

tions as suddenly, nor is it likely they will ever love the King reigning as they will ever love the memory of their dead Queen. Millions of eyes will be constantly watching his every step, his lightest words will reverberate throughout the world; they will be compared with those of the Queen, and nothing short of a miracle will enable the King to so order his life as to bear this comparison. Still, he will find love felt for his mother to inspire generous sympathy with the son. Edward VII. has had a splendid example before him in both his parents. Let him follow in their footsteps at however humble a distance, so he keeps true to their path, and he will have the confidence, the honour, the heartfelt loyalty of his subjects. His name too should be an inspiration, for no historic kingly name is more noble, more reverential, more beloved, than that of "Edward."

The King has shown for many years how he had learnt wisdom from the Queen's example and, no doubt, precepts. His absolute freedom from party associations is, indeed, remarkable, and, in all his public addresses and actions, he has shown himself to be richly endowed with that common sense, which is the cream of wisdom in a public man. His first address as King is a model; so frank, so manly, so statesmanlike. With marked emphasis he promises to follow in his mother's steps, and to reign in the strictest sense as a constitutional monarch. The King is blessed with a wife who is worthy to stand beside his mother in purity of character. Since her first landing in England, Princess Alexandria has led a charming life, over which not the faintest shadow of reproach has ever passed. Now Queen Victoria has gone to a heavenly reward, to Queen Alexandria will flow out the affections of the people in whose welfare and in whose service she has shown the deepest interest. Out of the depth of sorrow over the Empire's bereavement, there is rising a royal welcome to the new King and the partner of his throne, whom, may God bless and enable them to be a blessing.

**France to Suppress Religious Orders.**

The Government of France is preparing to secure the enactment of laws which are most ingeniously framed to suppress all religious fraternities, or "orders" in France without specifically naming any of them. By articles 1 and 2 of the Act proposed, it is declared that, "An association is a convention by which two or more persons place their knowledge and activity in common with a purpose other than the division of the benefits thus obtained, and all associations established on an illegal basis or point of interest, or contrary to rights, which have no commercial value, are void and of no effect." Another article reads: "No association will be recognised legally existent without a special decree from the Council of State, if it be between Frenchmen and

foreigners; or between Frenchmen alone when the seat of management of the same is situated in a foreign country or managed by foreigners."

The first article defines an illegal association in terms which include all religious orders, the second, practically, outlaws them by declaring such association to have no legal status, and the other article declares that this legal disability can only be removed by "a special decree from the Council of State." Another article declares that any such association that does not obtain this "special decree" in six months must dispose of its property. If delay occurs in the sale the government will confiscate what is not sold. All bequests left to such associations are to be null and void. All citizens educated elsewhere than in the State schools of France are to be declared ineligible for public appointments. This provision will be one of the severest blows to the religious orders in France, it will be, as they say there, the *coup de grâce*, or finishing stroke to the attack upon the religious orders. Were such a law in force in Quebec it would close up all the schools conducted under the auspices of the Catholic Church. The internal administration of the French Republic is no concern of ours, but the movement there, to suppress the religious orders, suggests a comparison between the tyranny of a Republic and the broad, the unrivalled liberty of such a Monarchy as that under which Canadians of all races, creeds and forms of fraternity are granted absolute religious freedom and equal civil rights.

**Gardening as a School Subject.**

In suggesting last week the application of technical training in public to the care of horses and driving, we simply urged the extension of a system which is practiced in France, Russia and Sweden, where pupils in country schools are taught gardening and horticulture. In some schools in England pupils are taught these subjects practically, if the parents so desire. The whole tendency of our public schools is to prepare boys exclusively for a city occupation. There being a large population engaged in agricultural callings, or occupations akin to farming, seems never to have been considered by those who organized our school system. The Macdonald gifts to promote technical training is drawing attention to the one-sided education provided in public schools, which seems only intended to prepare boys for keeping store or for office work. The administrators of that fund might, with wisdom, study the methods adopted in other countries for giving boys some practical instruction in gardening, horticulture, the care of animals and other occupations of the kind. It is high time something was done to check the drift of population to cities by developing a taste for rural pursuits in the school going population.