

The Scotch Churches.

The sympathies of the writers in our contemporaries on this side of the Atlantic have been all with the larger body. Perhaps it is the natural feeling in favour of the small under dog which had been kicked out, that induced us to side with it, and to refrain from howling at it, because it had the right to the bone. The Scottish Guardian puts the case in a nutshell in saying that "there can be little doubt but that the nation will, sooner or later, see an Act of Parliament passed which would a year ago have seemed inconceivable. Property which lawfully belongs to one society will be taken away, and given to another society, the ground for this surprising course of action being that the rightful owners are unable to make a proper use of their possessions. This is a far-reaching principle, and one which could hardly have been expected to find favour with a Conservative Government. Further, the same Conservative Government will endow the United Free Church to a greater or less extent, and that Church, containing practically all the Voluntaries in Scotland, will thankfully accept this gift from the State; should the U.F. leaders continue to orate thereafter upon the iniquity of Establishment and Endowment as they have done in the past, the climax of absurdity will be reached. Truly the House of Lords has acted a magician's part; it has transported Scotland into the atmosphere of 'Alice in Wonderland,' that there may be beheld the spectacle of a Conservative Ministry passing a socialistic measure for the benefit of its political foes, and a Voluntary Church, receiving endowment at the hands of the State!" When the House of Lords' judgment was given, and the probable consequences startled the Presbyterian world, there was raised a great cry for equity. But equity varies and is granted or refused according to circumstances. Commenting on a case where a minister had expressed views which were possibly unorthodox, the Herald and Presbyterian, of Cincinnati, says: "The truest liberty is that of the man who has no desire to go beyond bounds. If a confession is a platform, it is one upon which a minister has a right only so long as it is his platform as well as that of his church. When one is cramped by the platform or creed of his church, he would better seek one that suits him better." Well, well, circumstances alter cases.

English Bishopricks.

The present administration in England has a great deal of episcopal patronage now. The Bishopricks of Worcester, Birmingham and Carlisle, have been filled, but we read that those of Gloucester, Southwark and Ely will have to be filled shortly. It is stated that Lord Alwyne Compton intends to resign the Bishopricks of Ely about the middle of this year. He is in his 80th year, and has suffered for some time past from lameness, which, has somewhat interfered with his activity. Lord Compton is the son of the second Marquis of Northampton, and uncle of the present peer. All accounts admit that his episcopate has been a peaceful one, and that he is a kindly and fatherly Bishop who has won the love and esteem of his clergy. Unfortunately he is very short-sighted, and has a bad memory for faces. It is told of him that not long ago he was staying with the Vicar of one of his town parishes, and in the street met a clergyman, who raised his hat. His Lordship shook him by the hand, saying, "I am glad to see you—one of my country clergy, I presume." To his amazement he recognized the voice of his host.

Bishops for Cuba and Mexico.

Although the New York Churchman has been somewhat discouraged by an examination of the returns, and what is much worse, Bishop Brent, of the Philippines has been unsuccessful in rais-

ing money, and will have to return with empty pockets, and unable to carry out his schemes; our brethren across the line are reaching out in foreign lands. We chronicle the consecration of two Bishops for foreign parts, one for Mexico, the other for Cuba. And we wish the prelates every success. Wisely they are directed to concentrate their efforts, so far as possible, in looking after the English-speaking people. The need of more effective and evangelistic work among them is well known to any having the most superficial knowledge of these lands. At the consecration of the Bishop of Mexico, the Bishop at Dallas preached the sermon, and his solemn charge to the Bishop-elect recalls the advice of Washington and the early United States advisers before the era of Imperialism, and the new reading of the Monroe doctrine. "You are about to exercise your episcopal functions," said the preacher, "in a foreign country. Stand in your own lot, avoid all entangling alliances, study to be quiet, and do your own work in your own way, as God shall give you grace and opportunity. If the fruits of the Spirit manifest themselves in others, called by many names, who follow not with you, rejoice in the overflowing riches of divine love, but do not swerve from your own steadfastness on that account."

THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

With the advent of a new year we hope that there will be a reward to our persistence, and that new energy and life will be displayed by this excellent enterprise. At the risk of tediousness we must remind our readers how many months ago we impressed on them the loneliness of the new settlers and the usefulness of Lady Aberdeen's Society. In consequence of these suggestions we had enquiries as to where the Aberdeen Association was to be found, and it was quite evident that there was great popular ignorance as to its existence. Therefore, we have for several months dilated on the necessity of those who controlled the Association letting the public know all about it. We are all too apt to get into a rut, but if there is one thing more than another which ought to be kept constantly before the public it is an enterprise which collects old books and magazines, and sends this literature to the far off new settlements. It is only people like tax-collectors, or compilers of directories who realize the continuous change of population. Houses are re-let or sold, and when such changes occur, the accumulated periodicals and old books have to be got rid of. Then there are the spring and fall cleanings with their minor riddances. So that in our growing towns there are so many things which are practically given away to second-hand dealers and paper mills, or destroyed, which could do so much to relieve the monotony of country life to the new comers. We need only state one fact, and that is that a sad number of women become insane from the unbroken white monotony of the winter in the prairie.

But to our repeated questions about the Association there was no response, and we in despair advised our friends that the Association was evidently moribund, and that they had better send their books and papers through certain private hands. At this stage Mrs. Hodgins, of Toronto, wrote us assuring us that the Toronto branch was alive, and that it met regularly and "quietly" at the Parliament Buildings. This letter was followed by another from Mr. C. P. Whitley, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, who explained that he was the general secretary, gave a list of places where there are branches, and offered to give any further information. There are two kinds of secretaries, the pushful and the recording one, and we fear that Mr. Whitley does not recognize that we must combine the two, and must hustle if the Associa-

tion is to succeed. Like the Scot, we are thankful for sma' mercies, such as his letter is, but for our readers, we, like Oliver Twist, want more. In the public interest and being like the general public, quite ignorant of what is done or left undone, we ask for the following information not to be conveyed solely in a letter to ourselves, although that is most desirable, but in circular letters to be given the widest possible publicity. The names and addresses of the local secretaries, and the places to which parcels may be sent. Then whether not only contributions of books, etc., are asked for, but if volunteers are desired to report on certain days at certain times to unpack and repack for distribution. And finally, how people from suburbs or outside towns can have their contributions delivered to the secretaries. It may be that there is some arrangement for payment or reduction of rates upon such parcels; or it may be that there is no regular attendance except on certain specified days and hours, so that it might be difficult to have contributions delivered as they might be lost altogether. There are some suggestions which might be made now, but we must reserve to next week's issue.

THE SURRENDER OF PORT ARTHUR.

After a vigorous siege covering the greater part of a year the great Russian fortress—constructed with the utmost care, and at an enormous outlay by their ablest military engineers, on modern and scientific lines, and defended with stubborn valour to the last stage of exhaustion by a general whose determination and skill have made his name historic, has become the hard-earned prize of the victorious Japanese. It is hard, at this stage, to estimate the moral effect of this tremendous disaster to the Russian arms—and consequent loss of prestige to that proud, ambitious, and hitherto victorious power. It must, and cannot fail, to be grave, and probably far-reaching. Her march of empire in the East stayed. Her armies defeated, and compelled to retreat. And now shorn of her most important terminus on the eastern seaboard, with its formidable defences, and her fleet in those waters dispersed, scattered, or destroyed, and the effectiveness of the Baltic squadron rendered for the time being negatory. General Kuropatkin held in check. His opponents soon to be reinforced by the army released by the fall of Port Arthur, and the remaining fortress—Vladivostok imperilled. Truly the Muscovite has "fall'n on evil days." With equal patriotism, courage, and tenacity—and superior enlightenment, skill, equipment, and method, and a devotion to their cause which has never been surpassed, the Japanese would not be denied. So a fortress which was deemed invincible, after a defence which was truly heroic, has become their trophy and possession. One of the most important lessons taught to onlooking nations by this deplorable war—a war which each lover of humanity must deprecate and wish soon to end, is the vital need and permanent significance of the command of the sea. No more graphic illustration could well be given of this great truth, taught with such clearness and force by Captain Mahan in his works on "sea power," as that presented by the bottling up of the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, and the gradual capture, disablement or destruction of the war vessels of that power in the adjacent waters, by dominating fleet of Japan. Militarism is one thing, and adequate preparation for the protection of one's country from foreign invasion is quite another thing. England's security as a world power rests mainly on her navy. We have intimated on a former occasion our doubt that those who most loudly denounce the maintenance of a military and naval force, would be as eager to dispense with a police force. The design of the one being to protect the country, and the lives and property

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