

missed him. "At last I became aware that he had dived into an unobtrusive little shop with packets of herbs, roots, barks, and dried flowers, bottles of herb extracts, and tins of dandelion coffee in the window. He had purchased a small packet of dried fluffly-looking flowers and leaves, and I found that the poor man having relinquished tobacco for the sake of weaker brethren, was fain to use this herb mixture so as to have something to burn in his pipe." In London there are comparatively few of these shops of the herbalist, and the chemist and druggist despises their simple remedies. But in the North, in Lancashire and Yorkshire, the herbalist is everywhere known, and the ancient lore of the profession is preserved and studied by the people.

Mr. Haultain and the West.

Would that Canada had more public men of the chivalrous nature, high standard of public life and dauntless courage of Mr. Haultain! To the spirit of enlightened and constitutional freedom in our new North-Western Provinces he has devoted himself with a mind fully informed on all the principles at stake, with an intensity of purpose and unselfishness of conduct and indefatigable energy which is quite exceptional. The bold and personal attack of the hierarchy, the unscrupulous methods by which his defeat was sought and the fair and manly way in which he has met them has called forth the admiration of right thinking men in all parts of our country. The defeat of such a man, in such a contest would mean far more to himself and his cause than many a victory under less honourable and trying circumstances would do. The mere politician may think it worth his while to temporize with and pander to the unceasing effort of the Roman Church to bend the State to its own ends. But the very publicity of its methods prove to the unbiased judgment of our people how detrimental such aims and methods are to the development and stability of a free and enlightened State.

Protect the Birds.

The following paragraph indicates a great change of opinion: "During the recent cold in Switzerland thousands of swallows have fallen exhausted and frozen in many parts. At Lucerne and Zurich the birds were collected and taken care of by the people, until they had sufficiently recovered, and then despatched by train to Italy, where they were set at liberty, and continued their migration southwards." It is to be hoped that the poor birds had fair play in Italy. It is only a few years since a change of sentiment regarding the little birds began to be shown. Formerly they used to be regularly killed and brought to table. When foreigners refused to eat them a change began, but it takes a long time before kindness permeates all classes. In Europe, and especially in England, the sparrow, our winter city friend, is being singled out and sentenced to extermination as a brigand.

Turkey in Europe.

Periodically a storm cloud looms in the East. The marked contrast between the methods of the Moslem and Christian continue to act and react upon their differing nationalities. The determination to maintain the balance of power at all cost has proved in many an emergency, the salvation of the Turk when all otherwise would seemingly have been lost. What an aroused and indignant conscience could not accomplish may some day be brought about by the deliberate and continued breach of commercial obligations. The modern man may tamely submit to see his neighbour killed, where he is not attacked. But he will not lightly allow his own pocket to be picked, and when the crisis has reached the acute stage what happened in Spain may in a later

century, on a larger scale, occur in Europe, and the insufferable Turk with bowstring, bastinado, and other accessories, be compelled to cross the Bosphorus never again to return.

Spoliation.

We regret being again obliged to refer to the vessels sunk in the Thames by our troops in 1812. The "New York Herald" and other papers across the line are rejoicing over their discovery, and gloating over the enterprise of their citizens and the timid apathy of the Canadians. We read that "C. M. Burton, and others, who have the matter in hand are confident they have full rights to their discoveries, and are continuing their work of raising the ships. When the ships were sunk, they argue, the vessels, according to the rules of war, became American property. But it is probable there will not be an international quarrel over the matter, as the Canadian Government does not seem disposed to take a hand in the question." One of these vessels has already been raised, it is said. "It is mainly constructed of logs. Had this not been the fact, it is probable she would not have stood the tremendous cannon fire she evidently suffered." The vessel about 80 feet long was heavily laden with munitions of war, which General Proctor was carrying from Detroit to his Indian allies, led by Tecumseh upon the Thames." "It has been suggested that one of the four vessels be sent to Chicago, one to Cleveland, and the other two to Detroit. Thus would a city in each State of what was once the Northwest Territory, have a memento of the days when the fate of that territory hung in the balance." We trust our readers feel a little indignant at this proposal. We suggested action by our historical and national societies, but we have heard of none. Each one of us can do his or her share in stirring up the authorities by following the advice the "Outlook" gave its readers. Let every one write two letters, one to his member asking him to press the Government to take action, and another one to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If not too lazy our readers might write two more, one to the Governor-General, the other to the Senator of the district. Perhaps in addition the corporations might be roused. The whole scheme is one of theft of Canadian property.

Working Men's Houses.

Why it should be so we cannot tell, but in our larger cities and towns there is a lamentable lack of dwellings for the poorer class. Perhaps because it does not pay the speculative builders to erect them. In other countries, especially in Germany, whose competition is now felt so much the matter is taken in hand. In many German municipalities the erection of dwelling houses of more than two stories is prohibited. This provision, while preventing congestion, serves to baffle the land speculator. At any rate no one will buy ground held at speculative prices, since the rent of a two-story house would bring in a very poor interest on the investment. A large number of German cities have erected workingmen's dwellings on their own account, while the funds of the Workingmen's Life Insurance system have been utilized by the public authorities or lent directly to workingmen in order to build cheap dwelling houses. Our city council could adopt this remedy, just as they set aside residential districts.

The Span of Life.

A correspondent of the Montreal "Herald" sums up the present condition of the war against the white plague concisely and vigorously. But he fails in his suggested remedies; less politics and cleaner streets. The remedy needed must begin in school, less book learning and more

practical training, one especially fitting both boys and girls for an outdoor country life. Here is what "Radical" says: "If we had a half dozen organizations like the Tuberculosis League, something might be done towards making city conditions more conducive to wholesome and happy human life. When one contemplates the dirt and disorder, ugliness and filth, the smoke and noise of a large city, the tenements and flats, and the fact that people live in them, one is inclined to question their sanity or pity their necessities. In England Royal Commissions report a distinct physical degeneration of city dwellers, and in our own cities the mortality is from twenty to thirty per cent. greater than in rural districts. An examination of the mortality statistics in New York and Chicago shows an alarming increase of deaths due to acute lung affections, the death rate from pneumonia being now much greater than from consumption. In spite of municipal improvements the average life of day labourers in English cities, is only twenty-two years. In Massachusetts cities the average life of the factory operatives is thirty-six and three-tenths years, while that of the farmers is sixty-five and three-tenths years."

FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

Spectator's Comments on Questions of Public Interest.

"Spectator" has often observed and frequently complained of the imperfect reports of Church work given by the daily press of this country. It is a singular thing how frequently the trivial points in the discussion of a really great question will be enlarged upon, while the sober and weighty considerations will be passed over in a few ambiguous phrases. This is a great pity, for whatever may be said to the contrary, we are convinced that the public demands to-day more than ever seriousness in journalism. There is scarcely a schoolboy who cannot distinguish between the inferior and more perfect efforts of the press. Men know what they want, and the pity is that they do not take the trouble to make their wants known at headquarters. One is struck when discussing the quality and form of the matter that is sought by the public in the newspapers, with the serene air of infallibility which journalists assume on such occasions. Let a great Church council be in session, and let the subjects up for discussion be of vital interest to the whole body represented therein, yet no one in that assembly, familiar as he may be with the questions in hand is presumably able to report for the daily press. That task can only be worthily performed by some one belonging to the magic circle of journalists who can tell without knowledge either of subject or public, the very points for which their readers are hungering. In our judgment, these artists merely guess at what is looked for. They have no special means of knowing what is required and certainly are no better qualified than an intelligent reader, to say what is of interest to the public. The proceedings of a Church Synod or conference are not reported for the benefit of those whose sole interest is in sports or stocks but for the benefit and edification of the great body of men and women who stand behind that Synod or conference. It is for these we claim a reasonable effort should be made to inform them of what their representatives have done. We are perfectly sure that the churches have much to desire in the way the press handles their acts and utterances.

Perhaps there may be some conceivable excuse for this imperfect handling of Church questions by the daily press, but what defence