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HIGHER CRITICISM IN HIGH QUARTERS.

The Emperor of Germany has taken a hand in the higher criticism business, while acting under his patronage, Dr. Delitzsch, the Assyriologist and Archaeologist has caused a great stir by making remarks that seem to spring from a deliberate attempt to deny revelation and belittle the Old Testament. The father of this same Delitzsch was a saintly man, a great linguist and a lifelong student of the Hebrew literature. All his steady work did not create so much public sensation as the few hasty remarks of his son. That is the world's way. The Emperor has, however, tried to settle some of the dust. He seems to have summoned a sort of round table conference. He invited a number of leading men of various shades of opinion to have dinner with him. No doubt the dinner was good and we hope the discussion was fair, at any rate that is a better way than the old fashioned style of sending all original and indiscreet people off to prison. The Right Hon. Mr. Balfour, the politician and philosopher, also takes the first opportunity to inform the world that the Bible has been strengthened by criticism. The head of the German Empire may not be infallible, but he can see that an archaeologist has no special claim to dogmatize, on the question: "What is revelation?" All the while the Bible does its great work of teaching and inspiring men, and the intellectual "problems" that gather around it can only be settled by thoughtful, prayerful study. Each man must examine the new facts for himself and learn to adjust his faith in God to all that is real and true.

The Spring Term of the Ottawa Business College, Ottawa, commences on April 1st. Mr. W. E. Gowing, the principal, will be pleased to mail a catalogue to all who are interested in a business education.

PARTY AND PURITY.

We have heard much in recent days about "Social Salvation." Mr. Asquith, a prominent politician in England sometime ago, made the statement that formerly, religion was supposed to be for the saving of the soul but now it is regarded as a power for the saving of Society. This kind of contrast shows how the current of present opinion is running, but if it is taken as an absolute statement of the truth, it is misleading. You can only have righteousness in Society by the power of good men, and men are made good by inward life and not by political contrivances. Still there is this much truth in it, that religious men of past generations made the Christian life a thing too much separated from the actual life of the world. But when we remember the close connection between the great evangelical movement and important political reforms, we must not make our denunciation of evangelical narrowness too strong.

Now, however, it is admitted that religion ought to purify politics and when we face that question fairly, we see what a difficult one it is. Party feeling is so strong that it is difficult to have each case treated soberly and on its merits. Each party makes the most sweeping charges against the other. The politicians do not help us to take a hopeful view. The net result of all their statements is that the whole system is rotten. One party charges corruption upon the Ontario government, the other declares that the same corruption is rife at Ottawa and that the elections just held in New Brunswick were the result of wholesale bribery. What can the outsider make of all this? This much he can be sure of, that there is much in our political system that is wrong, and that all good men ought to unite in demanding reform. We need to get rid of the idea that wickedness in politics is any less damnable than wickedness any where else. We need to demand that conspiracy, bribery and forgery here shall be punished in exactly the same way as in other spheres. It should be understood that election trials should be dealt with by the proper courts and there should be no compounding of felony. Every man charged with an offence should have a fair sober trial, but a man who is convicted of law-breaking should not be shielded by a personal or political consideration. Until these principles are accepted by both parties, political purity will be a name rather than a reality.

As usual the table of contents of the last number of The Fortnightly Review is extremely varied. We find an article on Man's Place in the Universe followed by one on Canada and its Trade Routes. Then come Thirty Years in Paris, England and the Black Races, Matthew Arnold's Note Books, The Painting of the Nineteenth Century, The Happiest of the Poets (that is, William Morris), Chopin's Nocturnes, and German Colonial Ambitions and Anglo-Saxon Interests. All questions are touched on, political, literary, artistic and religious. A very valuable literary supplement is given this month—A Man of Honour, a play in four acts, by W. Somerset Maugham. This is a remarkably strong piece of work. Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.

THE GOSPEL OF ARBITRATION.

The most interesting and probably most important subject of public discussion since our last issue is the report of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt to investigate the anthracite coal strike, which caused so much excitement, inconvenience and suffering during the past winter.

The strike, it will be remembered, was resisted by the Pennsylvania mine owners, who took the ground so often taken by those who think themselves invulnerable, namely, that "there was nothing to arbitrate." However, public opinion, when it assumes certain dimensions, is irresistible; and in proportion as the scarcity of coal became greater, so that the necessary of life could barely be obtained for love or money, so grew that invisible, impalpable, yet overwhelmingly forceful thing, public opinion. Thus President Roosevelt succeeded in getting the two contending elements, employers and employed, to agree to the appointment of the Commission of Arbitration whose finding has just been made public.

In brief, the Commission recommends a general increase of wages amounting to in most instances 10 per cent.; some decrease of time; the settlement of all disputes by arbitration; fixes a minimum wage and a sliding scale; provides against discrimination of persons by either the mine owners or the miners on account of membership or non-membership in a labor union; and provides that the awards made shall continue in force until March 31, 1906. Among the recommendations of the Commission is a stricter enforcement of the laws in relation to the employment of children; and also legislation by the Federal and State governments, providing, when the public interests call for it, for compulsory investigation of difficulties, similar to the investigation which this Commission has made.

The findings of the Commission of Arbitration will be accepted as fair and reasonable. The circumstances of the mine-workers will be improved, and many incidental evils removed. The arbitration has been a success.

The word strike is but a synonym for war; and civil war at that—the worst kind of war. A Commission of Arbitration is the substitution of a tribunal of peace and good will, reasonable discussion and consideration, for the gospel of sticks and stones, excited feeling and exasperated sensibilities. No occupant of our pulpits need hesitate in doing everything in his power to promote the doctrine of Arbitration in contradistinction to the doctrine of the Strike. There never was a dispute between Labor and Capital in which the right was all on one side. Nor can society afford to admit that any such interruption to ordinary business and comfort as was caused by the recent coal strike is a matter exclusively for the two parties to the controversy. The public interest is greater than the interest of either disputant, and society does well in such cases to intervene with an authoritative demand for early settlement through mutual conciliation and arbitration.

Sir William Mulock is now promoting in the Dominion Parliament a measure for the settlement of disputes between railway