

indemnity be asked as from this nation, if any combination of forces or unforeseen disaster were to involve it in defeat. We will not now dwell upon the cost in suffering, in bloodshed, agony, and misery which has to be accepted and paid as part of the "price" of war. As education becomes more diffused, as the nature and results of war are better understood, perhaps not even the taunt of being desirous for "peace at any price" will arouse the nation's passions. A better educated, more enlightened, and above all, more truly Christian English people, may one day realize that it is for war and not for peace that the fearful price must be paid, and may refuse to pay it in tones which no Cabinet will fail to understand.

We hope, almost against hope, that these wise, Christian, and truly patriotic sentiments will prevail with the English people and English Government. But when one of England's noblest statesmen is mobbed in the street and his windows are broken on account of his opposition to the war clamours of a section of the country; and when high-minded noblemen like Lord Derby and Lord Carnarvon are compelled to leave the Cabinet on account of its war policy, we may well apprehend the gravest consequences from that policy, not merely to England, but to the world. Never was there greater need on the part of the Churches of Christendom for pleading importunate prayer that peace and good will, and not war and ill will, may prevail among men.

The *Methodist Recorder* remarks, we think with all the emphasis of truth: "Unless moderate counsels almost immediately prevail, a knell little less than that of doom seems likely to be sounded. The statesman who shall deliberately abandon the attempt to pacify Europe with the help of the concerted Powers, and who shall prefer to risk the unimaginable horrors of a general European war will incur a frightful responsibility."

We think that all our readers will agree with the late utterances of Mr. Gladstone at Greenwich: "There is not a greater act of guilt and shame that a nation can perpetrate in the face of Almighty God and of His suffering creatures than to rush into war without sufficient justifications. May it please God to turn our hearts and minds to the ends of peace."

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

We have before us a copy of the Hon. Mr. Scott's Act respecting the traffic in intoxicating liquors, at present under discussion in the Dominion Parliament. It is a bulky document of thirty-three folio pages. The Act, with certain amendments which we hope it will receive, if it become law and if effective measures are adopted for its enforcement will, we think, be a great improvement on any temperance legislation which the country has yet had. With its general provisions we presume our readers are aware from the daily and weekly journals. The clause requiring that petitions for the submission of the Act to popular vote must be signed by one-fourth of the qualified electors of the county or city, will make it a very arduous work to procure its submission. Seldom more than half the votes of a municipality are polled on any occasion. But, on the other hand, it will ensure that wherever the Act is submitted it will almost certainly be carried. The provisions made for taking the vote are very much better than under the old Dunkin Act. The adoption of the ballot will largely prevent those disgraceful scenes of intimidation and violence which so strikingly characterized the tactics of the Anti-Dunkinites in the late temperance campaign in Toronto and elsewhere. It will also greatly lessen the opportunities and inducements to bribery and corruption. The permission to "any merchant or trader" to sell in quantities of ten gallons or more, when he "has reason to believe" that it is not for