

WISDOM IN COUNSEL.

The following extract from an English paper will show that Britain has some wise counsellors left. We enter into no discussion of her parties. But who can avoid seeing and saying that the glory and future greatness of Britain are in her commerce and in her colonies, and not in her armies or her warfare? How earnestly ought all her people to unite in that prayer of her Liturgy, "Give peace in our time, O Lord." We take the following extract from an English paper, a few sentences having been in one of our items last week,—*Protestant Churchman*.

WISDOM IN THE UNITED STATES.

At a public meeting of the Marsden Mechanics' Institution, at Manchester, on the 14th of December, Mr. Bright, M.P., in the course of a speech, deprecating the war, said:—

Many of us have relations or friends in America. That young nation has a population about equal to ours in these Islands. It has a great internal and external commerce. It has more tonnage in shipping than we have. It has more railroads than we have. It has institutions more free than we have—that horrid slavery of the south excepted—and which is no fruit of its institutions, but an unhappy legacy of the past. It has also a great manufacturing interest in different branches. That is the young giant whose shadow ever grows, and there is the true rival of this country.

How do we stand or start in the race? The United States Government, including all the governments of all the sovereign states, raises in taxes probably from £12,000,000 to £15,000,000 sterling in the year. England this year will raise in taxes and loans, and will expend nearly £100,000,000. The population must raise and will spend, probably £80,000,000 within this year more than that population will raise and spend, and in America there is far less poverty and pauperism than in England. Can we run this race on these terms, and against such odds? Can we have to be as well off as America if the products of our industry are thus swept away by the tax gatherer, and in the vain scheme of saving Europe from imaginary dangers?

Can poverty be lessened among us, can education spread, can the brutality of so many of our population be improved, can all or anything that good men look for, come to us, unless we have a more solid foundation of all social and moral good, are squandered in this manner? Pursue the phantom of military glory for ten years, and expend in that time a sum equal to all the visible property of Lancashire and Yorkshire and then compare yourself with the United States of America, and where will you be? Pauperism, crime, and political anarchy are the legacies we are passing on to our children, and there is no escape for us unless we change our course, and resolve to disengage ourselves from the policy which tends incessantly to embroil us with the nations of the continent of Europe.

SITE OF ANCIENT LONDON.—When Sir Christopher Wren began to build the new St Paul's, in digging for a foundation, he came to a layer of Saxon graves, lined with chalk, some in stone coffins; and at some distance below, the bodies of the British, only wrapped in woollen shrouds, fastened with pins of hard wood. In the same row, yet deeper, (18 feet,) were the ashes of the Romans in urns—Britons and Romans together—the conquerors and conquered both vanquished. Lower than those graves stood the foundation of old St Paul's, resting upon very close pot earth, and yet still lower nothing but dry sand mixed sometimes unequally, but mostly so loose that it would pass through the fingers; then water and sand mixed with periwinkles and other sea shells. This was about the level of low water mark.

The gradual rise of the site of London by the formation of shoals, &c., will be readily understood by the above account. It grew by natural causes, and at the time of the arrival of the Romans was probably a rude British stronghold, defended by earthworks, and backed by thick woods towards the north, and surrounded on other sides by an immense extent of water, amid which the present course of the Thames could scarcely be defined.—*The Builder*.

A NOBLE BOY.—A little fellow, not more than five years old, hearing some gentlemen at his father's table discussing the familiar line "An honest man's the noblest work of God," said, "I know that it wasn't true—his mother was better than any man that was ever made."

A STRIKING CONFIRMATION OF SCRIPTURE.—One of the most interesting of the monuments of ancient Rome is the triumphal arch erected to commemorate the conquest of Jerusalem by Titus, who after the destruction of the temple made a triumphal march to Rome, bringing with him a long train of captive Jews and the spoils, among which were the sacred vessels of the temple. This procession is represented in the sculptures on the beautiful arch, which thus furnish an illustration of the Bible nowhere else to be found, these being the only representations that exist of the sacred vessels, the table of the show-bread, the golden candlestick with its seven branches, and the silver trumpets used by the Priests to proclaim the year of jubilee. The Roman Senate and people, little thought when erecting this monument to a despised emperor, that they were erecting a monument to the true God in the verification of prophecy and divine history. A recent traveller says, not one of the Jews of Rome, of whom there are about 6000, will even at this day pass under the arch of Titus, although it spans one of the thoroughfares of the city; they shun it as a memorial of the subjugation of their nation which has never yet been retrieved, and regard it with aversion.

CURIOUS FACTS.—Serpents are said to obey the voice of their masters; the trumpeter-bird of America follows its owner like a spaniel; and the jacana acts as a guard to poultry, preserving them in the fields all the day from birds of prey, and escorting them home regularly at night. In the Shetland Isles there is a gull which defends the flock from eagles; it is therefore regarded as a privileged bird. The chamois bounding among the snowy mountains of the Caucasus, are indebted for their safety, in no small degree, to a peculiar species of a pheasant. This bird acts as their sentinel; for as soon as it gets sight of a man it whistles, upon hearing which, the chamois, knowing the hunter to be not far distant, sets off with the greatest speed, and seeks the highest peaks of the mountains. The artifices which partridges and plovers employ to delude their enemies from the nest of their young, may be referred to as a case in point, as well as the adroit contrivance of the bird for the preservation of her young; for when she hears the sound of dogs, she puts herself in the way of the hunters, and starts in a direction to draw them away from her fawns. Instances of the effect of grief upon animals are also no less remarkable. The Arabian already cited says: "I know a dog that died for the loss of its master, and a buccanier that abstained from singing ten entire months on account of the absence of his mistress. On her return it immediately resumed its song." Lord Kames relates an instance of a canary, which, while singing to its mate hatching her eggs in a cage, fell dead; the female quit her nest, and finding him dead, rejected all food, and died by his side.—*New-York Rev.*

MUTUAL FORBEARANCE.—The house will be kept in a turmoil where there is no toleration of each other's errors, no lenity shown to failings, no meek submission of injuries, no soft answer to turn away wrath. If you lay a single stick of wood in the grate and apply fire to it, it will go out; put on another stick and they will burn; and half a dozen, and you will have a blaze. There are other fires subject to the same conditions. If one member of a family gets into a passion and is let alone, he will cool down, and possibly be ashamed and repent. But oppose temper to temper; pile on the fuel; draw in others of the group, and let one harsh answer be followed by another, and there will soon be a blaze which will envelop them all in its burning heat.

A MAGNIFICENT IDEA.—Professor Mitchell closed a recent lecture with the following magnificent illustration. Describing the gradual tendency of the earth's orbit to assume the circular form, he said its short diameter was gradually lengthening, and would continue so to expand until it should become perfectly circular, when it would again contract to its original shape and dimensions. And so the earth would vibrate periodically, and these periods were measured by millions upon millions of years. Thus, said Professor M., the earth will continue to swing back and forth, to and fro in the heavens, like a great pendulum beating the seconds of eternity.

A correspondent of the *Independence Belge*, writing from Alexandria, on the 9th of April says: "The news which lately reached here from Abyssinia represents the Emperor Theodorus I., as deeply engaged in new schemes of conquest. He is determined, it would seem, to subject the whole of Africa to his sway, and to convert its inhabitants to a religion of his own liking. He has abolished male servitude throughout his domin-

ions, but still keeps the women in slavery, regarding them as inferior beings. A Copt of Cairo has been appointed Patriarch of the dominions of his noble Majesty, and encourages the Emperor to massacre all those who refuse to become converted."

A PLEA FOR UNION.

In answering the address of the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church, presented when he was first elected President, Washington said:

"On this occasion it would ill-become me to conceal the joy I have felt in perceiving the fraternal affection, which appears to increase every day among the friends of genuine religion. It affords edifying prospects indeed, to see Christians of every denomination dwell together in more charity, and conduct themselves in respect to each other with a more Christian spirit than ever they have done in any former age, or in any other nation."—*Life of Washington, published by the Am. S. S. Union, page 203.*

ANTI-LEANINGS AND LEANINGS.

A discussion is going on among the Scotch Presbyterians as to the propriety of using the organ in public worship. Dr. Anderson, of Glasgow, has put forth a pamphlet entitled, "An Apology for the Organ." Dr. Candlish, on the other hand, has been thrown into a state of great perturbation, and expressed his discontent in round terms.

"For my part," says he, "I am persuaded that if the organ be permitted, there is no barrier, in principle, against the sacerdotal system in all its fullness—against the substitution again, in our whole religion, of the formal for the spiritual—the symbolical for the real."

On this side of the water the leanings are more hopeful. Dr. Wayland, the distinguished Baptist clergyman, has for several months been discussing, in the *Examiner*, "The Principles and Practice of the Baptist Churches;" and in No. 27 of the series he confesses that himself and his brethren do not harbor the same horror for some things as they did in days past. This is remarkable language for a Baptist:

"In the performance of the marriage ceremony, and in funeral services, we have always avoided everything but simple religious service. Notwithstanding this, however, I learn that some of our brethren are introducing the ceremony of giving a ring in marriage, and that others at funerals are in the habit of using a large part of the Episcopal service, and even some of the ceremonies of that denomination. How extensively these changes have been adopted, I am unable to affirm, but I think I do not err in saying that cases of this kind have occurred, and I think the tendency is at present decidedly in this direction."

"According to our former custom, we stood in prayer and sat in singing. Ourselves, we have adopted, in part, the practice of our Episcopalian brethren, by standing in singing and sitting in prayer. I say in part, for the Prayer Book directs the congregation to kneel during prayer, and their pews are generally adapted to this posture. If, however, they do not kneel, they bend reverently forward, and, shutting out external objects, remain in this position to the close of the supplications. We do not profess to kneel, and the result is that our congregations sit, for the most part gazing about irreverently, while the minister is offering up solemn petitions and adoration. In this respect we have, certainly, suffered loss. The solemnity of our service is diminished. The imitation is, at least, unsuccessful. To kneel in prayer is exceedingly appropriate, and I wish it could be universally adopted."

SCIENCE AND THE WEATHER.—The Newburyport Herald says the Sundays for the last few months have been unusually stormy. It was foul weather more than half (20) of the Sundays last year. In the last twenty Sundays, eighteen have been stormy; and in the last sixteen there has been but one fair day, the 23rd of December, which was a fine day. Last year we had a succession of storms on Fridays; and there was serious talk of changing the Lyceum Lectures, because that every body said that Fridays were stormy days. There must be some reason for the regularity with which one storm follows another; and Dr. Perkins who records the state of the atmosphere at certain hours of each day, to make returns to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, accounts for it on the supposition of atmospheric waves, according to Eschsch's theory, and yesterday showed us a chart on which these waves were marked, in the last two months, by the rising and falling of the thermometer and barometer. He gives the course of these waves as noted, starting from the Mississippi, touching on the Atlantic coast, and again at Halifax. There is no reason why the course and condition of the winds should not as well be understood as of the tides—and some day they will be.

SOURCE OF THE PAPAL INCOME.—The *Christian Guardian* announces that his holiness the Pope derives a yearly income of four hundred thousand dollars from the government lotteries drawn in Tuscany and the Papal States. Sometimes these lotteries, when for a charitable purpose, are drawn for public on Sunday, with a little knot of priestly dignitaries presiding over the wheel of fortune.

THE COOLIE TRADE.—A despatch from Washington states that our Government has taken efficient measures to prevent the traffic in coolies. Americans in China are warned to desist, as they by continuing the trade forfeit the protection of their Government and incur heavy penalties.

WHAT a pleasure it is to give! There would be no rich people if they were capable of feeling this.