

the night. The eye becomes blind, and the midday sun fades away. If we have lost our spiritual sight, Jesus will take the hand and lead, and give glory in exceeding abundance beyond all that one can ask or think."—*The American Friend*.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ARBITRATION CONFERENCE.

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the promotion of arbitration in lieu of war, took place last month at the Hague. Fifteen European Parliaments were more or less represented by individual members, and there were about 160 present. As was to be expected, the Dutch mustered most strongly. Thirteen came from France, but only six from Germany; Belgium, Austria and Italy had but two representatives each, while Norway had four, and Roumania six. There were eleven members of the British Parliament present.

The Conferences met in one of the Dutch Houses of Parliament, The several sittings were presided over by Dr. Rahnsen, an eminent Dutch jurist. Except that most of the Englishmen who spoke did so in their own tongue, all the speaking was in French.

There was a reception on the first evening, and two sittings on each of the three following days.

The whole of the first sitting was occupied with speeches of a general character, relating to recent events bearing on the subject of arbitration and on the prospects and duties of the advocates of peace. The Minister of the Interior, in his inaugural address, recommended the members to devote their chief attention to the question of arbitration in its details, but with an avoidance of side issues, and of attempts to exercise any direct influence on pending political questions. It was the speech of a discreet politician, who wished others to be discreet as himself. This was responded to by Mr. Stanhope, who spoke fluently in French. Several communications from absent persons were

read, one of them being from Mr. Gladstone, who expressed sympathy with the object of the gathering. The resolutions of the Peace Congress, at Antwerp, in the previous week, were also reported and commented upon. At another sitting, Mr. Stanhope, in an able speech, submitted a proposal for the preparation of a scheme for the establishment of an International Tribunal of Arbitration, and, in doing so, he warmly eulogised Mr. Gladstone's efforts to promote the cause of peace. The specific proposals of Mr. Stanhope were based on the following principles: 1. The national independence of all nations to remain intact. 2. The adhesion of the various Governments to the Tribunal to be absolutely optional. 3. All countries forming part of the Tribunal to be treated on a footing of full equality. 4. The decision of the Tribunal to have the force of an European award. Mr. Snape supported Mr. Stanhope's proposals and expressed his belief that the British House of Commons would approve of a treaty for, at least, the settlement of all disputes with the United States. There was an animated discussion, and some divergence of opinion; but the resolution on the subject was almost unanimously adopted, and a committee was appointed to work out a definite scheme for consideration at next year's Conference, which will be held at Brussels.

On the third day two important practical resolutions were submitted. One was in favor of an International Congress to study the procedure of the proposed Arbitration Court. The other called upon the Governments of the world to ensure the protection of private property at sea in time of war. There was a third motion on the agenda, dealing with the neutralisation of States which might desire to maintain an attitude of neutrality in time of war; but this was a question of too great difficulty to be disposed of summarily, and so its consideration was postponed.

The Conference was generally considered to have been successful, as re-