

## HERE AND THERE.

THERE will be few, we apprehend, outside the clerical and lay combatants immediately interested in what is known as the Rectory case, who will not heartily pray that the recent decision of the Courts may end the unseemly war that has been bitterly waged between the Vestry and the Rector of St. James' Cathedral, on the one hand, and the expectant Rectors of the various Anglican Churches in the city of Toronto, on the other. The spectacle of brethren of one fold massed as litigants in the public courts over the partition of treasure is neither elevating nor to be complacently regarded. Whatever legal haze surrounded the case, and however variously the historic questions it has raised may be viewed, there can be little doubt that the decision of Vice-Chancellor Ferguson accords with common-sense and justice. The effect of the decision will be to give to the city clergy of the denomination a share in the revenue of the Cathedral, in which time and the increased value of the original grant from the Crown entitle the plaintiffs in the case to participate. But while we express approval of the decision of the courts, we are not disposed, in view, particularly, of the attitude of church parties, and the almost bridgeless gulf that separates them in matters of doctrine and ritual, to censure the defendants in this protracted suit, who wished to monopolize for Cathedral purposes the "unearned increment" of the rectory lands. It might be well, indeed, for the contesting churches not to seek to augment their revenues by any share now likely to fall to their lot in the partition of the Cathedral surplus. Endowments, as the history of Voluntarism incontestably proves, do not always tend to the health and vigour of the church that possesses them. But this is a view of the matter in which trustees of needy churches and clergymen with straitened incomes are unlikely to concur, and it may therefore be set aside. Presuming that the case is not appealed, the Church of England city clergy may soon now have their stipends substantially increased—a circumstance which there will be few to object to, though the Synod, we understand, will first have to settle some points in dispute. First and last, in the Province, what a wrangle there has been over this matter of State aid to the Church! For the present suit is obviously a legacy from the past: it is the historic continuation of the old Clergy Reserves controversy. We trust that we have now, however, heard the end of the whole vexed question, and that the litigating Rectors will have their rights.

THE Canadian book trade, of recent years, seems to have run down at the heels, but we hope that the opening of the Toronto Public Library, which takes place on the 6th instant, will give a fillip to business and stimulate in a healthy direction the commerce of literature. How much more might be done to help the book trade, and, at the same time, promote public intelligence by the removal, or, at any rate, the reduction of the fifteen per cent. book duty, the trade as well as students and the reading public well know. Nothing, as it seems to us, can be more unwise, however, than the continuance, in the case of Canada, of this obnoxious tax. It is in every light objectionable; it imposes a grievous burden on the student, and is a sad hindrance to intellectual progress. As a protective measure, it is without justification, for Canada, it may be said, has as yet no literature to protect, while the brain of the country needs all the stimulus it will derive from the free entry into the Dominion of the printed thought of other lands. If our rulers are wise, they will let the book duty go.

THE destruction of our forests, attended as it is by the most serious results, is not wholly blameable for freshets. A scientific observer has pointed out that all the primeval forests which covered the head-waters of the Ohio did not prevent freshets. A wide-spread storm, with heavy rain on frozen ground and snow, such as to raise all its tributaries at once, must inevitably cause a flood. The most serious effect of the denudation of the land is the increased erosion to which it is exposed, by which the fertile soil, unprotected by vegetation, is swept by the rains into rivers, and lost. The magnitude of this loss, and the great erosive effect of water on the clay soil of the west, can only be realized by those who have observed the tawny floods, thick with mud, which flow through the deep and wide valleys which the western rivers have cut in the soft earth.

BREAKFASTS are the latest novelty in the way of entertaining, in some American cities. Eleven o'clock is the hour, and by candle-light is its chief style. The idea comes from Boston, where among the fashionables candelabras are taking the place of lamps. Last winter none of the Boston belles burned gas in their drawing-rooms. Lamps were the order of the season. Now candles are having a turn and are being introduced through these eleven o'clock breakfasts. All daylight is excluded, and the guests,

about twenty in number, are seated around four small tables, five guests at each table, and the tables are placed sufficiently near for general conversation. Breakfast is served in courses, after which there may be music or any amusements suggested by the hostess.

IT is a pity that Boston cannot save the Gay head disaster from the vulgarity that flesh is heir to. One of the Gay head Indians who aided in the rescue of some of the passengers is in a Boston dime museum receiving the daily tributes of the curious. He was paid like the rest of the Indians, and now seems to further coin his heroism by putting himself in a place with the living skeleton and the sword swallower. This recalls a chapter in the eventful life of Red Jacket, chief of the Wolf tribe of the Senecas who died in 1830, and for whom a memorial is soon to be put up in Buffalo, N. Y. In his old age he found it necessary to enter a museum in order to gain a living. The Gay head Indian has not the excuse of poverty.

A WANT for some time felt by leaders of public thought in the United States has just been formulated in the press by Mr. Joseph W. Harper, of publishing fame. There is, he thinks, at this moment a demand for a broad-gauged, liberal and high-toned organ of opinion, not crude or partisan, but above parties, and concerning itself with the science of government and the economic future of the American people. "Let it correspond, if you please, with the great English weeklies or fortnightlies that have for their clientèle those who make politics 'a business.'" Such an organ, Mr. Harper says, should not be demagoguish, or the mouth-piece of a clique or section, but should be catholic, eclectic, independent. It is the desire of THE WEEK to supply the demand for some such journal in Canada as Mr. Harper thinks is wanted in the States.

THE extraordinary difficulty of real-estate conveyances in Great Britain, on account of the absence of any system of registry of titles, is curiously illustrated by the experience of the poor law guardians of Wexford, Ireland, who determined to proceed under the general law and invest £16,000 in labourers' cottages, of which they expected to build about 200 at a cost of £80 apiece, each on a half-acre of ground. What was their dismay to find that the costs of making out a title would amount in some cases to £100 for each parcel and £10 more for conveyance! The Government required them to acquire the land in fee simple. If they were allowed to lease they could proceed, with the help of the landlords, but actual transfer of the land seems to cost more than the land and the house themselves would be worth.

THE revelations of heavy gambling in the London Park Club and the recent exposure at the Petit Cercle, Paris, have given rise to much pharisaical talk about the wickedness of gambling. People who stake whole fortunes upon a possible rise in "Egyptians," are scandalized at the iniquity of the man who speculates a sovereign on the turn up of a card or a die. To stake a "fiver" that a much-fancied horse will be first past the winning-post at Newmarket is the preliminary step to moral and social ruin; but to purchase cotton "to arrive" in an unsteady market is quite permissible. Everybody knows that gambling goes on day and night in private clubs and casinos, and it undoubtedly occasionally has very unfortunate results; but it is no more immoral to indulge in the habit in such places than it is on the Stock Exchange.

FRENCH cercles are divided into three classes, "les cercles autorisés, les cercles tolérés, et les . . . tripots," in plain English "hells." In England there are authorised clubs and tolerated ones, subject to visits of the police, occasional fines, and other inconveniences; and there are few Canadian cities but have clubs where poker and euchre are played for varying stakes. Play runs as high in many a club as in the bad old days when Prince Floriel:

Built palaces and boats,  
And churches, chapels, and pavilions,  
And regulated all the coats  
And half the principles of millions.

Certainly we do not have the roll of the balls and the croupier's monotonous cry of "Faites votre jeu, messieurs," or "Le jeu est fait, rien ne va plus." We are a virtuous nation, we leave all that to mundane Monaco, to meretricious Monte Carlo. There let the adventurers, the knights of industry, the demireps, the cocottes and the cocodettes of Cosmopolis foregather. We brush the skirts of our moral garments, and with phylacteries made broad stand aloof and thank God we are not like unto these publicans and sinners; but Poker, Euchre, Baccarat, Van John, and Nap, are quite as efficacious in extracting the coin of the realm as *Rouge et Noir*, and over