

FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Spectator's" Discussion of Topics of Interest to Churchmen

ALL Canadians, and a great many Americans, are genuinely hopeful that Sir Thomas Lipton will win the America Cup. Sir Thomas has been such a persistent contender, such a chivalrous sportsman, so keen to demonstrate that Britannia can rule the waves, in the costly pastime of yachting, that one cannot withhold his admiration. The gallant knight was at one time suspected of promoting his business interests by the publicity he received through these international conflicts. To-day, the world concedes that so base a thought in no way can possibly prompt his zeal. He is, for the time, embodying the British spirit of persistence and quiet determination to win his point. Back of it all stands that confident belief that an island nation, bred to the ways of the sea, can and shall demonstrate that it is superior in seamanship to a nation of landmen. It must not, however, be forgotten that the United States possesses many times the length of sea coast that belongs to Great Britain. It takes but a few men to sail a yacht and it isn't difficult out of all the dwellers by the sea to pick enough American experts to do all that men can do to defend that coveted cup. Besides all this, as has often been pointed out, the challenger in this race must cross the Atlantic under her own sail. To be seaworthy under such circumstances involves a strength that to some extent may give way to speed, in the defender. To a very considerable degree national pride is involved in these contests. Sir Thomas and the British public have been sportsmanlike losers, but that is no indication that they rejoice in their losing. They would much prefer to have their spirit in sport appraised as winners. If that opportunity should occur this time, there would certainly be discreet commendation of a gallant rival and all that sort of thing, but beneath the outward calm there would be a tumult of rejoicing in the heart of stolid old John Bull and all the members of his numerous family. At the time of writing the chances of victory are not very clearly visible on the horizon, but here is hoping.

The Lambeth Conference will be watched with great interest by Churchmen throughout the world, that interest will by no means be confined to the members of our own communion. All men of goodwill will pray that the outcome of the deliberations of the Bishops may result in the advancement of Christ's kingdom upon earth. Some weeks before the assembling of the Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury asked for the prayers of the Non-conformists of England and his request was met by a ready and gracious acceptance. Everywhere, we believe, it is hoped and expected that in these unusual times, our Bishops, gathered from the four corners of the earth, will do unusual things and speak with unusual unanimity and power on the great subjects that fall within the jurisdiction of the Church of God. It would seem to the writer that the familiar presentation of a case with admirable fairness and no finality, will not do at this juncture. The first and great desideratum is that the leaders of the Church should establish a unity of thought and conviction, on the great principles that call for authoritative enunciation, with no uncertainty, and no reservations. It were better in the judg-

ment of the writer to avoid an utterance at all unless it carries with it the hearty assent of the great body of the Anglican episcopate. Judgments with a *double entendre* will meet with a very cold reception in these days, when men cry out for the real thing. Ten or twelve years ago, when the Lambeth Conference met after a great Pan-Anglican Congress, when the mind of the Church was supposed to be revealed in the presence of our prelates, it was hoped that strength would be given to the Bishops to take a bolder stand than ever before. The result was the very reverse. Perhaps, it was providentially so ordered. Would a Pan-Anglican Congress to-day confirm the judgments that found expression a dozen years ago. It is safe to say that it is now within the power of the Bishops to strongly influence the thought of the next decade, within the Church, if they can but hear and give expression to "what the spirit saith unto the Churches." A deep and widespread interest has recently been manifested in the healing gifts of the Church through faith and prayer. Shall we assume that the power of God's spirit shall be less effective in guiding our Right Reverend Fathers in God through the straight gate and along the narrow path of truth, that will lead His Church into abounding and everlasting life?

It is probably but natural that Churchmen should feel some anxiety concerning the findings of the Lambeth Conference on some of the subjects that have been announced as coming under the consideration of its members. We do not, of course, wish

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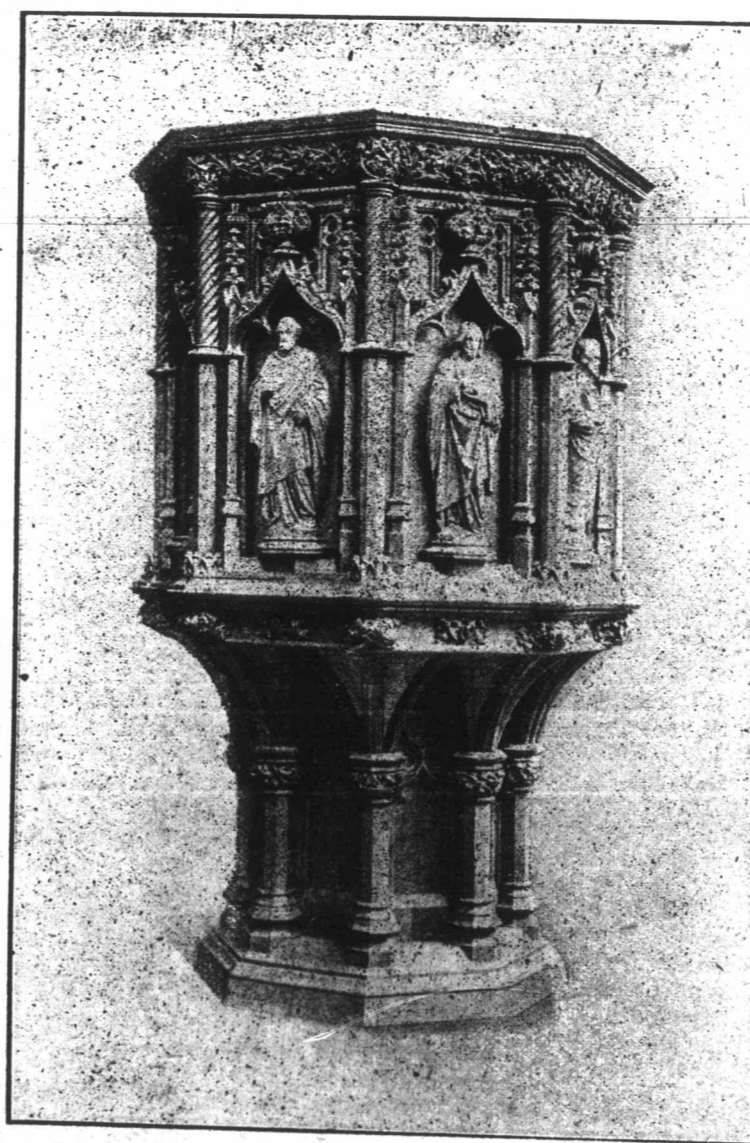
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