

Notes by Nemo.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND AFTER is a very good organ for showing what capable men are thinking about present day topics. It is time that it also contains articles dealing with the past, but the larger number of constitutions are concerned with the political, social, and economic life of our own time.

Sir Wemyss Reid regularly sends a review of the month; the chief topic for last month was of course The Coronation. A very fine description is given the following remark contained in it manifests the spirit of the writer:

"To some a jarring note seemed to be struck by the gorgeous vestments worn by officiating clergy. It was the first time for centuries that such vestments had been seen in Westminster Abbey at a Coronation, and there were many who thought that the dignity and impressiveness of the ceremonial would have been heightened, rather than lowered if the archbishops and bishops, instead of being clad like Roman prelates, had worn those simple episcopal robes to which our fore-fathers were accustomed. But this was the only blot upon the scene, and probably by some it may have been regarded as its happiest feature."

The last sentence may be quite correct but we think that the criticism will be endorsed by the great mass of thoughtful English people.

The following passage shows the writer's view on the Education Bill which is just now the cause of so much bitter conflict:

"Party discipline and the vigorous use of the whip have carried the Bill so far on its way to the House of Lords; but the debates have only made it more clear than ever that the sympathies of the English people are not with the Clerical party, whose mouthpiece Mr. Balfour has made himself and the chief result of the passage of this ill-omened measure will be to bring about the renewal of the struggle over our national system of education on a wider platform and in a more acute form. The sudden closing of the session on the eve of the Coronation and the national absorption in that event have for the present diverted men's minds from the great struggle, but it will be renewed in October with increased vehemence on both sides."

In another part of this journal there is a discussion of the same subject by a gentleman who seems to be a sort of free-lance delighting to hit both parties, and all sects.

"Clinging to and imbued with this traditional political creed, the legislator, while perhaps in some instances recognising the futility of a particular measure (eg. the reulation of tides) can be hardly expected to recognise the necessity that authority, which he represents, and with which he is identified, must abdicate in favour of individual initiative, in the important province of education. Long ago recognising the impossibility of Gortchakoff's policy of keeping the people ignorant, for the reason that in that condition they are most easily governed the legislator himself, with unconscious dishonesty, becomes the champion of pseudo education, and by this means fights his foe. Individualism, while he is yet in frocks and drawers, with a flat ruler or cane—an excellent piece of diplomacy conceived long ago and practised to the present day by the Jesuit Fathers, who have held that it is better to lighten a child into submission than do battle with a full-grown man. The difference however, between Jesuit methods and the methods of the

modern legislator lies in the fact that, while the Jesuits were united, and were spending their own money, Messrs. Balfour, Parker and Hughes are not united and are spending other people's money."

While we are on the subject of Education we may notice a good story told by R. Fitzroy Bell, in the same number this gentleman tells of the progress of Education in Egypt speaking of the schools there he says: "Nowadays they are inspected and can earn a government grant but the ways of the west are strange to a Kuttab school master. An inspector was recently shown specimens of excellent handwriting by one of these estimable old gentlemen, as being the product of his school. The inspector was suspicious and desired to see the scholars at their writing lesson. The children were evidently surprised and handled pen and paper with rare curiosity, 'but they cannot write at all' said the inspector, 'why should they?' was the reply, 'I have written all these specimens myself, and have devoted many days that they might be worthy of your honour's inspection, are they not good enough?' 'Far too good' said the inspector, and the teacher was left marvelling at a new instance of the madness of the English."

Hymns and Hymn Books are also discussed in this comprehensive review. Here is a characteristic quotation from an article by the Right Hon. Earl Nelson on that subject:

"And in our own day, Moody and Sankey's Hymns, with their telling tunes, became the mainspring of their missionary efforts. We are not called upon to decide how far these exciting methods help 'to build up a sure foundation' to last to eternity. For my part I regret to find the Wesleyans are substituting Moody and Sankey for the sound teaching to be found in Wesley's hymns. It is curious to read that the Wesleyan chaplain with the troops in South Africa, though there were lots of New Testaments, was nearly brought to a standstill for the want of Moody and Sankey's Hymns."

You remember that when Christian, in "Pilgrim's Progress," was going down hill into the Valley of Humiliation, he made several bad slips, and in the valley he met Apollyon. Afterwards his wife, Christiana, was going over the same ground with Great Heart as her guide, and Great Heart said to her, "Do not be afraid of this valley. There is nothing here to hurt us unless we cause the hurt ourselves. Christian, to be sure, had to meet Apollyon here, but that was because he made those slips coming down the hill." The truth that Bunyan meant to convey is that whoever fights himself in the right way will not have to fight the devil.

For Daily Reading.

Mon., Oct. 13.—"Be ye therefore sober." 1 Pet. 4: 1-7
Tues., Oct. 14.—Provision for the flesh Rom. 13: 11-14
Wed., Oct. 15.—Excess. Eph. 5: 15-21
Thurs., Oct. 16.—"At the last." [Prov. 23: 29-35
Fri., Oct. 17.—Drunkenness and rags. Prov. 23: 15-21
Sat., Oct. 18.—Devoured as stubble. Nah. 1: 2-10
Sun., Oct. 19.—Topic. Self-mastery. 1 Cor. 9: 25; Gal. 5: 16-26. (Temperance lesson.)

Citizenship has been made nobler by means of the nearly four million Christian Endeavorers.

Thanksgiving.

Lord, I give thanks!
Last year, thou knowest, my best ambitions failed;
My back with scourgings of defeat was flailed;
My eyes left oft the sharp salt wash of tears;
No guerdon blessed the tireless toil of years;
Fast in the snares my helpless feet were tied.
Yet in my woes thou didst with me abide.
Lord, I give thanks!

Lord, I give thanks!
Last year my one lone ship came back to me,
A ruined wreck of what she used to be,
No cargo in her hold, storm-stained and scared.
O Lord, thou knowest that it was hard, was hard,
To watch her drifting bulk with hopeless eye.
Yet in my desolation thou wert nigh.
Lord, I give thanks!

Lord, I give thanks!
Last year the one I loved the dearest died,
And like a desert waste became the wide
And weary world. Love's last sweet star went out:
Blackness of darkness wrapped me round about.
Yet, in the midst of my mad misery,
Thou lent'st thy rod and staff to comfort me.
Lord, I give thanks!

Balm.

After the heat the dew
and the tender touch of twilight;
The untolding of the few
Calm stars.
After the heat, the dew.

After the sun the shade,
and beatitude of shadow;
Dim aisles for memory made,
And thought.
After the sun, the shade.

After all there is balm:
from the wings of dark there is wafture
Of sleep—night's infinite psalm—
And dreams.
After all there is balm.
—Virginia Woodward Cloud, in the Atlantic.

An effort is being made in Scotland to restore its ancient churches. For years past they have been left uncared for, some of them actually falling into decay, but enthusiasm has been awakened up in the subject of their restoration, and the work is progressing encouragingly. For instance, Paisley Abbey has been put into fine condition after two years of labor upon it, and was recently opened for services. In like manner the ancient cathedral of Brechin now appears in much of its original beauty and impressiveness. Schemes are under consideration to restore Linlithgow Abbey. The Church of Scotland is to be congratulated upon having men of means with much love for ecclesiastical monuments, who are willing to contribute to their preservation and embellishment. They ought to be more than historic relics; they should serve useful purposes as present-day religious centres.

Twenty-five Dunkard delegates headed by the Rev. David Hollinger, of Grenville, Ohio, arrived in Winnipeg this week.

It is proposed to form several colonies of Dunkards in the Northwest and these delegates represent many families in Ohio, Iowa, North Dakota, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Typhoid fever has broken out with considerable violence throughout Manitoba. The capacity of the Winnipeg General and St. Boniface hospitals is being taxed to its utmost. Many of the patients have been sent in from outside points.