

treated from the land, and it has been drained. Consequently what remains may be recovered, and it is of wonderful interest to know that the crown of King Alfred and the old English regalia may be brought to light. Tradition is very persistent among the English peasantry, and the place is probably still known.

#### Doctors Differ.

A medical man has lifted up his pen against the doctrine of open bedroom windows and fresh air. It is far better, he asserts, that a bedroom should be badly ventilated than that it should be cold. During sleep the body requires far less air than when awake and active, but the need for warmth is greater. Animals generally choose close, snug, sleeping places (especially in cold weather) without reference to the air supply, which fact—the authority considers—shows that Nature does not favour the idea of open windows at night. Bedrooms, it would thus appear, need to be warm as well as thoroughly ventilated. And, in truth, the cold bed and the cold bedroom have worked havoc amongst people in delicate health.

#### Over-Nursed.

In this connection there is a story by Sir Algernon West of the late Sir Henry Keppel, Admiral of the Fleet. "Meeting me in a bitter east wind one day in Piccadilly on his way to church, he asked how Mr. Gladstone was, I told him he was very ill. 'Ah,' he said, 'he is over-nursed. If he would do as I do—climb up eighty steps, have a cold bath every day, and sleep with his window always open—he would never be ill.'"

#### The English Homes.

We read every now and then of discoveries in houses which have been homes for hundreds of years. Here is a recent one. Workmen, who were engaged in removing some Jacobean oak panelling from the wall of an ancient house at Bocking, Essex, came across a great oak stanchion, on the exposed surface of which was a beautiful arabesque painting of the Tudor period. The house is said to have been built by some wealthy Flemish settlers, who introduced cloth-weaving into England 400 years ago.

#### The Birth Rate in Australia.

A Royal Commission appointed to look into this subject in New South Wales, has furnished a report of grave concern to all who are interested in the future of our race. When not only religion, but the state, cry out against a pernicious evil it should set all serious men thinking and working to combat it. We give concluding paragraphs:—169.—"In conclusion, we desire to reiterate our opinion that there has been a very serious decline in the birth-rate of New South Wales since the year 1889, and that this decline cannot, in any measure, be ascribed to any change in the physical characteristics of the people; nor, in any material degree, to other causes dependent upon natural law. On the other hand, we have been reluctantly, but inevitably, driven to the conclusion that the people—led astray by false and pernicious doctrine, into the belief that personal interests and ambitions, a high standard of ease, comfort and luxury, are the essential aims of life, and that these aims are best attained by refusing to accept the consequences which Nature has ordained shall follow from marriage—have neglected, and are neglecting, their true duty to themselves, to their fellow-countrymen, and to posterity. Forgetful of the lessons of history, ignoring the teachings of science, bent on gratifying their selfish desires, and on pursuing social advancement, they are seeking to follow the dictates of a narrow reasoning, and blindly imagine that, in rais-

ing the standard of their own physical comfort, they are smoothing the path of life for themselves and for posterity, while leaving to others the creation of that posterity, for which they profess to be so concerned. They seem to think that, in the deliberate curtailing of reproduction, they have found a panacea for the ills of life. The time must come, however, when there will be a cruel awakening to a realization of the truth. Already we see in the injury to health, the wrecking of life, which is manifesting itself, how Nature has begun to avenge herself on those who oppose her laws. We see, in the lessening of the parental control, the commencement of the dissolution of the family bond; and, in the dwindling of the size of families, the dying out of Nature's best school for teaching the lessons of life, and the weakening of the social structure at its base. . . . 171.—We do not hesitate to declare that the doctrines which advocate and justify the deliberate restrictions of child-bearing in marriage are vicious, and that Malthus was right in deprecating artificial checks to the growth of population on the ground of their viciousness. With a decay of individual and social morality we must expect the loss of all those qualities which have made the British race predominant."

#### A New Year's Message

From the Archbishop of Canterbury reads as follows:—"Not often in our long history has the dawn of a new year coincided so closely as it does to-day with the opening of a new chapter in our national life. It is a commonplace to repeat that each New Year's Day marks a fresh start, a new departure in duty and in answerableness; but, of course, in ordinary years the newness of the start, however wholesome and stimulating, is, after all, artificial, or even imaginary. Obvious in the almanac, it is not obvious in life's actual concerns. But this year, at all events, the new start is no fanciful or artificial thing. The people of England are called upon in these opening weeks of 1906 to make thoughtful and deliberate choice of representative men for the legislature of the land, after ascertaining on what lines the men so chosen will endeavour in the ensuing years to construct or reconstruct our laws. The making of that choice is a sacred trust; it can only be discharged aright by those who recognize its gravity. And we who believe that the Divine guidance of national life and action is as real now as it was in the far-off days of Hebrew prophet and Psalmist, will shape our prayers accordingly in these eventful weeks, and will ask that both to those who send and to those who are sent the Father of Lights may vouchsafe the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength, and that thus our common life may be uplifted to a more healthy level than ever before, and enriched with all the elements which contribute best to the maintaining of what is pure and straightforward and true. If the people of our country—a Christian country after all, whatever our failings and shortcomings—were unswervingly loyal to the large principles of the Gospel of Christ, it would of necessity come about that in spite of our political differences we should steadily advance from strength to strength. Each general election would then ensure a higher standard in public life, a loftier ideal of what is attainable, and a firmer resolve to make that ideal come true. But we are still far short—is it not so?—of that unswerving loyalty, and it behooves us to fall determinedly and hopefully to effort and to prayer.—Randall Cantuar."

In life the truest winning often comes first under the guise of failure. If we choose, a failure can always be used as a means to an end rather than as a result.

#### SAFEGUARD TO PUBLIC!

In the reckless pursuit of gain; the partial achievement of their aim; and the boldness and self-confidence which money and power, for the time being, give to worldly-minded men, they are apt to blind themselves to the fact that Justice sits enthroned, seemingly blindfolded, but ever firm and steadfast, and quietly biding her time, with scales in hand, ready, when occasion requires, with an even hand to mete out to the wrong-doer his measure of merited punishment. How readily we overlook the fact that the Divine Law-Giver has not ceased to regulate the affairs of men. The stern and salutary authority which provided the code of the ancient Hebrews, informs the mind of the modern legislator as well. And the principles which affirm his purity and power are not lacking in our statutes; are in our own courts of law dispensed by an impartial and upright judiciary; and the evidence by which they are invoked is clearly and forcibly presented by the able and fearless advocates of the Crown. How thankful we should be in Canada that this is the case. There is thus provided a limit beyond which avarice and fraud cannot safely pass, though backed by unwonted affluence. The pity is that the hard wrought earnings of the deserving poor are so often irretrievably lost through the unscrupulous operations of the small Napoleons of Finance. It would be a providential blessing if such men could be sent to St. Helena before, rather than after, their ruinous Waterloos. What need is there, that year after year, we should be the sad and helpless observers of these deplorable events? Why should hundreds, aye thousands of the poorer members of our community, from one end of the country to the other, be led by the plausible assertions of promoters and agents to invest their earnings in a scheme which seems to their simple and inexperienced minds to offer them safe security and large returns, when in all probability the venture will merely prove a temporary support to the promoters and agents; enable the leading actors in the drama for a season to wear fine clothing, live in costly houses, squander in unwise projects large sums of money, and gain an unenviable publicity; and at the last, the glittering fabric they have raised will fall like a house of cards, and the poor deluded investors whose confidence has been so improperly betrayed, and money wasted, will have nothing to console them but a sad and bitter experience; and will have been, it may be, in a few short months, deprived of the fruit of years of patient thrift and toil? We ask this question to our legislators, and we ask it with the more boldness and firmness, from the fact, that it is the vote and influence of these very people for whom we plead, which has been the chief contributing factors in electing these legislators to the prominent and responsible position of law-makers. They have already, by comparatively recent legislation, curbed the power of companies in the interests of the people. Why not go a step farther, and devise such further legislation, as by government inspection and control will safeguard the interests of the great body of the electorate; and by the enactment on their behalf of efficient legislation, and the intervention of authorized and capable inspectors, bar the way to the rash or unscrupulous adventurer in promoting financial companies, and causing widespread loss and damage to the community. Here in Canada, we are not over curious to find a formal precedent for an Act of Parliament. It is sufficient if the Act is fairly called for by a great public need, and will presumably redress a present wrong, and safeguard the public interests. There can be no doubt that what money, audacity and subtlety can do to secure to unscrupulous schemers a free hand, will be done by them on their own behalf. All the more need that the

honour and m lead them, as and proper saf great body of credulous peop the crafty wile

#### THE PRO

All Canada i made public a unjust and op by money le of interest. poor man or der's delusive pon in the us tim to his de The oily voice dress are mer guided whilst t What a pleas to the nervot he makes his gives the see tlety, and wil business is co armed by the roundings, an his wants ar the day of re himself aston thinks there is impossible. it is quite out a large sum. not the wher to see his who, he is c and put the the pleasant and makes the sun goes withdrawn, a the poor ma done before of his introd iel had the g by royal bea er may be r strong percei form of opj more repella helplessness and wretche such propor aroused, and to bla en. in the Unite ing entailed, and prosecu justice. Th to Canada a is needless. legislators ; tect their o be done, w tively, on

FR

Spectator's

In our att ity of the c we desired or two poin the subject they advanc of its prob that such d get somewh