

A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.

In an article written while the Toronto controversy was in full swing, and which appears in another column, the hope was expressed that while an effort was made to vindicate the truth and purity of Christian faith there would be no sectarian narrowing of the real liberty which is essential to the health and life of the Church. We can now congratulate our Methodist friends that they have come very well through the ordeal; there must have been a fair amount of mutual consideration to produce such a satisfactory result. Mr. Jackson's services are to be retained for Victoria College and Canada; and in connection with this discussion a statement has been issued which declares the loyalty of the college to Evangelical doctrine, and closes with the following important paragraph:

"Inasmuch as perfect honesty in the investigation of truth and perfect candor in its statement are essential parts of our religion, and especially imperative in our schools of theology, standing as they do side by side with the great institutions of learning in the country, so long as our theological professors maintain their personal vital relation to Christ and the Holy Scripture and adhere to the doctrinal standards of our Church, Victoria College recognizes that they must be left free to do their own work, in order that in an atmosphere of perfect Christian candor and true intellectual liberty they can conserve the faith of our Church in the minds of those who in days to come shall minister in our pulpits. Our experience is that only as the young men of a great university have full confidence that their instructors give them honest convictions, reached by perfectly candid and scientific methods, will they retain their faith in Christianity itself."

These sentences breathe the real spirit of faith; they state quite clearly that to the open-minded and truth-seeking spirit loyalty to the truth and loyalty to Christianity are the same thing.

It is important that there should be increased reverence for the Sacred Scriptures and a fuller study of them to bring out their real meaning and apply it to present life; and the condition of this is liberty of research. If there is to be a real revival it must be through a fuller appreciation of the power of the Bible. We are convinced that the aim of Christian scholarship is to bring about a better understanding of the ancient records. The spirit of our Lord Jesus is the spirit of reverence for the past, but not of slavery to it; a living Christ gives men a living, present message.

A notice of Presbytery sent out to the members of a Presbytery in the Northern Presbyterian Church, contained the following significant note: "It is hoped that every minister of the presbytery will attend this meeting and that every church session will send a delegate who will come and stay through the meetings. Our interests demand the attention of men who will stay and pray. Men who come on one train and go away on the next are of no benefit to the work." We suspect that many members of presbytery in the Canadian church might well take this hint.

A PREMIER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

Probably no British Premier in recent years has had so many perplexing problems to face as Mr. Asquith. The education bill, the licensing bill, and the old age pension bill—all questions of the utmost importance—have had to be dealt with, and while the House of Lords has vetoed the action of the Commons in two of these matters, this has not lessened, but rather increased the Government's difficulties. And now they are face to face with a large deficit. The old age pension scheme calls for a much larger sum than was anticipated to meet its requirements, and the war scare—if it can be called such—has emphasized the necessity for large and expensive additions to the navy. The Lords of the Admiralty threatened to resign in a body unless the Government would agree to build six new Dreadnoughts, which will involve an outlay of about \$100,000,000. It looks as if the colonies may be asked to contribute a share of the cost of keeping up the navy, and this will involve the question of imperial representation—for taxation, or even voluntary contribution, cannot be maintained without representation. The labor men in the liberal party are unanimous in favor of old age pensions, but seem to be just as unanimous against the expenditure for the navy. New taxes, always an unpopular move, will certainly have to be imposed, but it is hoped can be adjusted in such a way as to fall mainly on the wealthier classes, while the liquor traffic may be made to contribute a large share.

The present session is a trying one for the Premier and his colleagues, and emphasizes the fact that Governmental responsibilities bring worries and anxieties of a harassing character. A general election is also looming up, and it will not be surprising if it involves another change of Government. Such changes come with much greater frequency in the Mother Country than we in Canada are accustomed to. To occupy a leading position among the nation's of the world involves problems which call for the utmost judgment and skill, and Mr. Asquith has his hands full.

There is not much charity displayed in a pastoral issued by Right Rev. Dr. Turner, Roman Catholic bishop of Galway, in which he denounces the marriage of a Roman Catholic with a Protestant as a crime, an abomination, and an act of foul concubinage. Catholics are enjoined as a duty to God to shun all association and converse with any one who falls into such abomination, until the foul thing is put away. Roman Catholics are warned against the danger they incur by mixing with Protestants in trade unions, benefit societies or social clubs. As an evidence of bigotry and narrow mindedness such a pastoral "takes the cake."

It is announced that the licensed victuallers of Montreal are applying for an amendment to the law which will permit them to open their barrooms after 12 o'clock on Sunday. We cannot think there is any likelihood that the Legislature will even consider such a proposition.

BRITISH MAGAZINES FOR MARCH.

From Leonard Scott Publication Company, 7 Warren St., New York, we have received the three great reviews, viz: The Nineteenth Century and After, The Contemporary and the Fortnightly; also Blackwoods. They are all full of the cream of current thought in politics, art, literature, sociology and economic questions. In the Nineteenth Century the articles which will attract immediate attention in Canada will be *India Revisited*, by Lieut.-Col. Masey; *Scottish Orders and Catholic Reunion*, by Rev. Archibald Flemming, D.D.; *A Lesson from Australia*, by Senator E. Pulsford, and *Ireland in Extremis*, by Van Malcolin.

The Fortnightly this month is specially strong in papers of a cosmopolitan character, such as *Imperial and Foreign Affairs*, by Dr. Russell Wallace; *The Russian Police*, by L. A. Jones, M.P.; *Cavour and Bismark*, by W. R. Thayer; and *Proposed Reforms in India*, by J. D. Rees, C.V.O.

The dozen or more articles in the Contemporary make a most inviting intellectual bill of fare. We can only mention three or four. *European Federation*, by Charles Lowe; *The Lepers of Motokai*, by Jack London; *Spiritual Healing*, by Dr. A. T. Schofield; and Dr. Dillon's illuminative notes on "Foreign Affairs."

Nothing dull about "Old Ebony!" From cover to cover Blackwood's is most readable. "Musings without Method," in each number is worth the whole year's subscription.

The rumor that Earl Grey will be selected to succeed the Earl of Minto as Viceroy of India is to say the least not impossible, says the Montreal Witness. "So many governors-general of Canada have gone the round of promotion from Ottawa to Calcutta that it has almost come to be looked upon as a natural sequence in the highest ranks of the Imperial service. Three names will occur at once of men who were fortunate in having had great opportunities and of having risen equal to them. The Earl of Elgin, the Marquis of Dufferin, and the Marquis of Lansdowne, each in his day, had established a reputation for administrative ability in Canada at a time of popular excitement before going to India to fill the more difficult and responsible position of Viceroy of India. Of Earl Grey it may be truly said that he has been in all respects a model Governor-General. Fortunately for him and for the country, there has been no political crisis during his term of office. His duties have been more social and in relation to the development of our institutions, industries and arts. In all these he has taken an active interest, entering immediately into the life of the people, sharing their aspirations and their pastimes, and making himself as thoroughly Canadian as ourselves. Should he become Viceroy of India, we are sure he will acquit himself in that higher sphere of responsibility with the same success that has distinguished his career in Canada." All of which we can cordially endorse.