

grace" are becoming brighter as the day approaches. The shadows of superstition, the difficulties of communicating knowledge, the inaccessibility of nations, these are gradually modifying and disappearing. God's hand is throwing up a highway for the redeemed. The mountains are brought down. The valleys are exalted. He has bridged the Atlantic. He has smiled on the efforts of men to accomplish this more than Herculean task. The successful operation of the Atlantic Telegraphic Cable we take as a great step towards the civilization, the peace, and the salvation of the world. The accomplishment is sufficient to distinguish a century, to immortalise a reign. The crown of Victoria has new glory bound around it. Thought makes a way through the deep.

"Yes, thought, the living spark we find,
Thrown off from flaming forge of mind,
To flash from eye to eye,"—

now mocks the lightning in its speed, in a moment binds the nations, and almost spans the world. Can faith in this see no dawning day? Are not the improvements of this age chariots of salvation? Is there not a Crown destined to receive the homage of the crowns of all the earth, round which cumulate new jewels in the salvation of souls, and fresh glory in the establishment of agencies calculated to advance the peace and prosperity of mankind? Britain and America! Names of mighty import. May your Sons dwell in peace, and your Daughters sit at the feet of Jesus. May He whose voice is as the sound of many waters be heard to speak throughout all your borders. May the songs that rise round the shores of the sea-girt Isle blend with the music of Niagara, in praise to Him that loved the souls of men, and all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands.

Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

ENGLAND.—The Church-Rate Abolition Bill, has made its appearance before the House of Lords since we last wrote, has had a hard battle fought over it, and has been thrown out by a large majority. The numbers were, for the second reading 36, against it 187, majority 151. Looking at this vote superficially it might appear folly to struggle against such a manifestation of feeling; and doubtless many would feel inclined to advise the Liberation Society to cease its efforts as in the last degree hopeless. So think not its executive however; they see in the division and especially in the tone of the debate, much to encourage them, and so far from slackening their efforts, they are tracing themselves for yet more active labours, and a wider dissemination of their principles, that when they again come before the Lords, the 1,793 petitions in favor of the Bill, which have been this year presented, signed by, it is supposed 200,000 persons, may be doubled. Two or three things are worthy of note in the debate. One is, its tone; the opponents of the measure, lay and clerical, felt that their antagonists were not men whom they could afford to despise; they did not attempt to pooh, pooh the arguments, or ridicule those who advanced them, vituperation they did use, but that was only part of the general character of the speeches, which were those of men alarmed into earnestness and defiance. Another noteworthy thing, was the attitude assumed by the Bench of Bishops; one and all, High Church and Low church, Presbyterian and Evangelical, rushed to the rescue, sixteen were present and eight more voted by proxy, so that twenty-four in all voted against the bill: a fact which we trust will not be forgotten when a different subject to church-rates is before the country, people will say that a bench of spiritual Peers voting *en masse* against