

the incorporation of the Orange Association has hitherto been the belief that an important part of its constitution and work were hidden under the veil of an oath of secrecy. Mr. Clarke Wallace, as a representative Orangeman, now assures Parliament and the country that there is nothing secret about the Order except its signs and passwords. In that case the parallel drawn between it and the Order of Foresters seems so far to be valid. With regard to the alleged political character of the Association, Mr. Wallace's statements were less explicit and satisfactory. If, as he seemed to intimate, one of the objects for which it exists is to preserve the connection between Canada and the rest of the British Empire, it might be argued that in this regard its existence is either an imputation upon the loyalty of the great majority of Canadians, or a menace to their liberties. The people of Canada do not need a special organization to watch their relations to Great Britain, or to interfere with the fullest development of the self-governing powers which are their natural right, and which have thus far been freely accorded, as far as asked for, by Great Britain. The members of Parliament will, we fancy, have spirit enough to demand either an explanation or a retraction of Mr. Wallace's ambiguous utterance on this point. It would ill comport with the dignity and self-respect of the Government and Parliament of Canada to incorporate a special society to guard their own loyalty and that of the people. We shall await with some curiosity the further progress of the Bill.

THE newly organized Ontario Association of Architects are seeking from the Provincial Legislature a charter conferring upon the guild the right to hold examinations, grant certificates, and generally exercise powers corresponding to those bestowed upon such corporations as the societies in law, medicine, chemistry, etc. Whatever objections there may be, on grounds of abstract politics, to the bestowment of monopoly powers upon any close corporation, it is not easy to see how such powers can be consistently refused to architects, while granted to the members of other professions such as those above named. It would be difficult to frame any argument based upon the utility of such corporations in protecting society against the effects of incompetence and quackery, which would not apply with full force to the profession of the architect, especially in towns and cities. The danger to life and health from the erection of unsafe buildings, the frequent neglect or ignorance of sanitary precautions, etc., is undoubtedly great, and it is high time that more vigorous and effective measures were adopted to guard against such sources of accident and sickness. In view of the serious responsibilities resting upon those who undertake the business of the architect, it is surprising that the deputation who waited upon the Government the other day were obliged to admit that they know of no country in which such an Act as that now asked for is in force. Mr. Curry, the spokesman of the deputation, stated, however, that such an Act, or a more stringent one, is being, or is about to be asked for in most English-speaking countries, at the present time. There can be little doubt that the bestowment of the powers asked for would tend to the promotion not only of public health and safety, but also of beauty of architectural design and finish in private buildings, in itself a very desirable end. Care will need to be taken to prevent the Act, if passed, from bearing unjustly upon any persons now practising the profession, who may be substantially though not technically qualified, but we presume the draft Bill makes ample provision for the protection of such. Mr. Mowat's reply indicated that he was disposed to look with favour upon the application; and it is not unlikely that Ontario may take the lead in introducing this species of legislation.

AMONG those who have deserved the gratitude of the citizens of Toronto by liberal benefactions of various kinds, it may be doubted whether any has given more wisely or munificently than the late Mr. John G. Howard. The gift of High Park, or, as it will no doubt be hereafter known, Howard Park, is one which will contribute to the health and happiness of all the citizens, so long as it shall be held sacred to the purpose for which it was bestowed, which means, it may be hoped, so long as the city shall continue to exist. It is peculiarly gratifying to know that by his will Mr. Howard has completed and crowned his former deed of generosity by adding to it the lodge, which was his own residence, together with the forty or fifty acres around it. Such public spirit and intelligent regard for the future of the city should serve as an inspiring example to other wealthy citizens, as it will surely cause the

name of Mr. Howard to be held in grateful remembrance by future generations of dwellers in the great metropolis which Toronto seems destined to become.

IN reply to the question of a member, the Attorney-General of Ontario stated the other day in the House that the working of the Torrens system or Land Titles Act in Toronto and York for the past year had resulted in a surplus of fees over the expenses of the office, such surplus amounting to \$2,903.93. If a fear in regard to the expense of working the system has deterred the Municipal Councils of other localities from availing themselves of the option of introducing the Act, it may be hoped that this statement will tend to allay apprehension on that score. It is to be regretted, we think, that the question had not been so framed as to have called for further facts and indications in regard to the general success of the measure. Possibly it may not yet have been long enough in operation to warrant any very decided opinion, based upon experience. Mr. Mowat stated further that the amount of the guarantee fund for which the Act provides is at the present time about \$10,000 and that the value of the property to which this small assurance fund applies was up to a recent date \$3,691,249, according to the valuations at the time of registration. The present value of this property is said to be \$10,000,000 or more. Of the amount named, the new property brought under the Act last year was at its then valuation \$887,761. This guarantee fund, he explained, is an assurance fund formed under the Statute, "for the indemnity of any person who may happen to be deprived of land, or some estate or interest therein, by reason of the land being brought under the provisions of the Act, or by the registration of some other person as owner of the land, or of such estate or interest therein, or by reason of any misdescription, omission or other error in a certificate of title or in any entry in the register." This fund is invested from time to time under the direction of the court, and the interest or income derived therefrom is credited to the same account. The question of the adoption of this simple and admirable system throughout Ontario is probably only one of time. The result of its use experimentally in Toronto and the County of York will, therefore, be looked for with interest from year to year.

WHAT with the Report of the Parnell Commission, and the various motions and discussions likely to arise in connection with that Report, and the forged letters, and the Government's expected Land Purchase Bill, and its unexpected Local Government Bill, the coming session of the British Parliament bids fair to be, as so many of its predecessors have been, largely occupied with the affairs of Ireland. The announcement of the last named measure is no doubt a genuine surprise to the Opposition and the country, and the character of the promised Bill will be studied with great curiosity and interest when it is brought down. It is, of course, impossible to divine in advance with any degree of certainty what attitude the Gladstonians and Parnellites will take in respect to such a measure. Judging, however, from the past, and from what seems to be the well understood policy of the latter party, they may be expected to accept whatever is offered in the direction of local self-rule, not as a finality but as an instalment of the complete Home Rule on which they have set their hearts. It seems scarcely possible that the Government can so misread the temper of the Home Rule leaders, or so under-estimate their influence over the masses who look to them for guidance, as to suppose that they will be content with the half-measures promised, and forego further agitation. They must surely foresee that the concession of a County Council system, or other form of local government, will rather increase the leverage of those who are working for the larger end. This being the case, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour may seem to deserve credit for both honesty and courage in putting so much additional power into the hands of the disaffected. It is quite possible, however, that the movement may have been resolved on less as a measure of justice to Ireland than for the sake of effect in England. From this point of view the step may be a wise one. Recent events have unquestionably shown considerable tendency to reaction in favour of the Gladstonian programme, and, so far as may be judged from this distance, nothing could be better adapted to allay any restlessness in the minds either of the Liberal-Unionists, or of many of the more advanced Conservatives, than a measure of this kind, which while seeming to concede all or nearly all that is needful to do full justice to Ireland, yet finds a stopping-place short of a Parliament on College Green.

THE latest Encyclical of Leo XIII., though quite in harmony with the traditional teachings of the Vatican, is noteworthy by reason of its clear and emphatic re-assertion of the superiority of the claims of the Church to those of the State in all matters in which the interests of the former are supposed to be in any way affected. Up to a certain point the propositions and reasonings of this document will commend themselves as sound to all religiously-disposed minds. No one who believes in a God at all can doubt that his claim to obedience transcends every other obligation. No Christian will hesitate to accept the general principle that whenever the State enjoins anything contrary to the commands of God or the clear principles of religion, he is bound to obey God rather than man. It is when his Holiness takes the next step and assumes that the Roman Catholic Church is the true and only church, and that its teachings and decrees as promulgated through himself are infallible, that his pronouncement becomes obnoxious to Protestantism and dangerous to freedom. When he openly declares that "in politics . . . men ought always and in the first place to take care to serve the interests of Catholicism," and that "as soon as these interests are seen to be in danger, all differences should cease between them, so that, united in the same thoughts and the same designs, they may undertake the protection and defence of religion, the common and great end to which all things should be referred," he reiterates the principle which is working and threatening to work incalculable mischief on this continent to-day. Taken in connection with its companion dogma that the infallible church, that is, the infallible Pope, is the ultimate and sole authority to determine what requires such solidarity on the part of all good Catholics, the result is that in all countries in which the Catholics are numerous enough to hold the balance of power, all political questions in which the supposed interests of the Church are at stake will be decided by a mandate from Rome. Can it be wondered at if the tendency of such a policy is to compel those who are not Catholics to unite in turn to defeat the designs of priests and hierarchs who are themselves but so many machines to do the behests of the autocrat of the Vatican? Is it even surprising that the result has been in some European nations so disastrous even to the political rights of these hierarchies themselves? In the face of such instructions so unambiguously and unblushingly given, it certainly becomes not only the right but the duty of every government which values free institutions to employ the most stringent measures to prevent the clergy from making use of its spiritual authority in any improper way to influence the free action of the people in political matters.

UNEASY France, or rather its uneasy rulers and politicians have just now been thrown into a fresh ferment by an incident in itself apparently trivial. The young Duke of Orleans, one of the banished princes, has seen fit, whether under the influence of a boyish enthusiasm, or acting with far-reaching design, possibly under advice of older heads, to present himself at the capital and offer himself for military service. France's misfortune primarily is that the Government, rightly or wrongly, deem it necessary to maintain a decree of perpetual exile against all members of the royal family who might, by any possibility, become pretenders to the throne. But, even so, the incident, with a more sober and matter-of-fact people, would have been treated as a boyish escapade, and have been promptly ended by escorting the lad to the frontier and warning him not to repeat the offence. As it is, the matter has become complicated by the action of the authorities, until it is now quite possible that serious embarrassment may result. The legal plea of the Prince or his advisers seems to be that, as the recent law compels every Frenchman, irrespective of official or social position, and whether born in France or abroad, to enlist in the army, he has merely presented himself as a loyal son of France in obedience to the law. Though the plea is probably no better than a quibble, the fact that the Prince declares himself no Pretender, but a simple citizen claiming his right under the laws to enlist as a private soldier, can scarcely fail to arouse sympathy and even enthusiasm on his behalf. The Legitimist party is said in the despatches to be chagrined and annoyed by the Prince's act in provoking an agitation at a moment when there is nothing to be gained by it. But is it so clear that nothing is to be gained? There can be, of course, no hope of revolution just now. But may there not be a good deal of method in the madness of a bold and attractive young prince, ambitious to keep himself in the eyes of the French populace, and to slow himself patriotic