

The Election to Ontario.

Again the time is drawing near for the meeting of the Synod of Ontario in order to elect a Coadjutor Bishop, who shall be successor to Archbishop Lewis. It is a time of great anxiety (if the word may be allowed), not only to the diocese of Ontario, but to the Canadian Church. Whilst every diocese is governed by its own Bishop, the whole Church feels the influence of the collective episcopate. Hence the interest which every diocese, every true Churchman must feel in the approaching election. We are sure that the choice will fall on one who is a true and loyal Churchman, on one who knows and holds to the principles of Anglicanism, as they are set forth in the Book of Common Prayer; and we are equally sure that neither clergy nor laity desire that the See should be occupied by a prelate of extreme views. The prayers of the Churchmen of Canada will go up to the Throne of Grace that the Churchmen of Ontario may herein have a right judgment. We shall not perhaps be exceeding our rights if we add that we sincerely hope it may not be necessary to go beyond the boundaries of our Canadian Church to find a coadjutor and successor to Dr. Lewis. Alas, now as always, the Prophet is not sufficiently honoured in his own country; and we pass by the first-rate at our door to select the second-rate at a distance. May it not be so now?

Rome and England in Canada.

It is not very often that Roman Catholics will admit that our services are tolerable. Yet sometimes we get remarkable testimonies from them, and the one of which we are now thinking is of a double interest to us as referring to Canada. The witness is a correspondent in the Tablet, who, writing of a cathedral town in Canada, says that "the screeching and scrambling in the Roman cathedral is too horrible to be endured. What a contrast between the Anglican cathedral and its surpliced choir, and the Roman Catholic with its mixed abominations in a wretched little loft on the bottom of the church." He then protests against "Yankee Doodle" being played in quick time during the offertory, and against "The Harp that Once Through Tara's Halls," after the Elevation of the Host!

Native Christians in South Africa.

While numbers are being added to the roll of the martyrs in China, it is gratifying to note the testimonies to the power of the Gospel in South Africa. It is a strong evidence of a man's probity when he is ready to surrender property, the possession of which might be justified by a process of reasoning hardly amounting to casuistry. Yet quite recently this has happened with a Zulu Christian in South Africa, as related by Archdeacon Johnson: "A large force of armed Boers came to the store of the trader close here. The trader, a Mr. Hall, left some time ago, leaving a native in charge. The Boers on taking over the country, came to loot this store, and they commandeered a lot

of the local natives to carry their loot up to their camp, and paid them in goods—blankets, etc.—from the looted things. The natives were afraid to say a word, but about thirty of them came the next day and the day after, bringing the looted goods the Boers had given them, and delivered them over to me to be delivered back again to the owner of the store on his return; some of the head men came to say they could not rest while the goods given by the Boers were in their huts. Some of the heathen from a distance kept the loot given them, but all about this district brought it here to me; and the motive for bringing it was, I think, good: 'While the looted goods given to the young are in our kraals, it would seem as though we belonged to the Boers. We will have nothing to do with what they have looted—no, not as friends or children of theirs.'" Here is an example of loyalty, as well as of honesty, and, when we remember that the coloured population exceeds largely all the whites of every nationality, we may look forward with some confidence to the future state of the country.

Higher Religious Education.

The Bishop of Ripon recently addressed some admirable remarks to the members of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Higher Religious Education Society. Disclaiming "anything approaching a snobby interpretation of the adjective 'higher,'" the Bishop said that higher religious education meant that, in the first instance, education must be alphabetical, elementary, and to a degree, superficial, but that they were determined to go to the root of the matter in every study, and desired that the knowledge which they possessed should be well-assimilated knowledge, and entirely-verified knowledge. The study of the Bible, he added, must for every reason hold the first and most prominent place in their attention. Meantime, may we venture to express the opinion that there is abundant need and room for such an organization in our own Church.

A Great Work.

It is probable that many of our readers may have heard of the great "Dictionary of National Biography," published by Smith, Elder & Co., and edited first by Mr. Leslie Stephen, and then by Mr. Sidney Lee. The work consists of sixty-three large octavo volumes, containing the biographies of over 29,000 persons, and its publication has extended over eighteen years and a half. One of the most remarkable circumstances in connection with its publication is the regularity of its appearance, a volume being sent forth every three months without a single failure from beginning to end of the time. The accuracy of the work is no less remarkable than its fulness and comprehensiveness. Hardly the least error, or at any rate very few have been discovered in all its articles. The publication has been largely a work of love. At the dinner given by Mr. Smith, the publisher, to the contributors, it was stated that the expenditure upon the dictionary had

been £150,000; and so far only about one-half of that amount had been realized, so that the work is largely a gift of the publisher to the nation. It will be a "possession forever" to English students of history, since no important name in English history is omitted, and each is treated fully and adequately.

MURDER OF THE KING OF ITALY.

What will future generations say of the period which formed the close of the nineteenth century? Will they not say, these people lived in terrible times? Terrible and unexpected. When the Battle of Waterloo was fought, and the "Corsican Parvenu" sent to that remote island, now inhabited by Commandant Cronje and his friends, wise people said, we shall have no more great wars. When the Reform Act of Lord Grey became law in England, patriotic Whigs were quite satisfied that a Constitutional Millennium was inaugurated, that the nations of the earth had only gradually to adopt the English constitution, as they were able, and good government would then become universal. Alas for the hopes of men. "The mills of God grind slowly," and the processes of the world are long in their development. Since the middle of this century many great wars have been waged; the Crimean, the Indian Mutiny, the French and Austrian, the German and Danish, the Prussian and Austrian, the French and German—probably we are passing by some of them—the great civil war in America and the Cuban war. At the present moment however we have a collection of horrors to which very few periods in the history of the world can produce a parallel. There is, first of all, the heavy burden of the very serious famine in India, next the terrible war in Africa, necessary, yet involving very great sacrifices, not to mention the fighting in Western Africa. Next and greatest in horror the terrible scenes in China; for even if our fears are not to be realized in regard to the European officials at Peking, it seems certain that thousands of native Christians have been massacred. And now in the midst of all these horrors, the attention of the world is concentrated upon a crime at which the heart stands still. True, it is but the murder of one man, and the soul of a king is not more precious in the sight of God than the soul of a peasant or even a beggar. Yet a king represents not only the unity of the nation, but the authority of God; and in striking at the ruler of the people the assassin strikes at the Commonwealth, and at law and order. There are incidents of this kind which, however they may be condemned, excite little surprise. In all ages the tyrant has been the victim of the assassin, and sometimes he has fallen by a kind of rude justice. It was the only way of deliverance for the people—so at least it seemed. There seemed no other means of emancipation for a mis-governed community. But this is not the type of regicide to which we have become accustomed in later days. When an Italian conspiracy was formed for the murder of