

the assumption that the New Testament does furnish us with the model of the Church; that the model of the Church was finished in Corinth, or Rome, or Ephesus; that the practice of the Church in the first century is a common law, and all departures from that practice sedition and anarchy. The essence of the Lord's Supper is in the power to discern the Lord's body. Immersed men who fail to discern the Lord's body do not observe the Lord's Supper. Unimmersed men who do discern the Lord's body do observe the Lord's Supper." This position was accepted as has been said, by a number of leading Baptist Divines present and it is evident that the orthodox view of the denomination has received an unexpected and severe shock.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

FOR special mercies there should be special thanks. 'Tis true we are surrounded with the goodness and mercy of the Creator at all times, and our thanks are day by day, but as a people it is meet we should unite on one set day to own God's hand in providence. His bounties we have richly enjoyed this year. He has given an abundant harvest; the storehouses are full and the people prosperous. Canada recognizes the Divine goodness in this, and to-day when as a nation we offer thanks let it be the sincere offering of our hearts.

We can look back upon our history at such a time and find cause for humble praise. Our experience has been, on the whole, most satisfactory. The pioneer hardships had their seasoning of pleasure and success; the early troubles in church and state have left scarcely a bitter memory behind; oneness of purpose in our national aims is apparent to-day on every hand and faith in the future of our country was never stronger. In these respects, and many others, Canada has been highly favored.

The practice of our Government in appointing a day for Thanksgiving is based on a recognition of God's providence in our affairs, in our prosperity or adversity; it is a national recognition of God as the Almighty Ruler of the Universe. In this sense the day assumes peculiar importance, and ought to be loyally observed for purposes of worship,—not for mere pleasure. It is very desirable that all in authority—the Mayors and Councillors, the officials in the public service, and public men should set a proper example to the people in obeying the mandate of the Government in the spirit of its intention as well as literally. The churches do their duty fairly well, but they ought to be heartily supported by the public officials and the authorities.

Thanksgiving Day as a rule ushers in the season of charitable work among the poor. Let not this be forgotten. In returning thanks let us from our store be liberal in our gifts to the needy and to the cause of the Lord. He has given freely, freely let us give of our best to Him, in good works, and in love remembering that while "a cup of cold water" may be the limit of some, there are many who have much and to spare. From the latter much will be required. God's greatest gift is not national greatness or national wealth. The gift of eternal life He has made free to all. On Thanksgiving Day the deepest gratitude will flow from the most penitent heart.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

ONCE again the welcome news has come to hand of negotiations between Britain and the United States touching an Arbitration Treaty. It is reported that the outline of a treaty has even been agreed upon by the Governments of the two peoples, and it is believed the administration at Washington will succeed in securing

the approval of Congress. All having the welfare of the English-speaking peoples at heart will rejoice in this step forward in the march of civilization, for if the treaty is based on the calm judgment of the two countries immediately concerned, there can be no doubt it will mean a substantial advance in international amity and dealing. As reported, the treaty provisions are guarded by qualifications that leave outlets for war, but the principle is amply recognized that arbitration should be resorted to in all cases which the parties, after deliberation, believe to be competent for arbitration, and this of itself will prove no small deterrent to the excitement of passion and hasty speech.

The non-conformists of Britain have toiled earnestly to bring about an understanding such as has now apparently been arrived at. An influential section of the American public has also helped the cause. Recently the W.C.T.U. petitioned favorably, and just the other day a strong appeal was made by Bishop Doane of Albany, in his address to the clergymen and delegates of his diocese, in favor of better feeling and arbitration. This closing passage from the address is worthy serious perusal:

"And for that wretched party spirit which, for the serving of temporary political ends is capable of risking the permanent horrors of an alienation between two nations which are absolutely one in origin, in character, in interest, in responsibility from God, in language in history, and in religion, there ought to be at the polls, in the press, from the pulpit, and in the personal intercourse of intelligent men, the sternest denunciation and the most incessant rebuke. No greater outrage, it seems to me, can be conceivable, and no more lasting and serious injury to all the best interests of humanity throughout the world, than the severance, or even the straining, of the close tie which binds America to England. A war would be only less a fratricidal war than our unfortunate rebellion; but the prevention of it must be, not by the machinery of statecraft and Cabinet Council, but by the cultivation of the true spirit and temper of the peoples of both nations."

The better class press of the United States have endorsed the Bishop's utterance heartily, a fact that will not be without good effect in that country. Let Canada follow suit and be careful that no thoughtless or hostile remark, at a time when great issues are pending, should, in any way, however small, help to frustrate the bond of concord now sought to be formed between neighbors.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

THE Pope's reply to the representations made to him respecting the Manitoba school case has been withheld for a few days, but if the reports which purport to contain the substance of it be correct, his Holiness supports the view that the Manitoba Roman Catholics had an undoubted right to Separate Schools: and decrees that Roman Catholic children must not attend the Public Schools. The Pope, however, advises moderation in asking the re-opening of Separate Schools, and the use of peaceful measures. With the Pöpal utterance, no doubt, in view, Mr. Tarte delivered a significant speech in Toronto. He condemned Separate Schools and Clearyism in forcible and welcome terms. He maintained it to be the duty of Canadians to Educate their children as much as possible together so that they might know each other better and love each other better. Mr. Tarte hit out at Archbishop Cleary by saying that he desired to go to the grave of his Protestant friends and throw in his handful of earth on the remains, a loving tribute to the departed. "As a Roman Catholic" he declared, "I desire to be permitted to say that we must mourn our dead together and carry them to their last resting place shoulder to shoulder." We need more of