

rhetoric and ostentatious erudition of his assailant. The Archdeacon had said that drinking was the "one curse of humanity the entail of which we might absolutely cut off." "Alas," replied the Baron, "the Archdeacon tempts an old lawyer to say, we should then be seized in fee simple of our sin, and have the largest possible estate in it."

THE Hon. John B. Finch, of Nebraska, announces that the Canadian Prohibitionists "will receive in the battle for their homes both the personal and financial aid of the American Templars." In plain words, American money is to be used in Scott Act elections. To use it in Parliamentary elections for the support of a Prohibitionist candidate will perhaps be the next step. Mr. Finch says that he was elected head of the Good Templars partly by Canadian votes, and that this is his warrant for meddling with Canadian legislation, vilifying a class of Canadian citizens, and inciting to the confiscation of their property. We should hope that the Good Templars themselves have too much sense to believe that the vote of a private society can set any man free from the plain rules of international right. There are societies less respectable than the Good Templars which have Canadian affiliations, and, according to this theory, any political tramp in the United States who found his occupation dull or his name too well known at home might obtain credentials which would empower him to come over here and earn a living as an agitator by meddling in our affairs. American lecturers, once more, are entirely welcome, and are always cordially received here, as is every American who comes in amity and respects our national independence. But the interference of a foreigner with the political affairs of a country in which he is a guest is an outrage upon propriety which every right-minded American will condemn. We observe that Mr. Finch, in a speech delivered in a Methodist church, raised a cheer by praising Mr. Gladstone. But it is notorious that Mr. Gladstone takes wine daily with his meal. Of course he thereby helps to support the wine-merchant, that monster who, according to Mr. Finch, "steeps his arms up to the elbow in the blood of the best interests of society." Nay, he even legislated, as Finance Minister, in favour of the admission of light wines.

THE Church of England in Synod assembled has to deplore a marked falling off in her revenues, which seems to betoken a corresponding failure of zeal. She probably always finds it more difficult than do other churches to collect voluntary contributions, because her people, if they are emigrants from England, have been always accustomed to a Church paid by the State. But this will not account for the present decrease. Intestine divisions most likely are, in part at least, the cause. Most of the Bishops and a great part of the clergy are High Church, and are daily moving in that direction, while the laity, who hold the purse, are for the most part Low Church, or at all events opposed to anything which in their opinion tends to the revival of priestly rule. The laity being unorganized, having no very definite views and being powerless in the Synod, where they are outvoted by the compact body of clergy in combination with a few High Church laymen, fall into a state of passive disaffection and withhold subscriptions which they think, not without reason, may be applied to the propagation of sentiments at variance with their own, and to the aggrandizement of a power which they regard with mistrust. Nor is it easy to see how an end can be put to this conflict, which, under cover of what Chatham called the "Catholic Prayer Book and Calvinistic Articles," has been going on through the whole course of Anglican history. It is attachment to the Prayer Book that mainly holds the Church of England together, and probably this will continue to hold her together, if her clergy will be moderate in their pretensions and not force upon the laity issues which an educated layman, if they are forced upon him, can decide only in one way. Besides the Prayer Book, however, the Church of England has her venerable antiquity, her dignity, and with them a large measure of spiritual freedom. She is practically the home of men, numerous in these times, who desire to sustain their spiritual life and to enjoy the comforts of a social religion without having irrational and immoral dogmas pressed upon their consciences or being forced to play a part in any organized hypocrisies. Liberty and immunity of the laity from ecclesiastical interference with conscience are perhaps not characteristics of which clergymen of any church are inclined specially to prize; yet, in the present state of the theological world, they are practically of no small value. They may be combined with any amount of activity on the part of the clergy in religious ministrations and good works. At all events, we are met by the hard economic fact: the reactionary movement among the clergy has been attended by a falling off in the revenues of the Church. To talk about a return to the system of tithes is utterly hopeless.

No one who has more generosity in his heart than Lord Randolph Churchill or an Irish member would wish to see a long and illustrious career close in darkness. But of such a termination Mr. Gladstone's career has been more than once in danger. Retirement would have been the most dignified and the most satisfactory end, and to retirement Mr. Gladstone's thoughts have evidently more than once turned. There is little doubt indeed that, at the time, he destined the reorganization of the House of Commons, by means of the new rules, to be the crowning act of his public life. But we cannot blame one who determines to labour while strength is left him in the service of the State, and Mr. Gladstone's disposition to end his days in repose has been met, as often as it was manifested, by the most earnest entreaties on the part of many of those around him that he would remain at his post. Fortune has at last been kind to him. He falls, instead of withdrawing; but falls in such a way that not the slightest stain is left upon his fame, while infamy is the assured meed of all concerned in the conspiracy of Tories with Fenians and spirit-dealers by which he has been overthrown. During his last Administration he has held together by his personal ascendancy the Liberal and Radical sections of his party, and has moderated the Radical movement, especially by averting or postponing the conflict between the nation and the Lords. The extent of his tempering influence will be recognized by Conservatives now that he is gone. By the Court, which has always hated him, his resignation is accepted with an eagerness which reminds us of the suicidal conduct of the French Court to Neckar. But his defeat by an unprincipled combination has evidently raised his popularity again to its full height among the people. His enemies will find that they have not stripped him of power.

SELDOM has a moral been more decisively pointed than that which is conveyed in the conduct of the Parnellites towards Mr. Gladstone. That Mr. Gladstone's agrarian legislation for Ireland was sound, we at all events do not maintain. But it is not for the Parnellites who wish or affect to wish to go farther in the same direction to tax it with unsoundness. Certain it is that no other British statesman, not even the author of Catholic Emancipation, has done so much or so risked his reputation for the sake of Ireland. If at the same time he has been compelled to strengthen the law for the prevention of wholesale murder and outrage, every sane man, even among the Parnellites, must know that as the head of the Government, bound in duty and honour to protect life and property, he could not possibly have evaded the necessity. Were not those whom he was called upon to save from murder Irish as well as the murderers? Towards the Irish members in the House of Commons, though they have habitually treated him with the most ruffianly brutality, the attitude and language of Mr. Gladstone has been invariably courteous; he has made as sparing use as possible of his power of putting down their obstruction, and has evidently clung in spite of all disappointments and all warnings to the hope that he might yet win them over by a policy of persistent conciliation. Such conduct would at least have secured respectful treatment at the hands of any men in whose hearts generosity or even decency resided. What is the return made for it by the Parnellites? Not only do they league with the Tories, the hereditary enemies of Ireland, to turn out Mr. Gladstone's Government, but they howl with exultation over his fall and pursue him with the foulest personal insults, such insults as no gentleman would permit himself to offer even to a political enemy, above all to an aged and illustrious man, worn with life-long labour in the service of the State. The inference drawn will be that in the case of Ireland, kindness and remedial measures avail nothing, and that there is nothing for it but the iron heel. This inference would be wrong. Towards the Irish people statesmen ought not to be weary of well-doing. They ought not to stop before they have given Ireland improved local institutions, a thoroughly reformed Land Law, with the Torrens System, increased facilities for emigration, her share of whatever respect is implied in the presence of Royalty, and everything else which legislation can do to promote her prosperity or gratify her feelings consistently with the firm maintenance of the Legislative Union. But as to the best and the only way of dealing with Irish conspiracy, the behaviour of the Parnellites towards the great conciliator can have left no doubt in the mind of any human being.

LORD SALISBURY is true to the impetuous indecision which is his leading characteristic as a statesman, and which has caused it to be said of him that he *saut pour mieux reculer*. He has been striving with all his might, and without any false delicacy in his choice of means, to upset Mr. Gladstone's government, and open for himself the road to power. Not only has he been incessantly assailing the Prime Minister on the stump and through the press, but he has done his utmost to embarrass the