

An Explanation.

On the faith of a telegraphed report circulated in the usual way and to which our attention had been directed from the West, we made some comments on the speech of the Archbishop of York, of which this report purported to be a truthful abstract. We had prepared a further article for the following week but determined to await the arrival of the Old Country papers, as it was possible that the speech had been "edited." We have those papers and it turns out that the later portion had been cut off. The Archbishop at Sheffield had regretted the want of vigour of the Church in the West, and had then proceeded to make remarks which were circulated in the United Kingdom only. The report, which we did not get, continued thus: "His Grace mentioned the fact that 150,000 immigrants annually pour into Canada, and the great testing problem of the Church of England was its method of dealing with the duty laid upon it in the Dominion. Half of the immigrants were Englishmen, and they must be held and won for Christ. He bore testimony to the great work done by the Colonial and Continental Society, which was doing much, but was not doing all that might be done. The S.P.G. is also helping, but the home Church as a whole has not realized its day of opportunity and its call to do its duty." We allow our readers to make their own comments and to surmise why and where this abbreviation was made.

Historic Spots.

Among the examples which England sets us there is an admirable one in the organization and working of the National Trust for places of historic interest or natural beauty. The value of the heritage derived from the past is thus better appreciated by personal or literary intercourse and a centre of appeal created for the number who deplore a threatened vandalism but are individually helpless. In recent months a sum was raised wherewith to purchase a plot of land which was to have been built on so as to ruin a view of which we had a picture in a recent Fair in Toronto and which Burke described "The proud keep of Windsor rising in the majesty of proportion and girt with the double belt of its kindred and co-eval towers." The corporate aid of this society so stiffened the backs of Croydon Town Councillors that twenty-nine voted against twenty-five and succeeded in saving Whitgift's Hospital from being demolished. Cheddar Gorge whose natural beauties are associated with Hannah More and her circle, an influence which was a valuable one at a period when it was needed, it is now sought to save from being turned into a quarry. This trust and the county organization have so educated English love of the land that the descendants of emigrants find on every hand some feature of historic interest, indeed every village, even every old street has its attraction for them. In our own land we have the Wentworth and other historical societies which have done work which is very little appreciated now to what it will be when in a generation or two the surroundings of the Niagara Peninsula will be all changed.

Proportional Representation.

The late Prince Consort held that Parliamentary Government was on its trial. Since his death parliamentary representation has been immensely broadened until now it is numbers alone that count. There are classes who revolt at this extreme, and who advocate different systems. In Russia at present a strong stand is being made by the government, and an attempt to extend the system which there provides for three classes of representatives elected by the three classes of taxpayers. In London the proportional representation society aims at a juster system than is now in use and includes in its ranks many

eminent public men. The system is having an experimental trial in Johannesburg, hardly to our mind an ideal opportunity. Two systems had been tried there already. In the first experiment the town formed one constituency and returned thirty members, that was in 1903, with the result that the mining and commercial sections of the community were over represented. In 1905 the town was divided up into ten wards, each returning three members. It is now proposed that the council, consisting as before of thirty members, shall be elected every third year, the town being divided into three or four wards and each voter possessing a single transferable vote. The Johannesburg experiment, owing to the terms of all the members not having run out was only partial. But it is claimed that it has excluded the worst representatives of the ward politician class, has secured a fair representation of the minorities and placed the men who "have stood in the past for efficient administration and against jobbery and local intrigue."

Gladstone Reminiscences.

Personal reminiscences of a man who has figured largely in the world's history are for the most part interesting. Though one may not be able to approve of many things done in public life by such a man yet if he has not been essentially a bad man his life must afford many incidents worthy of record. The Right Hon. Sir Algernon West in the Nineteenth Century for January has thrown some bright side lights on the public and personal character of Gladstone. "He once said," writes Sir Algernon, "I have made many mistakes in my political career, God knows, but I can honestly assert that I have never said or done anything in politics in which I did not sincerely believe." And continues the writer of the article "how few could make such a boast with truth?" Here is a deserved tribute to the good influence of our clerical poets. "The world, Mr. Gladstone said, hardly appreciated the debt we owed to the clergy in our poetry—Crabbe, Heber, Newman, Keble, French, Kingsley, Faber, C. Tennyson, Milman, Wolfe and others." His favourite amongst English poets was Tennyson. Here is a home picture. "I soon got to know him at home, as we used to say at Eton, and there the simplicity of his daily life became even more apparent. Daily church, daily methods, whether in business or in recreation. But his unlimited youthfulness was perhaps the most wonderful, with a fullness and a sweetness which no touch of old age diminished. He was so easily amused with simple stories which would not move to laughter the schoolboys of to-day." He thoroughly appreciated one side of his great opponent. "Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone thought, was the wittiest man he had come across in parliament." In reply to a quotation once made by Peel, Disraeli said, "I find no fault with the right hon. gentleman's quotation, for I find that he never makes one unless it has previously received the approbation of parliament."

Deadly Weapons.

It is time that some restraint—much stronger than at present exists—should be placed on the sale of deadly weapons. The recent tragedy in Toronto gives point to this necessity. If there were any common need, or even any occasional need for the use of revolvers, for instance, if throughout the land they were habitually used by the average man—as for instance pen knives and razors are used—it would be a different thing. This, however, is not the case. The revolver is a deadly weapon. Apart from its use in war—and by the police, its recorded use in the daily press by the burglar, murderer or thief, and sad to say by the thoughtless boy whose exclamation that "I did not know that it was loaded," is but poor compensation to his comrade maimed for life or killed upon the spot. If

it be argued that a revolver helps a man to defend his life and property, let us ask how often during the past year, in the very city to which we have referred, with a population nearing half a million inhabitants, has this been the case. No! in Canada from ocean to ocean and even in our outlying districts the ordinary law abiding citizen needs no revolver. Nor does he need a dirk or stabbing knife. The freedom of this country is degraded by those who, save for lawful purposes, carry on their persons deadly weapons, as by their injurious use the law is defied. Now that the House of Commons is in session he would be a public benefactor who would procure the passage of an Act regulating the sale and custody of deadly weapons under penalties sufficiently severe to prevent crime and save useful lives.

Salvation Army.

Our readers may be interested in this account by General Booth of the name of the Salvation Army. "There was a meeting in connection with the religious work in which I was engaged, and Commissioner Railton had written a little slip about it. Just at that time the volunteer movement was the great subject of public interest. Thinking of that the Commissioner had put down the words 'The Christian Mission is a Volunteer Army.' I looked over his shoulder for a moment and drew my pencil through volunteer and substituted Salvation. Those present confirmed the name Salvation Army as exactly right, and that is how it came into existence." He also said, "I thought it desirable that we should have some recognized uniform, so that we might be able to know each other when we met, wherever it might be." How much the army has gained through this stroke of genius can never be known. The simple emblem has been the salvation of the army organization.

Something Like Reclamation.

We learn from Chicago of the completion of a wonderful irrigation dam of the Shoshone River in Wyoming. It is 85 ft. wide at bottom and rises between nearly perpendicular cliffs 330 feet. Behind the wall of concrete, the torrent of the Shoshone River is thrust back into an old, empty basin, where ages ago a lake existed, before its water overflowed and cut the present rugged gorge. In order to reach the site selected by the government engineers for the Shoshone dam it was necessary to construct a road eight miles long, many portions of its length tunneled through granite cliffs. For several miles this road is blasted out of the sheer face of Rattlesnake Mountain. It opens a new and attractive route to the Yellowstone National Park. The dam will create behind it the largest lake in Wyoming, with a surface area of ten square miles and an average depth of seventy feet. The irrigation flow is carried directly through the precipitous cliffs in a tunnel three miles long. A very large area of desert is watered by this work, and already four towns have been established.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS AND THE CHURCH.

For once the expected has happened, for despite the "vapourings" of either side it was easy to see that no one in England, whose opinion was entitled to be taken seriously, anticipated a decisive victory for either or any party. And so it has fallen out. The election has decided nothing. Each party has fought the other to a standstill, one and only one unmistakable fact emerges. The action of the House of Lords in referring the Budget to their consideration has not been resented by the people of England. They have replied to the denunciation of the Lords' action

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