

VINDICATED BEFORE MANKIND.

"In this war of nations, Great Britain has vindicated her character. She has suffered from the aspersions of her critics, she has been gravely misrepresented by those of her own household who flung stones at her to rouse her energies, and she has lacked Miltonic leadership; she has not been, unhappily, the trumpet-voice of Liberty, but she has been servans servorum; she has worked silently and humbly for all, and by her efforts, more than by the efforts of any other, the world has been saved from the domination of a selfish militarism. The nation has vindicated itself in the eyes of all mankind.

"All history is a movement toward the moral dignity of the individual man. Many and great kingdoms have been overthrown, many and great empires have been cast down, by the immense pressure of evolution seeking this manifest end of creation. No force has been able to withstand it. Privileges of the rich, the traditional rights of the powerful, even the sacred claims and armed might of the church yield in the end to this movement of the human mind. European history for the last hundred years is a text book of moral evolution. From the fall of Napoleon to the outbreak of this war every democracy in Europe, opposed in every case by clericalism and privilege, has been pressing into greater liberty and towards a more rational justice. And Britain, who without bloodshed has led the way in this great movement of humanity, must still cherish as the loftiest of her ideals the dignity of the individual man, and must acquire an ever greater intelligence in working for that ideal if she is still to lead the nations to the end of the present century."

"War, which seems to us a thing gigantic and overshadowing, is in truth only an interruption of this immemorial movement in the human mind—a movement which becomes swifter and more restless after the check of savage war."

ANZAC.

Every war adds some new words, first to slang and the "shop" of the army, and then to the accepted tongue. But no war has added a word with a more curious origin or more distinguished associations than "Anzac," born of the chance arrangement of initial letters in "Australian (and) New Zealand Army Corps." Leaving out of account the heroic associations of the word, it is not easy even to parallel its genesis—for "cabal," which looks like its most immediate comparison in English history, was a word before ever the initials of an unpopular ministry stamped it thenceforward as a term of reproach. "Anzac," on the other hand, sprang at once into being and at once into fame. It presents the lexicographer with that unusual phenomenon an upstart which is received at once into the best so-

ciety. The sacrifices of Gallipoli have given it a classical flavour which less remarkable words persist through centuries without acquiring. And today the house of commons is to deal with a bill which bestows upon the word a statutory distinction which no other enjoys—a bill, like the one which is already law in Australia, which forbids the use of "Anzac" as a trade mark or description, or in any other connection with "any trade, business, calling, or profession." It is, when one comes to think of it, a most extraordinary chapter in the history of an extraordinary word. There is nothing except good taste and commercial wisdom, to prevent a man from distinguishing his window-blinds or boot polish by the most hallowed names in English history—or, for that matter, of religion itself. America has its Bethlehem steelworks, and Mount Zion is not unknown in directories of the Lancashire cotton trade. But those who would adapt "Anzac" and its heroic memories to the uses of commerce have had the hand of the British law interposed between them and their graceless ambition. It is a tremendous compliment with which even a word of tremendous associations should be satisfied.

THE MECCA OF THE BRITISH.

Mr. William Ferguson Massey, the prime minister of New Zealand, has visited London Guildhall to accept the freedom of the city. He said:

"A great British historian once predicted that a New Zealander would stand on London Bridge and look down upon the ruins of this great city. So far the prediction has not been fulfilled, nor do I think it is likely to be."

"On the contrary, there are many thousands of New Zealanders in London at the present time, most of whom have passed over one or other of its bridges. They have seen modern buildings and modern improvements, but no sign of decay."

"As one of those New Zealanders who are of opinion that the Empire will stand for all time, so I believe London will be its capital until the last trumpet sounds—the Imperial City, the mecca of the British, proud, but kindly and hospitable to the kindred of its citizens and the stranger within its gates."

New-laid eggs were realising 4d. each in London lately, and it was said that the price might be 5d. before Christmas. Egypt now sends the most eggs, but large quantities come from the United States and Canada. Potatoes, which now cost about 2d. a lb., are likely to be dearer still before long. The Irish department of agriculture says that the potato crop in Ireland is less than two-thirds of the average, and farmers are urged not to give potatoes to pigs.