

denied that the situation has in it, just now, many of the elements of danger. The language of responsible British statesmen in referring to foreign nations is usually so studiously courteous and guarded that an expression like that of Sir Edward Grey is naturally and, it is probable, correctly, taken to mean very much more than meets the ear. The rejoinder from across the channel is yet to be heard. Bluster and braggadocio there have already been in abundance, but neither the Government nor the representative press has yet distinctly spoken. The reply which it is understood M. Hanotaux, the French Foreign Minister, will give to an interpellation on Thursday, will be known here before this reaches the reader, and will reveal, to some extent, the attitude of France. It will be awaited with a good deal of anxiety. If it follows the line which the Minister is said to have taken in his interview with Lord Dufferin, bluntly denying the validity of England's claim to a controlling voice in regard to the regions on the upper Nile, as being within her sphere of influence, a direct issue will have been raised, which is pretty sure to become acute before a peaceful understanding is reached.

Meanwhile the very possibility of serious complication with so powerful a neighbour naturally turns attention to the condition of England's navy, the right arm of her military strength. There is, in the absence of the experience which can be gained only by some great naval battle—an experience which we may hope will be long denied—so much uncertainty touching the efficiency of the various classes of modern war-ships that it is impossible to estimate the relative strength of navies with any degree of confidence. The battles between the fleets of China and Japan hardly afford a reliable criterion, because of the difference in quality, since so clearly demonstrated, between the combatants. Only a few weeks since, M. Lockroy, discussing the matter in the Assembly, made the assertion that the French fleet is only half as powerful in ships or men as the British. This estimate is, however, scouted by both French and English authorities. According to the London *Daily Chronicle* there are now in the British navy, or in process of building, no less than 578 vessels of one sort and another. Many of these carry crews of from 500 to 600 men. But the total number of men available averages only about 150 to each vessel. In this scarcity of men there is, it is feared, an element of weakness which it might be hard to remove on short notice. But it is doubtful if France has more than half of even that number of men. France, too, is ever keenly watched by her powerful neighbour and late antagonist, whom she has done nothing to conciliate and everything to exasperate. It seems to be an ungenerous and almost humiliating way of putting it, a way which has nothing to do with the vital question of righteousness in the possible quarrel, but which is legitimate in reckoning the probabilities of peace or war, to point out that France would find herself confronted with fearful odds should she be ill-advised enough to force a contest. It is to be hoped and expected, therefore, that she will be wise enough, should the quarrel reach so serious a stage, to prefer arbitration, to which Great Britain would be sure to consent, instead of trusting to the supposed superior prowess of her own right arm.

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The combined meetings of the Dominion and the Ontario Educational Associations, which will take place here during the Easter holidays, promises to be very largely attended by leading educators from all parts of the Dominion. At the reception on Tuesday evening, April 16, the following gentleman will deliver addresses:—Hon. G. W. Ross, Mayor Kennedy and President Loudon, Toronto; Hon. Clifford Sifton, Manitoba; Hon. James Baker, British Columbia; Hon. Gideon Ouimet, Quebec, and A. H. McKay, Nova Scotia.

## Pew and Pulpit in Toronto.—VII.

AT JARVIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

TO attend a service at Jarvis Street Baptist Church is to be reminded of the old-fashioned times when people believed in the presence of the Almighty in the temples dedicated to His service. They were good old times. People read with a simple faith how the glory of the Lord descended upon the tabernacle in the wilderness and abode there; and many a bare and barn-like structure has been made a very Holy of Holies by the thought that there, too, the power of the Lord was present to heal. We have got it into our heads now that there is not much we can believe, and we are apologetic rather than hearty about creeds. Still there are places here and there, where the old trust in God and consciousness of His presence seem not only to exist but to flourish. I think Jarvis Street Baptist Church is one of these, and I think, too, that the secret of its vigorous life and the high spirituality of its ideals is to be found in its simple faith and its grasp of that wonderful thought of the Divine immanence; partly traditional to Baptists, whose elder divines thought much of the Divine majesty and glory, and partly also—may it not be said—the result of immediate irradiation. I do not think any one possessing even a moderate amount of spiritual insight could attend a service at Jarvis Street Church without feeling that there was something about the place that could be written of in no flippant spirit; an indefinable note of sincere worship, to which all considerations of a personal kind, such as the popularity and preaching power of its minister, all musical and architectural features, are merely subsidiary.

Given this central and inspiring fact, everything else follows. The soul clothes itself with a body. So far as the outward characteristics of the church are concerned, it may be said that they are exceedingly satisfactory and attractive. Situated at the corner of Gerrard Street on Jarvis, the Baptist Church is an ornament to the fine thoroughfare on which it stands. Its style may be called auditorium-gothic, and the corner of its handsome pile is rendered complete by as graceful a tower and spire as there is in Toronto. I have sometimes regretted, when I have looked at it, that the spire is constructed of wood and sheet metal instead of stone, and I have also been rather inclined to criticise the roof, which is weakened in its effect by the necessity of conforming to the circular plan of the auditorium, but let that pass: auditorium-gothic gives problems to the architect such as never troubled the mediæval men, and the man who gets over them at all creditably ought to be complimented rather than found fault with. Mark, when you are passing, the excellence of the stonework, how honest and thorough it is, and the delightful colour and fitness of it. It looks as though the solicitude of the building committee had been extended to each separate stone. The pointing of the joints is a work of conscientious art, and the cut stone work at the doorway and windows is so accurately fitted, piece by piece that you could not put a ten-cent piece between them. The Jarvis Street Baptist Church is, I believe, the only one in the city that pays municipal taxes, but this evidently does not prevent the greatest attention being paid to its fabric. Indeed, from the look of it, I am inclined to think that if a single stone of it displayed incipient signs of weather-wear a committee meeting would be at once held, and a new stone be substituted without the least delay. The supplemental buildings of the church—Sunday Schools, vestries, etc.—form part of its design as a group, and are very commodious and convenient. Entering the church, you find it spacious and comfortable, quietly and tastefully decorated, and pleasant and restful to the eye. There is an unmistakable home-like feeling about it. It does not subdue you by any mystery of ecclesiasticism, yet no one could have any doubt that it is set apart for a place of worship. The circular idea is carried out both on the lower auditorium and the very capacious gallery. The front of this gallery is of bronzed cast-iron work. Bronzed columns support it, and run up to the junctions of the groined arches of the ceiling that covers it. The central ceiling is circular and flat, with a bold ornamental moulding around it. This and the rest of the roof and the walls is painted—not kal-somined—and the colour and effect of it are very pleasing. The general colour of the woodwork is brown, especially effective in the flat plain masses of the organ front, which is not teased into unnecessary decorations, but rises from the