

Prince Bismarck. The spirit of Popery is not necessarily destroyed along with the temporal power. On the contrary, it may work its way underground, trying to recover lost ground, on the one hand by aggressiveness on men's consciences, on the other by accumulating enormous wealth through the power of Peter's pence which may lay proud monarchs and noble statesmen prostrate at the pontiff's feet. Wanting in the temporal power, there is the likelihood of the more subtle and spiritual influence being substituted in its place, to which we in the New World are daily and hourly exposed. Priesthood on the free soil of America has to lay aside all claims upon anything like the temporal rule. But priesthood works on in the dark, seeking its own selfish ends, wanting to put its hands upon schools and colleges, upon culture and learning, upon dollars and properties, and desiring to control the consciences of men. Against these things we must beware. The Protestant world may yet have to learn that the elevation of Leo XIII. means nothing less than a determination to substitute spiritual for temporal rule, and that in the lowest sense of the term.

PERSONALITIES IN PARLIAMENT.

ARE we to have in the present session of the House of Commons a repetition of the coarse personalities which disgraced the last? Who does not recall with humiliation and burning shame some of the proceedings of the last year? We remember how men of the highest ability and character—men who had made large sacrifice of their private interests in order to serve the country, were stigmatized in the House as "foul-mouthed slanderers." We remember reading of a member of the House in the midst of a great uproar playing on a Jew's harp, and another honourable member dancing to his music. Other and apparently worse scenes were left to the imagination; for the newspapers of Canada, which certainly are not too scrupulous, refused to publish the reports forwarded to them of what was to be seen and heard in our Commons' House of Parliament.

This year again we find the same disgusting personalities are being as freely and recklessly indulged in—charges of falsehood, of slander, of swindling, bandied across the floor in the very first debate of the session, while the speaker in vain calls to order. Where is this to end? Shall we yet hear of the representatives of the people of Canada having recourse to blows? We read last week, that a number of the United States senators, during the discussion of the Silver Bill, appeared on the floor of their House, "intoxicated, and made a frightful exhibition of themselves." Shall we yet have such things recorded of our legislators?

It is greatly to be deplored that the leaders of the House are not even attempting to control the excited passions of their followers, but threatening each other that the coarse attacks shall not be made with impunity. They surely might have learned that the days of savage warfare are now gone past—that the party which even in self-defence makes use of coarse and vulgar weapons, is doing itself a serious damage. We would commend to their consideration, what Macaulay says, in

one of his letters during the reform struggle, of Lord Althorp: "His temper is an absolute miracle. He has been worse used than any minister ever was in debate, and yet he has never said one thing inconsistent, I do not say with gentlemanly courtesy, but with real benevolence."

What wonder is it that we read of such a man that "no one possessed so much influence both in and out of Parliament; that he had done more (in spite of his want of eloquence and brilliant talents) for his party than all the other ministers together, and that his party would have followed him to the death."

We have been continually hearing, in these latter days, of Reform; it seems to us that there is nothing which more urgently calls for reform than the character and conduct of many of our public men. Is there not a band, we do not say of Christians, but of gentlemen, that will seek to elevate the tone of the House, and frown down what is threatening to become a national disgrace?

We confess to be seriously concerned about the consequences if improvement shall not be effected. What kind of influence is to spread through the whole Dominion if the very centre of the realm is defiled? What shall others judge of our country, when its representatives show small regard to courtesy and decency? Many rejoiced to learn, last year, that the meetings of the House were henceforward to be opened with prayer. The House beseeches God "to direct and prosper its consultations as in its legislative capacity at this time assembled; and that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations;" and after prayers we have such scenes as those of which we speak.

The leaders and members of parties may depend upon it, that the great heart of Canada is indignantly moved by these things; and is waiting, resolute, to give the verdict of its approval and favor only to those who fairly represent the regard for courtesy and morality, and religion, which is felt by the people of the land. We make no apology for speaking earnestly on this subject. The character of our representatives is the public possession of us all. The reproaches cast upon them do fall upon ourselves. We remember reading, some score of years ago, the remark of a traveller who, looking across the Niagara, said of Canada that it was a country of which no man was proud to be a citizen. We hope the day is not to come when the stranger who has visited the meetings of our Legislature shall say that ours is a country of which its citizens should be ashamed.

CONVERSION OF ROMISH PRIESTS.

The Treasurer of the Board of French Evangelization acknowledges with thanks the following additional contributions in aid of the fund for the maintenance of the priests who have recently left the Church of Rome, and placed themselves under the care of the Board:—W. Cottart, Harwich, \$4; Percy congregation, \$9.46; A friend, Huntingdon, Q., \$4; W. Cunningham, Godmanchester, \$1; A friend, E. Williams, \$1; per Mrs. A. J. McFall, Nobleton, \$3; L. L. L., Barrie, \$1; N. Easthope congregation, \$3.

Additional contributions are earnestly solicited. These should be forwarded to Rev. R. H. Warden, 210 St. James' Street, Montreal, by whom they will be duly acknowledged.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—A meeting of the Presbytery was held in River Street church, Paris, on Tues-

day of last week, the Rev. Thomas Alexander, of Burford, moderator, in the chair. A great amount of very important business was disposed of, and the whole proceedings were lively, animated and pleasant. A report of Sabbath School work was submitted by Rev. Mr. McEwen, of Ingersoll, and a committee was appointed to give their best consideration to certain suggested improvements. The Rev. Mr. Grant gave in a report on a series of questions to be used in connection with a proposed Presbyterial visitation of all the congregations within the bounds. A very earnest discussion ensued, certain modifications were made, and the amended list adopted for being put to ministers, elders, trustees, and Sabbath school superintendents in a public meeting of each congregation. A report from the committee on the Forms of Process sent down by the General Assembly was given in by the Rev. Mr. McMullen. The report recommended that the portion of the book so far prepared be approved of *simpliciter*, which was agreed to. A letter from the Secretary of Old St. Andrew's Church, East Oxford, was read, urging the Presbytery in very earnest terms to secure for them the services of Mr. Ross, student, for the ensuing summer. Mr. McMullen gave in a report of his visit to the congregation in order to ascertain the general state of things. He said he had attended a meeting of the three stations on the 11th of January, and that the people were so divided between Mr. Ross and Mr. Currie that he had advised them to drop both names, and on motion made this was formally agreed to by the meeting, and that unless another meeting was held and the people agreed unanimously on either the one or the other, it would be inexpedient to send either. The Presbytery adopted this view and instructed the members on the Home Mission Committee to secure the best services they could for these stations. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane was unanimously nominated for the moderatorship of next General Assembly on the ground of the immense service which he has rendered to the Church for years past, and because of his personal fitness. The delegates to next Assembly were chosen, viz.: Messrs. Cochrane, McMullen, Robertson, Grant, and Anderson, ministers, and the elders of Zion Church, Brantford; Knox Church, Woodstock; Knox Church, Ingersoll; and the remaining two we fail to recollect. A petition from Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, for a moderation of a call to a minister was granted, and Mr. McEwen was appointed to attend to that matter. Several minor matters having been disposed of, the meeting was closed by the moderator pronouncing the benediction.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.—An adjourned meeting of the Presbytery of Ottawa, was held in Zion Church, Carleton Place, on Thursday last, the 21st inst. After hearing commissioners from the congregation of Bristol, the resignation of Mr. McLaren was laid on the table till next regular meeting with the understanding that should the arrears due him be then liquidated, the matter will then be finally issued. A call was presented and sustained from the congregation of Rochesterville to their present missionary, Rev. J. S. White. A written guarantee was handed in, promising \$416 per annum towards the stipend, and that they would increase this amount as they became able until a supplement is no longer required and an adequate stipend is secured. The call was accepted by Mr. White who was present, and the induction fixed for the 12th March, at 7.30 p.m., Rev. D. M. Gordon to preach and preside, Rev. J. Carswell to address the minister, and Rev. R. Whillans the congregation. The trials of the Rev. A. A. Scott, M.A., pastor elect of the congregation of Zion Church, Carleton Place, were heard and sustained, and the Presbytery proceeded with the ordination service; Dr. Mann presiding. Rev. F. W. Farries preached from 1 Thes. ii. 13. Dr. Mann addressed the pastor, and Rev. J. B. Edmondson, the congregation. The church was filled to its utmost capacity, the different denominations in the village not only being well represented, but quite a number were present from the congregations of Beckwith, Ashton, Almonte, and Ramsay. In the evening a very successful welcome social was held. Mr. Scott enters upon his labors in this charge, under the most favorable auspices, and it is to be expected that this important congregation which has been so long vacant, will under his pastorate enter upon a new career of prosperity.—J. CARSWELL, Clerk.

THE gates of heaven are low-arched; we must enter upon our knees.