

THE Spanish Bishops, with the approval of Pope Leo XIII., have issued a Manifesto declaring that while politics should be based upon religion, the Catholic Church holds all forms of government admissible under which the Catholic faith is respected. Moreover, the Bishops maintain that no writers, whatever their authority, have any mission to define what form of government is in accord with the Catholic doctrine, such definition being the function of the Church alone. Any writer who in future infringes this rule is declared non-Catholic. This Manifesto is signed by the whole body of Spanish Bishops, and will, it is expected, produce a profound effect in Spain, where a large section of the population believe that the cause of the Church and of Carlism, or, at all events, of Legitimacy, are inseparably united. The doctrine is as old as Christianity; but it is interesting to note how the Church begins to fear the Ultramontane publicists.

By the death of the second Lord Brougham, the British taxpayer is relieved of paying a considerable sum—£3,225 a year. He was made a master in Chancery by his celebrated brother, and when that office was abolished in 1852 was compensated by a full pension for life. The total amount received by this fortunate individual was no less than £103,000. His celebrated brother, having been persuaded against his interest and inclinations to accept a peerage and the Chancellorship, served in that office for about four years; and afterwards for thirty-four years drew a pension of five thousand a year, amounting to £170,000.

JUSTICE.

A SONNET.

ALL noble spirits live again in hearts
That love the Truth; 'tis this that makes sublime
The lowliest; nerves the timid soul to climb
Life's rugged path; and soothes the wound that smarts.
Failure we mortals pardon if the heart be right;
And the Eternal God of Justice judges not
Poor human nature by its hapless lot,
But by its loyalty to inward light.
And He who was to us the perfect type
Of what man was, and what he is to be
In Paradise, most tenderly shall wipe
Away all tears, and say:—"Abide with Me;
Here all desire is crowned with fullest power
To those who willed it so through Life's short hour."

FREDERIC B. HODGINS.

SORROW'S BLESSING.

With nations as with men,
How often sorest pain a blessing proves.

I stood beside the bier
Of that thrice-honoured chieftain who so long
Fought valiantly with death; heard beat of drum
And martial music, tender, sad, and low,
With all the pomp of such funereal rites
As nations give their kings. Yet nought of all
The splendid trappings, making mock of death,
Touched heart or mind as did a single tear
A soldier dashed away. His friend had died!
And henceforth all the feuds of earlier years
Would sleep, transmuted by the touch of grief.

Johnstown, N. Y.

MRS. J. OLIVER SMITH.

MR. FROUDE'S "OCEANA."

MR. FROUDE has been so long silent, except as a biographer, that one welcomes a new work from his pen. Having dealt in several essays and reports with the Colonies, he has given us, in a book just published, his matured views concerning England and her Colonies. Accompanied by Lord Elphinstone he visited the various colonies of the Pacific; and allowed himself to be governed by climatic conditions in his study of the Colonial Question. It is not perhaps the most scientific way. He did not visit Canada, though he was at Buffalo. "I had thought," he says, "of crossing into Canada, but the cold frightened me, just arrived, as I was, out of the Land of the Sun. In Canada there is no spring, and summer was still far off. When I looked at Lake Erie, I thought a gale must be blowing over it, from the line of what appeared to be breakers along the southern shore; but I found the breakers were breakers of ice—huge piles of ice driven in upon the shallows, and piled one upon the other." Of course, if Mr. Froude imagined he had to come to Canada across Lake Erie under these conditions, we do not wonder his visit was

postponed. But it is likely that his mind, like that of the Pasha in "Eöthen," "comprehended locomotives." It is a very great pity that Lake Erie should have so miserably compromised us. If he had come into Canada he might have found a milder climate than at Buffalo, and might have discovered that cold and ice are not the normal conditions of our climatic existence. His book will, most unfortunately for us, emphasize the "icy" reputation which time and constant travel and continuous protestation have not yet had full power to dissipate.

Mr. Froude accepts with too much complacency, I think, that idea, which the genius of history will one day avenge, that the revolt of the American Colonies in the last century was a justifiable and peculiarly "English" proceeding. A like argument will some day be used, with bitter emphasis, to justify perhaps another rebellion, which will not be less iniquitous nor less unjustifiable. The "examples" of history some times come late, but they always come.

In his initial chapter he repeats once more his comment of some years ago on the weak spot in colonial policy in England, the want of continuity and steadfastness. "Never," he says, "are English Ministers able to persist in any single policy." No doubt that causes doubts, difficulties, delays, and even wars. But there is another side to the question. Persistence in Mr. Cardwell's policy, for instance, would have been madness, and persistence in Mr. Bright's policy would have been madness, while persistence in Lord Derby's policy would have been persistence in dexterous dodging merely; and many of us would prefer persistence in Lord Carnarvon's policy, if there was not a faint suspicion that a nobleman who could call the Act of Union "a diplomatic document" was lacking in a due appreciation of the seriousness of political terminology. A change of policy is often necessary, because the conditions of colonial life and ambitions are apt to change.

Mr. Froude himself pays tribute to the necessity for change when he points out the policy of years ago in England.

The troops were withdrawn from Canada, from Australia, and from New Zealand. A single regiment only was to have been left at the Cape to protect our naval station. The unoccupied lands—properly the inheritance of the collective British nation, whole continents large as the United States—were hurriedly abandoned to the local Colonial Governments. They were equipped with constitutions modelled after our own which were to endure as long as the connection with the Mother Country was maintained; but they were informed, more or less distinctly, that they were as birds hatched in a nest whose parents would be charged with them only till they could provide for themselves, and the sooner they were ready for complete independence the better the Mother Country would be pleased.

It is a good thing that that policy has been changed. "It is no use," said a Government Colonial Office Secretary to Mr. Froude, "to speak about it any more. The thing is done; the great colonies are gone. It is but a question of a year or two." Perhaps it was at that time that, as Mr. Froude says, a man was made Governor of a colony because he was a bore in the House and it became necessary to get rid of him. Glorious precedent for bores, if only they could take frequent advantage of it!

Mr. Froude is quite sane in his appreciation of the conduct and temper of the colonies under the very trying conditions of British colonial policy, and sad as he reflects on the indifference of the statesmen of the old country. For a century we have been laughing at the Duke of Newcastle who hastened to "tell His Majesty that Cape Breton was an island!" But Mr. Froude contributes anecdotes, dangerously recent, which are more exasperating because less excusable. He says:—

I once asked the greatest, or at least the most famous, of modern English statesmen whether, in the event of a great naval war, we might not look for help to the sixty thousand Canadian seamen and fishermen. "The Canadian fishermen," he said, "belong to Canada, not to us;" and then going to the distribution of our emigrants, he insisted that there was not a single point in which an Englishman settling in Canada or Australia was of more advantage to us than as a citizen of the American Union. The use of him was as a purchaser of English manufactures, that was all. Sir Arthur Helps told me a story singularly illustrative of the importance which the British official mind has hitherto allowed to the distant scions of Oceana. A Government had gone out; Lord Palmerston was forming a new Ministry, and in a preliminary Council was arranging the composition of it. He had filled up the other places. He was at a loss for a Colonial Secretary. This name and that was suggested and thrown aside. At last he said, "I suppose I must take the thing myself. Come upstairs with me, Helps, when the Council is over. We will look at the maps and you shall show me where these places are."

Mr. Froude is, no doubt, as pleased as we are to think that that policy has changed. He recognizes the change and the importance of it. Commerce has, as he sees, followed the flag. The Colonies take three times as much English goods, in proportion to numbers, as foreigners. And the Colonial troops in the Soudan have settled the question as to whether