

rofoundly denounces the Commission as a "collusive trick between the Government and the Bishops." As no amateur legislation for repressing illegal ritual can be entertained while the Commission is sitting, the Church Association does not welcome this enforced cessation of agitation. But the opinion of those who are not professional agitators is, generally speaking, favourable to the course that the Government has seen fit to adopt.

WAR.

As our readers are fully aware, war exists at present in the Far East between the two Empires of Russia and Japan. It would seem at first glance to be an unequal contest, because in area and population the former greatly exceeds the latter, but there are conditions which tend to offset Russia's seeming advantage. Japan's maritime position, the Great Britain of the Pacific, renders her immune from attack except by sea, and as she has a larger and more efficient navy than Russia, no danger is to be apprehended of invasion from the enemy's fleet. Japan's navy would seem to be in a high state of efficiency, and great success has attended its efforts to destroy the enemy's ships and blockade his ports. Early in the war Japan's superiority on the sea has been demonstrated, and Russia cannot hope to overcome the advantage thus early gained. Japan's proximity to the seat of war also gives her an additional point of ascendancy over her powerful enemy. Japan greatly dreads the aggressive action of so powerful and persistent a foe, and fears for her own independence should Russia gain possession of Korea. English and American sympathy is largely with the Island Empire, and there is much admiration for the skill and pluck with which the Japanese have so far conducted the war. Russia is a vast Empire, which it is difficult to injure very much, and all Japan can hope to accomplish is to arrest her aggressive advances on what is almost adjacent territory. The results of the naval operations so far have been to reveal the new horrors which modern methods have added to war on the sea. Submarine mines and torpedo boats call for incessant watchfulness, and danger lurks in the depths of the ocean. The terrible and awfully sudden disaster which overtook the flagship of Admiral Makaroff, the *Petropavlovsk*, is an illustration of the terrors which await those who engage in warfare upon the ocean. In the days of Nelson it was open and above board in comparison with the conditions which exist to-day. Steam and electricity have revolutionized naval warfare, and made it both more difficult and more dangerous. A modern sailor is more of a machinist than he is of a seaman, and victories at sea will be more gained at long range and by the use of torpedoes and marine mines than by any close personal encounters, as marked the boarding of old times. It is to be hoped that the war may not be a long one, and that it will finally be settled in the interests of trade and commerce and civilization generally. It is to be regretted that lust of territory is still so powerful, that so many millions of men are kept under arms, and that the arbitrament of war is so often appealed to in the settlement of difficulties among nations. War is destructive of life and property, is demoralizing and ruinous in its effects upon those engaged in and immediately affected by it, and it will, indeed, be a happy day for humanity when nations will agree to arbitrate their claims and disputes, and the declaration of the prophet be realized when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and shall cease to learn war any more.

The Rev. W. H. Thompson, LL.D., vicar of St. Luke's, West Holloway, has been elected Gresham Professor of Divinity in the place of the Ven. Archdeacon Bevan, resigned.

AMERICAN DIVORCES.

The rapid increase in the number of divorces in the United States, as well as the existence and open advocacy of polygamy by the Mormons of Utah, is causing no little anxiety among the thoughtful and religious people of that country. The family is the basis of society, and if from any cause it is disintegrated, then the whole social fabric is threatened with extinction. The multiplicity of divorces finds its origin in human weakness and passion, but it is greatly increased among our neighbours by the facilities for it which abound in the laws of the several States, and the demoralized state of public opinion in regard to it. For causes of a most frivolous nature in some States it is possible to receive a divorce, and the whole process of the courts as to it is made both cheap and easy. Lawyers are numerous who promote divorces, and who advertise how speedily, cheaply and privately it can be accomplished. Under these circumstances a steadily increasing number of divorces takes place each year, and alarm is evinced at this threatening danger to Christian civilization in the United States. The extent of the evil, and the pressing need for action to arrest it by legislation, as well as to arouse public opinion as to the menace to American civilization which undoubtedly exists is shown by an article on the subject in *The Churchman* of April 9th, and also by a striking sermon by Dr. Huntington, of New York, from the text, "Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord" (Obadiah), in which he sees an application to his own country. He says: "No one of us can have listened to the text, I think, without having the chosen symbolism of our own beloved country vividly, nay, startlingly, brought to mind. Her emblem is the eagle, her flag is spangled with stars. Can it be possible, we ask ourselves, that what was true for Edom shall some day be true for the United States? Petra's eagle never was so strong as ours; Edom's stars never were so numerous as those that deck our shield. Is it conceivable that disaster should befall a people guarded on either hand, as we are, by the inviolate sea? Has America anything to fear? Nothing to fear from the outside, dear friends, let us take that for granted, nothing to fear from the outside, but much to fear from within." It is stated that in 1901 there were about 61,000 divorces granted in the United States, while in the same year there were only 177 granted in England, and only 19 in Canada. The latter figure does not, we think, include divorces granted in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, which would, perhaps, double it, and still leave the total for Canada very small as compared with the United States. It would seem that not only is the number of divorces large, but that they are rapidly increasing in proportion to the population. Reliable statistics show that there had been a gradual rise from 9,937 in the year 1867 to 25,535 in the year 1886. That was an increase of 157 per cent. The population meantime had increased 60 per cent. Again, it is stated, that whilst from 1890 to 1900 the population increased 20 per cent, there was an increase of 65 per cent. in divorced persons. France granted in 1902 21,939 divorces, which after the United States is the worst record among professedly Christian nations, and to find a parallel to them we must go to Japan, where it is said there are 100,000 divorces annually. By many earnest men it is recognized that the only remedy for the state of things existing in the American Union as to marriage and divorce is a return to conformity to the teaching of Christ, which utterly discountenanced polygamy, and sanctioned divorce only for one cause. "Such," says Dr. Huntington, "was Christ's attitude toward the subject, such His pronouncement. He did not base His decree upon anthropological researches; He sought not to buttress His position by philosophical arguments; He made no appeal to rabbinical opinions; He

simply, in His Father's name, as spokesman for Almighty God, laid down the law. We know what good results have followed even from a sadly imperfect obedience to that law. Society, we are constrained to admit, has been far enough from showing itself that symmetrical congeries of perfect homes which Christian theory requires it to be; but it has come near enough to the ideal to give men at least an inkling of what a perfect social life would be like, and it has succeeded in imparting to the word 'home' a music and a sanctity to which only a few other words in any language can lay claim." Occasionally we hear a plea put forward for some change in our existing divorce court in this country, and greater facilities and cheapness urged in procuring divorces, but we trust the state of things existing in France and the United States will prove an effectual warning as to the dangers of such a course, and that we had better far have some ease of individual hardship than endanger the family, threaten the stability of the whole social fabric, and violate the plain teaching of Jesus Christ as to the sanctity and inviolate character of marriage among Christian people.

FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

Spectator's Comments on Questions of Public Interest to Churchmen.

As was generally expected, Archbishop Bond was elected Acting Primate of All Canada at the recent meeting of the House of Bishops held at Kingston. It was not in the power of that body to go further in the matter at the present moment as the choice must be between two Archbishops and certain Bishops of British Columbia. One of the Archbishoprics being vacant, a permanent appointment could not be made. It is understood, however, that but one name was in the minds of all in connection with this supreme office, and that was the venerable prelate of Montreal. He will certainly grace with dignity the high position to which he has been called, and the Church will always find his judgments resulting from conscientious conviction. Behind him lies a record of immense service to the Church; and, though his working days in the natural course of events must now be few, all will unite to support him in maintaining the ideals which ought to be associated with such an exalted office.

The organization of an Anti-treating League by temperance workers in the Province of Quebec seems to be proceeding with reasonable prospects of success. The prime mover in the matter is Mr. Max Leibich, of Berthier, who has displayed a great deal of enthusiasm and done a large amount of work on its behalf. The pledge calls for no promise of abstinence, but simply that every man will pay his own footing in the matter of drinkables, as he does in everything else. It is a movement that demands magnitude to command any kind of influence. To be insignificant in numbers and limited in area is to condemn it at once to a brief and impotent career. If private missionary work could be carried on in all parts of Canada on the line that no organization would be publicly inaugurated until, say, five thousand or ten thousand men had signified their intention of taking the pledge, or acting in accordance with its spirit, then it would take its place as institution of far-reaching influence, and its development would be infinitely more rapid. In certain quarters the movement has received very cordial support from the daily press, and it is to be hoped that the work begun may be carried to a successful issue.

The Board of Management met a few days ago, and apparently had, on the whole, a satisfactory meeting. Spectator would humbly suggest that the public should be taken more fully into the confidence of the board in regard to the business transacted. At present a few crumbs of conventional information are communicated to the press during the meeting, and there the matter rests

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