

having the management of the Trinity lands. The chapel is just one hundred years old. It was erected by John McComb, the then leading builder, upon the edge of a marsh, so worthless that a Lutheran church refused the gift of six acres because they were not worth fencing. But the far-seeing men who erected St. John's followed it by other improvements, one being the laying out of a spacious and attractive semi-public park, beyond which the city grew rapidly. Forty years afterwards the owners sold it to Commodore Vanderbilt for a freight station, and the decay which had set in is now rapidly approaching a slum. It may be that the action of closing the chapel, having re-attracted notice to the site, may restore it to something better than it is now and justify the re-opening of the chapel, which, it is unexpectedly found, appeals to the civic pride.

Give Pleasure.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, the venerable head of Harvard, who is retiring after fifty-four years' service in that university, recently addressed a large company of youngsters, and among much advice which in less attractive form is generally given to such an audience advised his hearers "to give joy and gratification to others." Learn some art, some skill, through which you may be able to give pleasure to others. "I remember once I was present at a meeting in a Mormon tabernacle in the town of Logan. Half the population of the place was there. The people first sang the great 'Hallelujah' chorus, and then, of course, there were the speeches. Then one big man, with a long beard and a fine bass voice, stood up and sang a song—a song which was a mixture of love and religion—and the people applauded him heartily. Now, that man was able to give pleasure to others. And you can do nothing better than to follow his example. It is an excellent thing to have children recite in their homes once a week. Store your minds with the poetry, the literature, and the music of the past, for I feel that this power is the greatest reward of a long life."

A Double Duty.

A young and able Scottish clergyman attended the meetings of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood in this country and in the United States. Shortly after his return home he was offered and accepted preferment in one of the States. In his retiring address to his parishioners in Scotland he expatiated at length on the amount of needed work he saw in the parish; how, though tired, they refused to lay down their tools; victory was near; it was no time to sleep or rest, and concluded: "In the name of what is highest, and truest, and best in manly character, let us get to work—the work we have before us, the work we are determined to finish." Excellent! But we are puzzled to know how the worthy clergyman was going to do this in Scotland and attend to his new parish in the States at the same time.

THE YEAR'S END.

How like the ending of a day, though in a far more solemn, moving sense, is the ending of another year to each and all of us? The birthday appeals to the individual, and is more widely or narrowly regarded in proportion to his influence and position. And so it is with the final day of his earthly life. But the year's end affects each living being upon earth, as to one and all it marks off an allotted portion of recorded time. The special importance of each day as a point of time, and the related significance of each such point to the period of a year, which, combined, they make, is clearly and forcibly stated by Bishop Hall: "Every day is a little life; and our whole life is but a day repeated; whence it is that old Jacob numbers his life by days, and Moses desires to be taught

this point of holy arithmetic, to number not his years, but his days. Those, therefore, that dare to lose a day are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate." In looking back over the days of the past year many events occur to us related to our own country and Empire, as well as to the outside world. One step that marked an advance to us in a national sense was the opening of the Mint at Ottawa. A deplorable event of dramatic character was the assassination in Lisbon of King Carlos and the Crown Prince of Portugal. The increasing recognition of the efficiency of Canadians was marked by the offer to Brigadier-General Otter by the British War Office of the command of the Fifth Infantry Brigade at Aldershot, England. In the death of the late Chief Justice Killam, chairman of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners, Canada sustained the loss of one of the ablest and most upright men in her public service. A deserved and commendable appointment was that of Walter Cassells, K.C., as judge of the Exchequer Court. It brought to the public service an accomplished lawyer and an honourable man. Honour was conferred on Canada by the appointment of the Prince of Wales as the King's representative at the Quebec Tercentenary. The Dominion Government was well advised when it chose an upright jurist, of strong sense and sound judgment, Mr. Justice Maybee, to succeed the late Chief Justice Killam as chairman of the Railway Commission. We need more such men in the public service. The illness and subsequent death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, late Prime Minister of Great Britain, was universally regretted. Though not a brilliant statesman, the late Premier had many of those qualities which win for a man the respect and esteem of his fellowmen. In his successor, the Right Hon. Herbert Asquith, K.C., the Empire has a statesman and parliamentarian of the first rank. A prominent Canadian passed away in Sir Adolphe Caron, who was a member of the Dominion Government when Sir John Macdonald was Premier. Canadian literature records no more distinguished name than that of the late Louis Frechette, a poet whose charming verse not only won him the admiration of his fellow-countrymen, but received honourable recognition in the home of his ancestors. In the election of Sir James Pliny Whitney and his colleagues the people of Ontario paid a merited tribute to long and faithful public service in Opposition, and showed confidence in the character and capacity of a leader, who they confidently believe to possess those qualities of candour, courage, and unswerving honesty which would dignify and elevate the public life of the country. So much has been, and remains to be said, of the great Pan-Anglican gathering of the clergy and laity of our Church in London that we need only repeat that it was both a fulfilment and promise of the great things of which our branch of the Church Universal is capable when its responsibility and power are at all adequately realized. But Forward! is the watchword, from great to greater things, if at last the greatest of all results is to be attained. A man of mark in the neighbouring Republic died in the person of the late Hon. Grover Cleveland, one time President of the United States of America. Two other noted men of that nationality call for mention—the late Bishop Potter, who for many years so ably presided over the Diocese of New York, and Joel Chandler Harris—"Uncle Remus," of the household and nursery—whose cheerful, genial humour will long continue to lighten many a heart and brighten many a home. That brilliant episode in Canadian history, the celebration of the Tercentenary of the founding of Quebec, with all its brilliant, picturesque, and memorable accompaniments, would alone make the past year notable in the annals of Canada. The record of its varied and attractive incidents will prove unusually interesting reading to

future students of Canadian history. We cannot dwell at length on other events of the year 1908. One of the most memorable, however, was the concession by the Sultan of a constitution to Turkey and the election by the Turks of a Chamber of Deputies. Civilization is advancing by leaps and bounds. Deplorable, indeed, was the loss of life and property through forest fires in Canada during the past year. Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the general election was given another lease of political power. The Hon. W. H. Taft is to take the seat of honour across our border to be vacated by the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere's death was widely regretted. A chivalrous descendant of a chivalrous ancestry, Sir Henri kept alive in Canada the traditions of those noble and courtly Frenchmen, of whom the good Knight Bayard, the chevalier without fear and without reproach, was, in former days, an illustrious example. Though we have lost the living presence, the memory of such a man will always reflect honour on his name, and inspire his countrymen to follow in his footsteps. The German Emperor, who for years past has flamed in the regal firmament as a portentous star, seemingly of the first magnitude, is at present in the retirement of a political eclipse. The lamented death of one of the noblest, most beloved, and eloquent Prelates of Canada, the late Bishop Carmichael, has been followed by the elevation to the Episcopate in succession of the Rev. Dean Farthing, for a time the able and energetic Prolocutor of the General Synod. A memorable session of that body, and also a gathering of representatives of the Woman's Auxiliary, one of the most useful and helpful organizations of the Church, were held at Ottawa. The retirement of the Right Hon. Dr. MacLagan from the See of York has led to the merited elevation of Dr. Cosmo Gordon Lang to the vacant Archbishopric.

MILTON.

In the latter days of the closing year occurred the tercentenary of Milton, and to our pleased astonishment the event was celebrated in England with knowledge of the man and his achievements, and with an unexpected appreciation of his poetical genius. Unexpected, because, so far as we have known, through a pretty long and wide experience, Milton was honoured in name only. During the last three quarters of the nineteenth century his works reposed untouched in the bookcases, disturbed only by the curiously, who soon laid aside the solemn and stately blank verse. The youthful readers of "Pendennis" were touched by the episode in Thackeray's novel, where his mother took him out under the solemn starlit sky and recited poetry which none can read unmoved, but without knowing that it was from the Thomson's Seasons or Milton. The majestic roll of Milton's verse is suited to his majestic subject. Does the revival of interest in Milton mean a revival of interest in the story of the lost and regained Paradise? Human intellect moves with the passing years. The expanded knowledge of the time imbued the intellects of the early part of the seventeenth century with the new and Divine philosophy, born of printing, of the reformed religious views, of the civil tumults and cruel persecutions. Milton's association with Cromwell's Government gave that Government the services of a travelled scholar and poet, who expressed in State papers the convictions of a nation. There is much cause for pride in the political work of Cromwell and Milton. In his retreat, with fading sight, his gift of poetry consoled him, and he turned to the story of man's first disobedience. It is fashionable nowadays to study Dante, a writer who formed his work on Virgil. It is quite probable