

## RUNNING COMMENT.

An Epitome of the Month's Doings at Home and Abroad.

While we cannot look on with composure at the oppression of Ireland and numerous acts of tyranny committed by the British Government on helpless peoples, we are forced to recognize the fact that if barbarous nations must be despoiled of their independence by nations more civilized it is much better for them to fall into the hands of England than that of any other European power. We sympathize with the Irish revolutionary papers when they are contending for acknowledged rights for Ireland and keeping her wrongs before the world; but when they talk of joining their forces with Russia, France or Germany against England, it is all rot—yes, worse,—it is criminal. It is not "rebellion to constituted authority" that troubles us, for we believe in the "sacred right of rebellion" against any government, when that government is subversive of the rights of the people, and there is any prospect of bettering their condition, but suppose England's power were broken to-morrow what better off would Ireland, India or Africa be under France or Russia or Germany? They would be a thousand times worse. England has at least a mixture of Christianity and progression in her treatment of conquered nations which is lacking in any of the other powers, and the fact that she holds such an enormous territory with so few malcontents, while the colonizing efforts of other European nations have not been productive of either peace or prosperity to either party concerned proves that, until "the right of conquest" is abolished by an international conscience, it is best to serve the best master. If our dearest hope—that of an independent republic for Canada, is never realized it would be both foolish and criminal to transfer our allegiance to those who are alien in blood, language and interest to us. The very liberty revolutionists enjoy under the British flag is the most fruitful cause for the blackening of England's character, as infinitely worse is done by other governments, but the details are suppressed by a brutal censorship of the press.

It is reported that Hon. Wilfred Laurier is to be knighted. We sincerely hope that he will refuse the "honor," as no Liberal working for the good of the common people and along the lines of democracy and reform, can accept a title from a crowned-head without stultifying himself and giving the lie to his professions. We think there is a great deal more honor in possessing the confidence of a majority of the Canadian people, who by their free will have elected him to the highest position in the country than in any hocus-pocus decoration from a foreign potentate, born of medieval pretension, assumption and vanity.

It seems that Lord Salisbury has at last come around to arbitration in the Venezuelan affair and now all is lovely between John Bull and Uncle Sam. It is not likely he will care to make public the reasons for this sudden change of base, but there is assuredly some important reason, if not necessary cause for his action. The determined stand in the interests of the maintenance of the integrity of the South American Republics taken by

President Cleveland was going to plunge the country into the horrors of a civil war and all that sort of thing; but he never weakened, and the victory is now his. It is sincerely to be hoped that the good feeling between Great Britain and the United States will be long continued, but it will not be bought at the expense of the liberty or territory of any American Republic.

Spain says that a war between her and the United States means a war between the United States and Europe, and that very little provocation from the latter country will make her take up the cudgels in the interests of European colonization, robbery and oppression. We are well aware that none of the European nations look with a very favorable eye upon the emancipation of the American countries from European thralldom, but we hardly think she is commissioned to speak for any of them except herself and she would stand about as much chance of licking the United States as her little infant king would of knocking out John L. Sullivan in his palmiest days. Whatever the Americans are, they are not a nation of cut-throats and murderers like Spain. They do not shoot down in cold blood defenceless prisoners—men, women and children. Not all the blessed water in her cathedrals would cleanse the hands of her rulers of innocent blood that cries to heaven for vengeance. Don't glory in the fact that you belong to the church instituted by Christ and which his blessed mother watches over. No! you are a disgrace and a reproach to it, and your fiendish hearts and bloody hands make you rather the children of the devil, on whose heads the wrath of the God of the Universal Church will fall sooner or later.

The settlement of the School Question in Manitoba by the Federal Government, it seems, does not meet the requirements of Archbishop Langevin and Archbishop O'Brien, and while these men are honest in their convictions and only contending for the principles inculcated by our church they should remember that this is not a Catholic country, nor is it governed by clerical policy, and that in granting the concessions that it did though falling far short of justice, the government went quite as far as it dare go and also satisfy Protestants and Secularists, and placate as far as possible an extreme section, which, if it had the power, would not allow the Catholics any rights, much less privileges. The clerical party in Canada have only themselves to blame that the above class have the power they have to-day, by their meddling and dictatorial policy upon matters which, however, they circumscribe the rights they contend for, properly come within the scope of the provincial governments.


It is surprising how quick the British Government found out the fact that the healths of Dr. Jameson and his fellow-freebooters (who are "languishing" in fine upholstered prisons and deprived of nothing but liberty) are failing and likely to lead to serious consequences if their imprisonment is prolonged. For the alleged Irish dynamiters, kept in solitary confinement, starved, frozen and beaten it took thirteen years, and then they would not have been released but that they had been deprived of their reason, and were liable at any moment to die on their hands. It makes a great differ-

ence in this case what is the motive for crime.

Italy has got a black eye from the black monarch, King Menelik of Abyssinia and has been forced to relinquish the territory robbed from that ruler some years ago. King Menelik may be a barbarian, but he has the undoubted right to rule over his own territory.

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
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