

independence which they now enjoy would have led to predictions of impending dissolution to the Empire. Canada had its three or four rebellions; Australia had one, when the flag of a new southern republic floated over the Eureka Stockade, and in the early nineties the policy of 'cutting the painter' produced quite a little literature of its own. And only two or three days after the alleged interview of Cardinal Logue, the following cable message appeared in our daily papers, from the same source (New York):—

'At a meeting of the Canadian Club at New York Mr. Justice Longley (of Halifax) predicted that Canada would ultimately become an independent State in alliance with Great Britain.'

We have been through Canada practically from end to end—especially in those parts that have been most overrun by the tide of immigration which has flown so abundantly from northern and central and eastern Europe. We have had some opportunity of judging of the extent to which the old racial balance has been upset by colonists to whom the Union Jack makes no special appeal and imperial sentiment can have, as yet, little meaning. We realise the perils of independent nations, with small populations, rich resources, and long, unguarded frontiers, and we should regard as an evil day for Canada the day on which, with less than 50,000,000 people, she won her independence. But we are neither prepared to accept or to deny the prophecy put into the mouth of Mr. Justice Longley. We merely note this curious fact: that the alleged prediction of that high-placed Canadian Government official met (so far as we are aware) with none of the hot-shot fusillades that greeted the prophecy attributed—whether rightly or wrongly remains to be seen—to Cardinal Logue.

As regards Australia and New Zealand, British statesmen have had sufficient wisdom to discover that bonds of silk are stronger to bind a subject people than gyves of brass or triple steel. It will be a happy day for the Empire when these same statesmen discover that a good principle applies all round, and that the method of rule which has produced such excellent results in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and the Transvaal cannot fail to promote peace and goodwill in the Cinderella nation to the west of the Irish Sea. Whether Cardinal Logue ever made the allusions to Australia and New Zealand that the cableman credits him with, remains to be seen. If he did, he has confounded past with present conditions. That is about the pennyworth of it all. And if he did so (and this is, in all the circumstances, a pretty big assumption) it is a case for setting right, not for hysterics. The fact remains, that the imperialistic sentiment is strong in these countries simply because of their practical independence. And there exists among us a spirit of sturdy liberty which is the best earnest that we will hold fast to that which we have won. For the rest, whatever lingering feeling may have remained in the Commonwealth or the Dominion in favor of 'cutting the painter', must have been pretty effectually smothered by the lessons of Port Arthur and Tsushima. With the rodent ulcer of race-suicide keeping these two nations in a puny and anaemic condition as to population, our only hope of preservation and of a measure of national strength and progress lies in our remaining under the protecting guns of the Empire. The day that protection fails us, and we are left to stand or fall alone, Australia and New Zealand would speedily become the prey of the first capable comer—probably mere Crown colonies of China or Japan.

'Catholic Marriages'. The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply, Manager, 'Tablet', Dunedin.

TUSSICURA (Wild Cherry Balm) never fails to give relief in cases of stubborn coughs and colds; catarrh, etc.

Notes

Sentiment and Motive Power

At a meeting of the Hawke's Bay Presbytery on May 14, the Rev. Mr. White congratulated all present on 'the great progress of sentiment' in the matter of the volunteer religious instruction of children in the public schools. The half-hour a week devoted to this work in some of the schools 'doubled', said he, 'the present religious instruction of the young, but it fell far short of the intensity and thoroughness they had known in Scotland. He could not rest until all the ministers went into the schools daily' 'The great progress of sentiment' mentioned by the Rev. Mr. White will be welcomed by Catholics, more especially if it develops sufficient motive energy or horse-power to move our separated brethren to do what our co-religionists have been doing for a generation as a matter of course, and at great personal sacrifice, for the religious up-bringing of the young. We cordially invite the Reformed faiths to break up, by imitation of our example, the practical monopoly of religious education which Catholics have so long held in these countries.

Some Catholic Biologists

'The real father of the evolution idea in modern times', says the learned Dr. James J. Walsh in the 'Pilot', 'was Lamarck, a Catholic. The greatest teacher in nineteenth century biology was Johann Muller, a Catholic. His great pupil, Schwann, father of the cell doctrine, was another Catholic. Nearly all the French workers in biology were Catholics. The greatest of recent biologists was Pasteur, whose monument, by his own direction, is a Catholic chapel at the entrance to the Institut Pasteur, Paris, where Mass is said regularly for his soul and for the success of the work he founded.'

'Conquest of the Air'

The daily papers have, during the past few days, been giving accounts of the long flights which are said to have been achieved by the Wright brothers (Americans) in their heavier-than-air 'volor' (as we may call it, using the easy term invented by Father Benson in his 'Lord of the World'). Unless these flights be to a considerable extent flights of fancy, America may claim an easy first place in the matter of air-conquest, both by reason of the lowness of horse-power employed, the lightness and manageability of their machine, and the length and height of their journey through the fields of atmosphere. Farman's machine is, by comparison, an age behind that of the Wright brothers, if one may judge by recorded achievements. Farman, at latest reports, seems to be taking occasional jumps into the air on the Issy drill-ground outside Paris, and taking short swallow-flights around a circular course twenty or twenty-five feet above the ground. During his latest soar, while turning, one of the wings of his aeroplane tripped in the ground, the machine came down with a bang, its timbers were shivered, and Farman was thrown into the middle of the next week. His machine, as described in technical magazines before us, is a heavy structure, of enormous horse-power, and is so constructed that very high engine-speeds and rates of travel are necessary in order to keep it soaring even a moderate distance over ground. When the speed drops a little (as in rounding bends) the machine dips, and, on the occasion mentioned above, Farman found himself in the position of the 'baby on the tree-top' in the nursery rhyme—'when the bough broke, the cradle did fall, and down came baby, cradle, and all'. Thus far, there seems, however, to be more of promise than of actual achievement in the flying machine. But the practical volor of the future, if it ever comes, will owe its success in part to the patient toil—even to the mistakes—of experimenters like Farman and the Wrights.