair to say, gave these Exclusionists a tap with its fan; but they have paid no heed to the playful admonition, and are proceeding, like consistent and conscientious people, to carry their principle into effect. We would ask the *Globe* seriously to consider what is the situation of a party of which one-half has resolved at all elections, political and municipal, to boycott the other half. Is it to be expected that the part which is boycotted will continue with touching self-sacrifice to vote with the other half and treat it as an ally? The power of names in keeping parties together is great, especially if the name has no meaning. But there is a limit to the influence of nomenclature as well as to those of custom and tradition. The term Liberal will not much longer hide the widening gulf between the fundamental principles of the two sections of the party. It has hitherto belonged and, if the meaning of words is to be regarded, must continue to belong to the friends of liberty. But by the side of these has arisen a school of politicians, one of whom spoke of liberty the other day as "barbarous, savage and sensual." Nominally marching under the same banner are a set of people who want to make a use of the suffrage not less arbitrary, though possibly more beneficent, than the despotism of the Stuarts, and another set of people who would as soon pay ship-money to the Stuarts as allow the spies and familiars of "coercive morality" to invade their private lives and homes. It may have been a part of Mr. Blake's difficulties in command that on questions which are increasing both in number and importance the word to advance would have been a signal to the two wings of his army for wheeling inwards and firing on each other.

WE are sorry to find that some words in our last number have been construed by one reader at least as a renunciation of University Confederation. Nothing could be further from our meaning. We are firm in the faith that a secular university with religious colleges is the true solution of the question between secular and religious education; and we remain just as convinced as ever that a combination of all our resources and a concentration of our academical life are necessary to enable the Province of Ontario to maintain an institution worthy of the name of a University, and capable in the long run of holding its own against wealthy rivals on the other side of the line. The University of Toronto has not at present one-quarter of the revenue requisite to keep it, in the scientific department especially, on a level with the requirements of the times, while its professors, instead of having any leisure for research and for the advancement of learning and science, are engaged without remission in turning the educational wheel like the teachers of a common school. Nor is there the slightest prospect of any further endowment so long as the great denominations stand aloof and give their political support to separate universities of their own. Moreover, this separation, which is inevitably attended by a certain degree of antagonism, stamps the Provincial University with distinctive secularism and thus makes it sectarian in that sense. The President may with perfect truth disclaim any opposition to religious education, but he cannot get rid of the appearance or indeed entirely of the reality. We would earnestly commend this last consideration to those members of the University of Toronto who are either openly opposing Confederation or tacitly contributing to the miscarriage of the scheme by cold approval and faint support. We should be exceedingly sorry to be misunderstood, because this evidently is the turning-point; the question whether the Province is to have a great university or not will soon be decided, and it will be decided once for all. If Confederation is finally rejected the religious universities will appeal to their friends, who will respond to the appeal, and the "one-horse" system will strike roots

such as no Minister of Education, even if he were much more like Hercules than party politicians are, would ever dream of attempting to pluck up!

A PROHIBITIONIST organ announces with a satisfaction which we heartily share that the last quarterly revenue returns in Britain continue to indicate the progress of the Temperance Movement. The *Times* ascribes the diminished Customs receipts to the decline of drinking habits among all classes of the community. The *Standard* chimes in with the remark that the Temperance Movement has, beyond question, affected the yield of the Excise. The *Telegraph* declares that not only is the consumption of spirits and beer still diminishing, but the virtuous zeal of the various local authorities in restricting the number of taverns and public-houses must be now telling seriously upon the proceeds of the licenses issued. Precisely so. Moral, prudential and medical influences, combined with a proper licensing system, are surely and rapidly doing the work of reform without prohibitive legislation: for no prohibitive legislation exists in the United Kingdom, saving in portions of Ireland and Wales, where a Sunday Closing Act has been introduced, and, so far, has proved much worse than a failure. The reform which has taken place in the habits of the wealthier classes of England in the course of the last half-century is by all allowed to be surprising: and it is in the fullest sense of the term voluntary, there having been not only no coercive legislation but no pressure of any kind, and a complete command of the most seductive liquors. All the evidence of those who have known Canada long goes to prove that there has been an equally great change for the better here. Considering then what spontaneous reform has done and is doing, it seems natural to ask why people should desire to supplant it by coercive legislation? The answer, in part at least, seems to be that these persons are afflicted with an incapacity for understanding that their fellow-men are endowed with sense and will as well as themselves. A Scott Act orator the other day said that he would as soon think of trusting a child with a knife as of trusting his fellow-citizens with access to wine. Supposing wine to be a knife, this benevolent gentleman's fellow-citizens are no more children than he is.

EVERY day we see the noxious influence which is exerted on British politics by the passionate love and equally passionate hatred of Mr. Gladstone. On one side are people whom no proofs of his unwisdom, however signal, no catastrophe of his policy, however disastrous, in Ireland or in Egypt, will convince that he is not absolutely to be trusted, or that it is not perfectly safe to be steered straight into a revolution so long as he is at the helm. On the other side are people whose hatred of him is little short of demoniac, and who lose sight of their duty to the commonwealth and every other consideration when their dominant antipathy is excited and there is a chance of its gratification. The other day we had an Anti-Gladstonian maniac trying to drive home against the fiend of his imagination the charge of having told a wilful lie about the time at which the news of Gordon's death reached him, in order to evade the imputation of indecent callousness in going to the play, as though any one but a political cannibal, full of party fire-water, could believe that a man of Mr. Gladstone's personal excellence would be wanting in common veracity or in common feeling. Now we have an Archdeacon adorning his office and illustrating the Christian religion by saying that having known Mr. Gladstone for thirty years he would not trust him with a farthing, and that people who cheered for him might as well cheer for the devil. The same demon of political and personal malignity has entered the writer of the article in the *London Quarterly* on "The Coming Election," and the result is about as disgraceful an exhibition of the lowest, narrowest and vilest spirit of party as ever was made by an educated man at a great and dangerous crisis in the destinies of his country. That the Crimes Act was "Gladstonian" is evidently in this man's eyes a sufficient justification for throwing it over and consigning Ireland again to a reign of terrorism, murder and outrage. That Mr. Gladstone may be prevented from returning to power is a sufficient justification for bidding for the Irish rebel vote, which the Tory writer in the *Quarterly* does in the most shameless manner, though not a year has passed since he and all his tribe were denouncing the Liberal Government for its treasonable slackness in putting down Irish rebellion.

It is a relief to see the *Pall Mall Gazette* case at last fairly launched on its course down the kennel to the common receptacle of things unclean. It was in spite of the most unscrupulous efforts to influence the jury by agitation that the verdict against Mr. Stead and his virtuous ally, Mrs. Jarrett, was pronounced. There can be no longer any serious doubts as to the facts or merits of this case. Every reader of the *Pall Mall Gazette*