

This is about the best emigration work going on and well deserves the countenance of the Government.

The present political situation in England is a singular illustration of the whirling of time bringing its revenges. The position of the two great parties before the last general election and at its close, was the direct reverse of their state prior to and at the end of that just gone through. Then Mr. Disraeli appealed to the country, was placed in a minority at the polls, resigned, and Mr. Gladstone succeeded to power. The issue then was wholly ecclesiastical—the fate of the Irish Church. The chief question decided by the recent elections is also ecclesiastical,—the fate of the English Church. That at the former crisis the electors chose to disestablish a State Church in one part of the Empire, and at this they have decided to maintain one; that they destroyed the branch and spare the tree, has been freely put forward as evidence of a reaction in favor of the principle of a State Church. This inconsistency of action in the British electorate cannot justly be so interpreted. To English electors the appeal against the Irish establishment jarred against no principle, threatened no disruption of any social order they cherished. But the apprehension of the Church being shorn of privileges and emoluments in the rural districts, would appear like the uprooting of religion and the cessation of those benevolences and kindly offices which are looked to as a providential arrangement to mitigate their chronic poverty, as some compensation for low wages. In the towns the artisans share this feeling; for although in the main careless of religious observances, they have a grateful sense of the comforts and helps and pleasant social attentions they and their families are proffered by the unwearying charity of elaborately organized parish institutions, which for some years past have been worked with almost passionate zeal, to secure the good will of this class towards the State Church. One of the most earnest pastors, most eloquent preachers in the Establishment, said during a former election, “I never ask for money or votes; if I get the souls of the

people, they will give these freely.” Besides this alarm lest disestablishment should deprive religion of its power to bless, there has been also excited a fear lest another institution, one as beloved by many as the Church—the Public House—should be shorn of its power to curse its devotees. Every tap-room in Britain has rung with denunciations of the Liberal Ministry, for curtailing that inestimable privilege—the right to get drunk at any hour of the night, however such liberty offends social decency, disturbs social order, saps public health, or facilitates crime. Behind the door of these tap-rooms could be found certain cabalistic marks in white chalk, which have had more to do with producing the Conservative reaction than recondite political causes. The publican's score is a potent weapon, and has whipped up no small share of the majorities against Mr. Gladstone. The patriotism of the British workingman is strongly tinged with pugnacity, and with dislike to foreigners. He is made to feel too much the competition of numbers, hence his conviction that the larger the army the better are his chances of work under Government auspices. The Conservative party are believed to favor more than the Liberal the maintenance of a large standing army and staff at the public dockyards. This policy is eminently popular with the artisan class. They regard the industrial activities of war or preparation for it with the utmost favor; they consider the cost thereof, to a large extent, as taxation of the well-to-do classes, from which they reap no small gains. With such impressions and economic prejudices, still entertaining notions in regard to foreign nations which were general some years ago, but which closer intercourse by travel and commerce have dispelled in the middle and higher ranks of English life, what is described as “a vigorous foreign policy, is at once flattering to the vanity and narrowness of the artisan class at home,” and in accordance with their ideas of what is conducive to the stimulation of those industries in whose activity they believe their class to be interested. The action of the Nonconformist section of the electoral body in the recent election is not