

match between England and Ireland, which takes place to-day at Worcester, are dealt with by "Flying Half." (p. 9.)
The principal Association matches of to-day are discussed by "Quicksight." (p. 9.)

THE TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1906.

IMPERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

DISTURBING rumours of native unrest have for some time been coming from Natal, and we regret to say that there has now been something of the nature of a small outbreak against the poll-tax. The trouble has all the wonted antecedents and concomitants of a native disturbance. There is first a period of what some people, we see, call "coddling" and others justice. Then there is a resort to what some call strong and others tyrannical measures. Then follow resentment, rumours of trouble, perhaps an actual fracas. The police are found to be insufficient, and it may be that an outrage is committed. There is a clamour for vengeance and repression, or, in more popular language, for strong measures and the making of a good example. The people who are being made an example of object. They prefer teaching by precept, or the example of others. Finally they take to the veldt and resist. The disquiet has become a fracas, the fracas a rebellion, and the end of the rebellion is that a good deal of land changes hands, while the black men are lucky if they do not spend the next five years learning the "dignity of labour" on the soil which they formerly owned. We trust that the history of the Bechuana will not repeat itself in Natal. But the signs are ominous. The imposition of a poll-tax is naturally as odious to the Kaffir as it would be to the white man. The plea urged for it is that the Kaffir ought to pay something for the privilege of a living under a Government which has taken the land of which he was once master. It is as good as the plea of the stronger party generally are. But it does not convince the Kaffir, who has land, cattle, and mealies, but little cash, and to whom accordingly the trifling poll-tax means a serious burden. So serious is a small poll-tax that in the pre-Chinese days the favoured method of recruiting labour for the Transvaal mines was to tax the Kaffir until he could be forced into the market on the mine-owners' terms. The refusal of the Boer Government to fall in with this plan was one among the offences for which the owners of the Rand could not forgive it.

The Natal Kaffir lives in a "self-governing" colony—that is, a colony in which a comparatively small number of whites rule a large number of men of various races and colours. The Imperial Government cannot interfere with his lot except by asking questions and publishing answers. But the Kaffir question looms behind all others in South Africa, and must seriously affect the attitude of the Government towards the Transvaal. When Chinese labour under its present con-

and provisions for government by a minority of the population. On the other hand, before deciding how to reform the Constitution on a broader and a thoroughly just basis, the new Government will naturally desire to make its own inquiries. South Africa is a country from which it is not easy to obtain truthful information whenever it is desired, and the Government have every reason for desiring to obtain that information from sources which they can trust. This will involve time. Meanwhile, if the labour question remains unsettled, there will be stagnation on the Rand and agitation both there and in this country. It would be better for the Colony if it were made quite clear from the outset that the end of the Chinese Labour Ordinance is only a matter of time. It would then remain only for the Government to settle the details of the conditions under which the existing labourers can remain—conditions which cannot be left as they now stand—and for the mine-owners to set their houses in order and adapt themselves to the necessary transition to free labour.

MRS. GASKELL.

A BOOK which reappears in a second edition five years after the first is bound to be called a failure, and that amount of success has been achieved by GEORGE PAYNE with his "Mrs. Knutsford." (Manchester: GRIFFITHS; London: MACMILLAN.) PAYNE'S work, a "first novel," is just a little episode in the long and interesting patronage which he has secured in his literary career. He writes. He writes. He writes. He quotes "whoever he requires no oven from exquisite almost desert spearean. T tion of it the portrait, a co of Mr. PAYNE had an almost jug character he has dra tive artist the author to say that than EDNA GEORGE ELI of her care powers was conscious th art had some had inspired chapters of Clerical L meant. A ambitious to "Middlema influence h philosopher, science. M

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In the case of the Chinese, this can be done by a very simple method. The Imperial

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