

In reply to Sir A. Campbell, Mr. Labouchere said that the power of granting these licenses was derived from the Queen.

Sir J. Fergusson asked whether in the licenses which granted a monopoly to these gentlemen there was any reservation as to the prices which they should be entitled to charge.

Mr Labouchere said a monopoly was undoubtedly granted to them for five years, of which about four years expired.

RURAL ARCHITECTURE.

In a progressive and enlightened age like this, it is somewhat astonishing that so little effort has been made to improve and beautify the homes of the rural population.

The associations connected with childhood have an important bearing on the conduct of the man, and the recollections of youth form the most agreeable pictures that are impressed on the tables of memory.

The scenes of our childhood, the hopes of our youth, and the aspirations of our manhood come crowding to the mere mention of home. In infancy, consciousness first dawns upon the beauty of nature beneath the grateful shade of its trees, and their memory in after life acts as an incentive to noble action.

There are but few whose eyes will not brighten, and whose pulse will not quicken as the reminiscences of past happy days are brought to mind.

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,
As fond recollection presents them to view;
The orchard, the meadow, the deep tangled wild wood,
And every loved spot which my infancy knew.

"The wide-spreading pond, the mill that stood by it,
The bridge and the rock where the cataract fell,
The cot of my father, the dairy house nigh it,
And e'en the rude bucket which hung in the well."

With associations similar to these, and with sufficient wealth at their command, a large portion of the citizens of our prosperous country are content to dwell in houses but little if any better than those constructed by the first settlers of our soil; and there to bring up and educate the children, who are to be the men and women of the next generation.

They think, no doubt, that it is for the benefit of these children that they continue to economize and toil; but a few moments' reflection would show that the foundation of all education is laid at the home of our childhood. With the perceptions of order, symmetry, and beauty, awakens the desire for possessions, and with them comes that refinement of manners which distinguish a civilized from a coarse and brutal people. And as the first perception of order and beauty is awakened in most minds by external objects, a comfortable and attractive home has an important bearing on education and refinement.

Like a strong anchor, the mere sentiment of home has saved many a man from shipwreck.

Then, how necessary does it become, for a thinking moral people, to throw every attraction around their home that their means will allow. In this view, the adornment of the Homestead has social and moral influences far beyond the mere gratification of the eye, or the consideration of dollars and cents.

The desire to surround ourselves with the higher sources of enjoyment, rather than be content with mere utility is to acknowledge the existence of a sentiment, which, next to a religious one, is the purest and noblest part of our nature.