

aristocratic opponents. It is rather unfortunate for those members of the Opposition who have from time to time waxed eloquent over the unfitness of men like the Irish members to maintain the dignity or to bear the responsibility of conducting the business of a legislative assembly, that their own ranks should be found to contain so many who have proved themselves as expert in the use of abusive epithets and as incapable of preserving a calm judgment and dignified demeanour, as the most excitable of their Irish opponents. It is undoubtedly true that some clauses of the Home Rule Bill of the very first importance are being pushed through the House without even the semblance of rational discussion. Were there the slightest possibility that the Bill now before the House could ever become the law of the land, it is doubtful whether even the direst necessity could justify the shutting off of the fullest and freest discussion. As it is, every one understands so well that the present Bill has no chance of becoming law, that the amendment of its contents becomes a mere waste of time. The Gladstonites evidently see this and are governing themselves accordingly. The wonder is that the anti-Home Rulers do not also see it and facilitate rather than retard the ultimate appeal to the nation, which must follow closely on its rejection by the Lords. Perhaps, however, the crucial question will be after the appeal, as now, whether the verdict required shall be that of a majority of the whole nation, or whether a majority of each of its constituent parts shall also be deemed essential. To insist upon the latter would seem very like admitting in practice the sectional autonomy which is denied in theory.

If he who opens up a new trade route, or develops some source of national wealth previously unused, is a public benefactor, surely no less deserving of credit is the man who makes more accessible to his fellow-countrymen a landscape of surpassing beauty, or enables them to obtain a better view of some grand and awe-inspiring spectacle, such as is adapted to arouse and elevate the mind of the beholder. A service of the latter kind has been done by the Niagara Falls Park and River Railway Company, whose new road is now in full operation. Having recently been one of a number of press representatives who were indebted to the President and Directors of the Company for a most enjoyable trip over the route, we can heartily commend it as a delightful means of obtaining one of the best possible views of the great cataract, together with the rapids, the whirlpool, and more than one charming view of a landscape of great beauty, through the centre of which the Niagara, having regained its composure after the excitement and turmoil of its mad rush over the precipice and down the steep incline, winds peacefully on its way to Lake Ontario. Setting out from Queens-

ton, the railway commences immediately its arduous ascent, by a series of circuitous windings, to the summit of the Queenston heights. Brock's monument, the spot on which he is supposed to have fallen, and other points of historic interest are passed in the ascent. Then commences the course of the railway along the banks of the river, a route which is maintained, with as few deviations and interruptions of the view as circumstances permit, throughout the whole route. Excellent views of the rapids, the whirlpool, the river rushing on between the precipitous cliffs which form its banks, of both the American and Canadian falls, and of the wider expanse above where the waters collect themselves and prepare for the roaring rush through spray and foam by which they gather headway for the wild leap below, in succession greet the eye until the village of Chippawa is reached. A fuller description of this beautiful trip will be found elsewhere. We wish here merely to repeat our belief that the enterprising projectors of this road have rendered a service to the country in constructing it, and we feel sure that few can pass over it without hoping that the enterprise may prove as remunerative to its projectors as it is delightful to the excursionist.

One has not hitherto been accustomed to look to the Southern States for great innovations, certainly not for those looking in the direction of moral reform. Yet within the last week or two South Carolina has entered upon a radical moral experiment, the workings of which will be watched with curiosity and interest from all parts of the continent. On Saturday, the 1st inst., the Evans' Dispensary Law went into effect in that State. This law, as most of our readers are no doubt aware, is a modification of the famous Gothenberg system. It totally prohibits all liquor-selling by private individuals on their own account, and puts the whole business into the hands of State officials. A Commissioner is to buy all the liquors which are to be sold in the State. He can sell only to the county dispensers, and the liquors with which he furnishes these must have first been tested and pronounced pure by the chemist of the South Carolina College. There is a protective element in the traffic, for he must give the preference to the product of the South Carolina distillers and brewers. These, however, may hardly be grateful for the arrangement, seeing that they can sell to nobody else in the State. The county dispenser can sell only in packages of not less than half a pint, and these are not to be opened on the premises. He will be bound by oath to sell to no minors, drunken persons, or habitual drunkards, or to any persons not personally known to him, or duly vouched for. The purchaser is required in each instance to sign a blank giving age, residence, etc. The profits which it is expected will be large, as prices are to be considerably advanced, are

to be divided equally between the State treasury and those of the counties. Charleston has refused to accept the law, with the result that, theoretically, at least, there will henceforth be no liquors on sale in that city. On the day the law went into operation more than two hundred saloons, restaurants, wholesale liquor houses, etc., were offered for rent and several thousands of employees thrown out of work. As a considerable number of the counties failed to appoint dispensers, the effect of the law will be to place them also under virtual prohibition. So far as the principle of the measure is concerned, one can but note that while it places intoxicating drinks on a par with poisons so far as limitation of sale is concerned, it aims at reaping a profit from the gratification of the appetite for these liquors which is counted on to insure large sales. For a knowledge of its practical effects we must wait the progress of the experiment.

### THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT.

The great gathering of young people in Montreal last week, in connection with the Christian Endeavour movement, is one of the signs of the time which is worthy of more than a passing reference. The fact that so large a number of young men and women, at a season of the year when most persons who can gain a few days of leisure are wont to seek to escape from all demands of business or duty, can find it in their hearts to gather together from all parts of the continent to stir each other's enthusiasm in a great religious movement, is one which, interpret it as we may, marks an extraordinary departure from the common paths. True, conventions for benevolent and altruistic purposes are not altogether unusual during the holiday season, but those who choose to attend such meetings have hitherto for the most part been few in number and composed mainly of those who have reached or passed the meridian of life. The turning of the superabundant energy of early manhood and womanhood into distinctly religious channels is comparatively a new departure, in modern times at least.

It is noteworthy that some of the representatives of the churches and older religious organizations are still disposed to look with a degree of distrust, if not positive suspicion, upon the young people's movement, fearing lest it may be but the beginning of an undesirable departure from the old paths. They regard it as but one of the indications of a disposition on the part of the young to throw aside the whole some restraints of ecclesiastical custom, to overstep the bounds of regular Church order and method, and to turn the currents of religious thought and sentiment into new and more or less erratic channels. As a matter of fact, however, we believe that thus far the directors of the movement, many of whom are leaders in their respec-