

tation because of his character, gifts and accomplishments. His reputation was enhanced rather than impaired by the courageous enunciation of his views on a subject with which a Toronto audience especially has little sympathy. Very few of the 187 with whom he voted on the motion for disallowance would have received so patient and respectful a hearing as did the valiant French-Canadian, when without reserve or equivocation he gave his reasons for the course he pursued. There was no doubt much interest felt in hearing from himself an exposition of his opinions, which are shared by many of his fellow countrymen respecting one of the most absorbing controversies of recent times. To his credit be it said that he dealt fairly and squarely with his audience as it was his expressed wish to do. There was no attempt on his part to minimise the acknowledged difficulties of his position or to evade the straight issues that came up for discussion.

Mr. Fisher's position was also peculiar. He is one of the few Protestant parliamentary representatives of the Province of Quebec in the House of Commons and one who is intimately acquainted with the popular feeling in that province. The difficulty in the west is to obtain anything like an accurate idea of the actual state of public feeling. Platform utterances and parliamentary debates are by no means reliable expositions of what the mass of the people really think on important public questions. This is, for various reasons, specially true of the people of Quebec. The French Canadian newspapers are largely partisan and thus better reflectors of the opinions and aims of political leaders than the thoughts of the people. Then there is no denying the fact that priestly influence is a potent force with the electorate, who may think differently from their spiritual advisers on many important questions, especially political, so that while there may be little difficulty in understanding what their leaders, religious and political, desire them to think, it is still a difficult matter to arrive at anything like an adequate idea of what Jean Baptiste in his home, social and municipal life thinks on many subjects that must occasionally occupy his mind.

Mr. Fisher, himself a Protestant, does not take an alarmist view of recent legislation concerning the Jesuits. Both he and Mr. Laurier, speaking on behalf of the French-Canadian people, repudiate the interpretation put upon it—even the obnoxious preamble of the Estates Act—by every one who has spoken on the subject in the west. For the sake of argument, grant that there was no intention in the mind of the Quebec Premier in submitting the measure to the members of the Legislature, is it an incorrect supposition that the terms of the preamble are susceptible of the interpretation that is put upon them, that they virtually recognize Papal approval of the Act as the condition of the settlement? Mr. Fisher, it is true, explicitly stated that Mr. Mercier, in explaining the purport of the Act, offered to modify the wording of the preamble if reasonable objections were offered. That means one of two things—either that the members, Catholic and Protestant, especially the latter, were satisfied that no encroachment on the civil by the Papal authority was intended, or that the Protestant representatives were so overawed and abject that they dare not call their souls their own, the latter supposition being one that fair-minded and intelligent men will hesitate to accept. True, the popular estimate of parliamentary rectitude is not of the highest, but such assumed baseness would tax average credulity somewhat beyond its strength.

But when all was said, and giving these popular orators from the sister province all the fair-play and forbearance they asked, there are several things yet unexplained. Mr. Laurier made it plain that while personally he had no sympathy with Ultramontane aspirations, and was prepared to resist them whenever they were disposed to menace popular rights, there he stopped, and pled for charitable consideration for those who openly avow their determination to have the Pope supreme in the temporal as well as the spiritual sphere. When such avowals are openly made at public functions by Ultramontane dignitaries, in the columns of Roman Catholic journals, in Syllabus and Encyclical, can any intelligent man doubt that lovers of civil and religious liberty dread concessions to these clamours of a persistent hierarchy? The distinguished leader of the Opposition spoke justly of English in contrast with continental tolerance of the Jesuits, but he made no reference to the reasons for their repeated expulsion from every Roman Catholic country in Europe. On the doctrines of Jesuitism as they are presented in treatises written by members of the Order, Mr. Laurier was also silent. Space forbids enlargement, but one other important omission in the lengthy but interesting speech of the French-

Canadian orator has to be noted. He spoke much on the Jesuit Estates Act, but did not give one word of explanation why an Act incorporating the Order was passed more than a year previous to that which was only a logical following up of the one that preceded it.

A TERRIBLE CRIME.

PEOPLE were startled last week by the reported fatal results of a dastardly crime. The happy home of the Rev. Dr. Macrae, of St. John, N. B., was darkened suddenly by the occurrence of a terrible calamity. Through the mail had come a parcel which on being opened was found to contain candies. Not suspecting any danger the wife of the esteemed minister thoughtlessly ate a few of them. In a few hours she was dead. The candies, it was ascertained, had been mixed with strychnine. Similar boxes were received in the homes of an Episcopal and a Methodist minister in the same city. Fortunately in their case suspicions were entertained and the malignant gifts were sent for analysis and found to be impregnated with the same deadly poison. At this writing these are the principal facts as yet clearly ascertained. No definite clue to the perpetration of this terrible crime has been found, and no motive for its commission has, as yet, been discovered.

This employment of the mails as a contributory to murderous designs adds a new terror to crime. Only a year ago a similar fatality occurred in Galt, and though diligent efforts were made to discover the criminal no progress was made and when the attempt to clear up the mystery was abandoned, it remained apparently as impenetrable as ever. In that case no adequate motive for such an awful crime was discovered. A minister's family also was victimized. Can it be that the same individual whose crime proved so deadly in Galt, emboldened by immunity from detection, has renewed his murderous work? Or is it some imitator who for reasons of his own has adopted a similar method for wreaking vengeance on unoffending and unsuspecting persons? Why are the homes of clergymen selected for so peculiar an atrocity? Dr. Macrae is a man beloved throughout the Church, and highly esteemed in the community where he has so long and so faithfully laboured. A man of well-balanced judgment he was, not given to extreme views of any kind. Honest in his convictions, he yet respected those who differed from him. That a fierce and fiery polemic will inevitably rouse personal resentment we can readily understand, but to this kind of ecclesiastic Dr. Macrae bears no trace of resemblance, being loving, tolerant and courteous to all alike. Why he of all men should have been singled out for the infliction of this stunning stroke passes comprehension. Till more light, however, is thrown on the mystery moralizing is inopportune.

The incumbent duty of the hour is to spare no effort to bring to light all that prompt and intelligent detective ingenuity can ascertain respecting this awful crime. The failure to do this successfully in the Galt case permitted the criminal to escape, and has rendered possible the repetition of the appalling crime. In a country where human life is held sacred this must not be allowed to continue. A second failure to track the criminal or criminals who have resorted to this most cowardly form of murder would be both humiliating and disastrous. The worst and most degraded of criminals are seldom beyond the pale of human sympathy, and they readily find someone to shield and shelter them when the iron grasp of the law is about to take hold of them, but in this case the sympathizers will be few. Every one, even those who have no exalted ideas of law and order, will be ready to aid in bringing to justice a wretch so inhuman that can deliberately plan the death of innocent mothers and little children. So deep will the public resentment become that if the guilty one is caught he will be in danger of summary vengeance at the hands of a justly indignant people. But of this there need hardly be any fear. Hitherto Canadians have been a self-respecting, law-abiding people. They have confidence that strict and impartial justice will be meted out. There is no fear that even the worst criminal will suffer injustice at their hand. There is the most urgent reason for the early and complete elucidation of this transmitting of poisoned candies through the mails. The deadly work must be effectually stopped, and the probability is that this terrible occurrence will lead to disclosures that will render a repetition of such inhuman malignity impossible in the future.

In this awful hour of his inexpressible sorrow the stricken pastor of St. Stephen's congregation, St. John, N.B., will receive the heartfelt sympathy and condolence, not alone of the congregation to whom

he is specially endeared, or of the community in which he is a respected citizen, but throughout the Dominion wherever he is known. His is a terrible experience for any one to pass through.

Books and Magazines.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. (New York: Munn & Co.) An Architects' and Builders' edition of this most valuable periodical has been issued.

NEW editions of Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies," and of Professor David Swing's "Motives of Life," and "Club Essays" are in the press of A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, together with a rythmical version of the Book of Job, by Dr. George H. Gilbert, of the Chicago Theological Seminary.

OUR DUMB ANIMALS. (Boston: The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.)—Though this magazine is published in the interests of the Humane Society and its distinctive sphere is to inculcate the humane treatment of the helpless, to "speak for those who cannot speak for themselves," it presents monthly an amount of entertaining reading for young and old.

THE BOOK BUYER. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—An admirably-engraved portrait of the well-known American author, Constance Fenimore Woolson, is the frontispiece of the October number of the *Book Buyer*. This is accompanied by a sketch by Arthur Stedman, a son of the well-known poet, giving an entertaining impression, sympathetic and appreciative, of the personality and literary career of this author. Numerous other papers give value and interest to this number.

PROFESSOR W. G. BLAICKIE, D.D., in *Harper's Magazine* for October will call the attention of the American traveller to "A Corner of Scotland Worth Knowing"—a corner which is, however, rapidly becoming known to seaside visitors as having the most bracing climate to be found, perhaps, in the British Isles. He refers to North Berwick, on the southern coast of the Firth of Forth, and the charm and the glory of the place, he says, lie "in its beach, and its links, and its islands, and its sea view, and its Law, and its incomparable fresh air." Joseph Pennell and W. Small, in their accompanying illustration, keep pace with the author in revealing the beauties of this "curious little conglomerate of a place."

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Trent.)—This estimable monthly for October contains much matter of great importance, and starts the fall campaign with vigour and abundant promise of prosperity. It announces that twelve college presidents will write for it during the year on questions of current and vital interest, and other noted writers will furnish contributions. The illustrations this month are the portrait of Dr. W. N. Richie, of Philadelphia, and a view of his church. Full sermons are by Dr. Richie and J. Stuart. A Thanksgiving Service by Dr. J. Barrows, of Chicago, is a noble contribution to American literature. The Leading Thoughts of Sermons are varied and suggestive. Articles of great value are by Professor Murphy, on "The Value of Emotion"; by Prof. Broadus on "Christian Giving"; by Rev. A. H. Bushnell on "Elements of Successful Preaching"; by Rev. R. Glover on "Faithful Bible Study"; by Rev. Dr. Fuller on "The Revival in Turkey," and by Rev. K. Shortt on "Lay Elements in Christian Work." Sir William Dawson furnishes an article of great excellence on "The Opponents of Christianity." All departments are excellently filled.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk and Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The number for October well sustains the high reputation of this ministers' monthly. The leading paper is by Dr. Wayland Hoyt, being the closing half of his masterly presentation of his ideal Parish minister. Prof. Warfield, of Princeton, gives us a paper rich in thought entitled "Flowers Plucked from a Puritan Garden." A racy paper follows on the value of Wordsworth to the preacher. W. C. Conant treats with good taste and judgment the timely subject of Evangelical Ritual. Prof. A. McClelland, D.D., in the "Uses of Comparative Religion," sets forth in clear, vigorous thought and diction a subject of the utmost importance to the preacher. Dr. Pierson gives another chapter of "Curiosities," full of apt homiletic illustrations. The sermons in this number—nine in all—are mostly of a high order, and are by Drs. Alex. MacLaren, C. H. Buckley, Wallace Radcliffe, S. E. Herrick, Boston and others. The Exegetical papers are by Professor Willis J. Beecher, and Drs. Chambers, Crosby and Gilmore. Dr. Stuckenborg's tribute to Prof. Christlieb will be read with tender interest. All the other departments are, as usual, full of valuable matter.