

in an undignified and disgraceful squabble. Home Rule for Ireland has, by the action of the Irish themselves, been indefinitely postponed. The Liberals are naturally incensed by the support which the Irish members of the House of Commons are giving to the Education Bill, but even before this support was given Home Rule had ceased to be anything more than a ghost hanging about the outskirts of the Liberal programme. The golden moment which saw Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Parnell working hand in hand for a common object, one of the first of English statesmen and the greatest of Irish leaders combining their forces, has passed, and such a happy conjunction of fortunate conditions is not likely to occur again in the life of the present generation.

The sentence to fifteen years' imprisonment to which the condemnation to death of the leaders of the South African Reform Committee has been commuted is generally regarded as unduly severe. The present action was taken, it is reported, against the advice of President Kruger by a vote of a majority of the Transvaal Council. The prisoners of minor importance will either be released at once or compelled to serve out prison sentences of from three months to a year in duration. It is said that the prisons are wretchedly managed and that some of the leaders sentenced for fifteen years would be most unlikely to survive to the end of that time; on the other hand, the British Colonial Office has received a telegram from President Kruger saying that the jail regulations would be immediately modified so as to increase the comfort of the Reform Committee prisoners. A further reduction of the punishment is thought possible. Mr. Chamberlain, in an address at the annual banquet of the South African Company, confessed that he was disappointed by the decision of the Transvaal Government regarding the sentence of the leaders of the Reform Committee, especially because he had always trusted in President Kruger's magnanimity, believing that he was never animated by vindictive feeling against men who, whatever their errors, had by their energy and enterprise created the Transvaal's prosperity. Of the Government's policy, Mr. Chamberlain only said, rather enigmatically, that it would not be changed.

The campaign of the Canadian general elections is now in progress. Parliament has been dissolved, and polling takes place on June 23. The main issues are tariff reform and the Manitoba school question. The former involves either the retention or the overthrow of the present protective system; the latter, remedial legislation compelling Manitoba to restore the system of separate schools abolished by the Legislature of that Province in 1890. In regard to the latter issue, a recent restatement of opposing attitudes and intentions by the leaders on both sides has deepened the interest of the contest. The policy of the Conservative party, which favors remedial legislation, is now directed by the new Premier, Sir Charles Tupper, whose speeches on opening the campaign give no uncertain sound, and are without the faintest tinge of compromise. The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal leader, advocates the appointment of a commission whose impartial investigation of facts may be expected to point a way out of the difficulty and facilitate the removal of the vexatious question from politics. Sir Charles Tupper insists vigorously that the question is really not one of separate schools so much as the carrying into effect of the provisions of the constitution under which the educational rights of Roman Catholic minorities were guaranteed protection. Mr. Laurier's position is that, according to the judgment of the Imperial

Privy Council in 1892, no educational right or privilege was taken away by the Manitoba Public Schools Act of 1890, and that the subsequent judgment by the same tribunal in 1895 did not touch that point, but gave the Dominion Government the right of interfering, if it should choose to do so, upon an appeal to it by the Catholic minority—the judgment not indicating any particular line of action, in fact not recommending any action at all. There was no necessity of bringing the question into Dominion politics, and it might have been referred back to Manitoba for settlement with quite as well founded a hope of peace and satisfaction as may be based on any threat of coercion.

A significant feature of the contest is the direct intervention of the Roman Church. Archbishop Langevin has been making vigorous efforts to influence the voters, and, presumptively under his influence, a "Bishops' Mandate," signed by all the Roman Catholic Bishops in the Province of Quebec, has been issued instructing Roman Catholics that it is their duty to vote for the Conservative Government which is pledged to restore to the hierarchy their separate schools. It remains to be seen whether clerical interference like this will be effective. Not long ago, in the county of Charlevoix, in the same Province, a similar episcopal interference was rebuked by the return of the Liberal candidate. In Ontario the Roman Catholic clergy have thus far given no sign of meddling with the civic rights and duties of their parishioners. There is greater probability of such interference in Nova Scotia, where a notable instance of some time ago caused much excited comment. It should not be forgotten that, even should the verdict of the elections be in favor of remedial legislation (though this may be looked upon as improbable), new embarrassments would quickly succeed the old. For, independently of the question whether Manitoba *ought* to be coerced, there is another far more perplexing, namely, how *can* she be coerced? The Province controls the machinery of educational administration within her own limits. Can the Dominion, against the wish of the Province, effectually put that machinery in operation? Or can the Dominion set up its own administration of educational affairs in the Province and collect the funds for the support of separate schools? Greater than all legal or technical difficulties of interpretation or compromise is the paramount one of enforcing upon this strongly opposed Province a system of public education which has been found antiquated and unsatisfactory by a very large majority of the people.

The Italian campaign in Abyssinia has been ended by the surrender, on the part of the Abyssinians, of the Italian prisoners in their hands, and by the abandonment, on the part of the Italians, of Adigrat and the return of the troops to the Eritrean Colony, the territory on the Red Sea occupied since 1885, and from which the recent advance into Abyssinia was made. This territory extends from the sea to the base of the mountains of Abyssinia. In an evil hour, and under the temptation of the evil spirit of Jingoism, the Italians attempted to climb those mountains and invade the territory of a brave and warlike people. They have spent millions of money, sacrificed thousands of lives, and they have now retreated to the point whence they set out, with a very considerable national loss of prestige. A handful of savages have beaten a member of the Triple Alliance, have added greatly to the burdens of her people, have inflicted a serious blow to her military prestige, and have caused the overthrow of the Ministry of the most powerful statesman in Italy. Abyss-

sinia has demonstrated her fighting ability; as for her cause, it was just and righteous from the start. Italy withdraws to the little green strip on the coast of the Red Sea, having paid well for her experience, and perhaps learned a lesson from it. Meanwhile, Abyssinia will have a breathing-space, but probably only a breathing-space, for sooner or later Africa will be divided between the Great Powers. The amended Budget recently submitted by the Italian Minister of Finance shows a better condition than was anticipated. A new loan at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of 140,000,000 francs was subscribed for twenty-two times over, which is the best possible evidence that Italy still has faith in her Government. The Budget shows no anticipation of a deficit, and it is possible that the stoppage of the expenditures in Abyssinia may help the Ministers out in their attempt to deal with the financial situation.



There is no question but that the late French Ministry owed its downfall in no small degree to the opposition to the income tax, and yet the income tax, as The Outlook reminded its readers at the time, is by no means a revolutionary measure. On the contrary, it has been adopted by such conservative countries as England and Germany, and is not considered in either country any more oppressive than other forms of taxation. It has seemed singular, therefore, to many observers that the income tax should have been regarded in France by Moderate Republicans and Conservatives of all types as a kind of badge of communism—a thing to be feared and opposed as revolutionary in its character. The Paris correspondent of the London "Times" throws some light on the situation. In his judgment, the income tax would not have excited the opposition which has arrayed so many influential groups against it, if it had not been felt by the classes upon whom it would have fallen most heavily that it was being pushed, not as a measure of financial relief or of financial justice, but as a political bait for the multitude. Small incomes were exempted under the proposed measure, and the burden of the tax was laid, with obvious intention, exclusively upon the few rich men. According to this observer, if it had been introduced as a part of a financial reform, and had rested upon all classes, the rich people would have cheerfully borne their share; but the attempt to saddle, without discrimination, the burden exclusively upon the rich and to lift it entirely off the poor gave the measure a demagogic character, and naturally excited the most intense opposition. The new Ministry has so far given an impression of quiet courage which augurs well for the future, but no one anticipates for it a long lease of life. Under the present conditions no French Ministry is likely to be able to keep in office long enough to impose a fixed policy upon the country.



The new Shah of Persia has succeeded to the throne of his father without any revolution as yet, very much to the relief of the European diplomats. In fact, the acquiescence of the new Shah's brothers indicates the decline of vitality of which Persia has given so many evidences in late years. The eldest of these brothers is regarded by those who know him as one of the ablest and most energetic men in Persia. He is a man who would naturally be the center of any kind of revolt against the new Shah. Another brother is Minister of War. Probably one fact which gives steadiness to the situation in Persia is the fear of foreign interference. The Persians understand perfectly that Russia regards herself as a sort of residuary legatee, and they are not disposed to inaugurate a family quarrel at the risk of losing

the family property. Whenever the opportunity comes, and Russia takes that step, she will stand face to face with England in the Far East. The "Spectator" points out in a recent number the fact that Russia and England are fronting each other at all points. Russia wants Constantinople, and England defends Turkey. She wants large concessions in China, and she has secured them, but England is protesting at every step. She wants Persia, but when she attempts to enforce her claim she will be met by English antagonism of the most pronounced kind. Under these circumstances, Russian watchfulness of English policy and Russian sensitiveness to English advance movements can hardly be wondered at. Sooner or later the two great Powers which have practically divided the East between them will have to settle the question of the primacy.



Madame Clara Wieck Schumann, the widow of Robert Schumann, died at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, on Thursday of last week, in her seventy-seventh year. She was a remarkable musician herself, but her chief celebrity is due to the fact that she kept the present generation in living touch with one of the greatest musical spirits the world has yet known—Robert Schumann. She was born in Leipsic, and at a very early age displayed a genius which her father very wisely determined to train rather than to exhibit. She became while still very young a professional pianist of high standing and achievement, and leaves behind her the generally acknowledged reputation of being the greatest female pianist that has ever lived. She married Schumann when she was only about twenty-one, and was a support and stay to her husband in the struggles he endured while winning recognition as a musical master, and later she was his devoted nurse and attendant in the mental disease from which he finally died in 1856. Madame Schumann was not only a pianist but a student and composer. Her interpretation of her husband's compositions was her chief musical aim during her long widowhood, and although her own accomplishments and abilities were of the highest order, her name will always be inseparably associated with his.



### "Au Large"

These words, which Dr. van Dyke has so finely interpreted in that out-of-door classic "Little Rivers," have a magical music on the lips of the French Canadian guides and *voyageurs*. They signify the parting from the old, familiar, every-day surroundings, and the setting out with wind and tide for quest, adventure, and discovery. There is a world of poetry in the very sound of the words, so subtly suggestive—to the ear as well as to the mind—of escape from the bondage of custom, tradition, and commonplace, and of the fresh fields beyond the horizon, and the new experiences which await the adventurer. From the beginning of time healthy men have had the passion for wandering, for experience, for knowledge of life; a passion which has meant, not restlessness and incapacity to deal strongly and continuously with fixed conditions, but energy of will, vitality of nature, a deep-seated desire for growth, enlargement, and power. In the earliest myths the wanderer is a familiar and striking figure. He is no idler among busy men; no loiterer along the roads where others fail; he is, rather, an incarnation of the soul of man, with its divine thirst for fullness of life. He fares far and wide, seeing many countries, undergoing many hardships, meeting many men, drinking the cup of experience from many