

of war and peace have been revolutionized by arms of precision and the electric telegraph. The single discovery of the function of parasites in the animal economy has rebuilt the theory and the practice of medicine from the foundation to the roof. But, vast as are the practical boons already garnered for mankind, they seem poor and trifling to the boundless harvest science promises to yield. In the fertile doctrines of evolution and the conservation of energy Professor Huxley bids us see the assured and certain prospect of a new and immeasurable advancement of learning. The genuine student of science is awed by the immensity of his reward. The prolific labours of his fellows threaten to crush his powers with the multitude of their discoveries. No single mind can in these days hope to master any considerable branch of human learning. The thinker must content himself with specializing on some one minute department of knowledge, and guard against the narrowness of the specialist by broad and general scientific culture.—*St. James's Gazette*.

THE *Economist* can hardly imagine a more intolerable position than that to which the British Government is reduced in Egypt. Lord Salisbury is compelled to keep a garrison in Lower Egypt, as well as on the river, for fear of disaffection; and 14,000 English soldiers are therefore locked up in the Nile Valley, half of them doing police work in a hot rice swamp, often unhealthy, and the other half cantoned in melancholy forts along the Nile, waiting for an enemy about whom the only thing known is, that when he fights, he fights with dangerous energy and determination. The whole force is lost to the United Kingdom; and though its expense is not all borne by the British Treasury, still a great deal of it is, including all transport, invaliding, and the supply of war material; while the burden on the Treasury of Cairo, which is accustomed to cheap troops, who get little wages and live on the country, is very nearly intolerable. If it continues, the finances of Egypt will go wrong again, while there is no visible time which any one can fix for terminating the effort. To follow the Arabs is to undertake an expedition to Khartoum, or even to Darfour; to retreat is to bring the whole host of the desert instantly into the field, flushed with an imaginary victory and a hope of plunder; while to remain still is to garrison a territory of no value at great expense, for a time which we are told experienced officials measure rather by years than by months. That is a lamentable waste of resources; yet the only remedy, the formation of an Egyptian army strong enough to defend the southern frontier for itself, appears to be as far off as ever.

SOME Tory wit makes fun of Mr. Chamberlain's bait to catch voters by offering the Government credit to secure for him three acres of land and a cow:—

O Acres three, O happy Acres three!  
 Promised to me!  
 (I wonder where exactly you will be,  
 My acres three.)  
 When Church is disendowed, of course you'll be  
 Tithe three, my three.  
 Rich loam I choose, nigh to my house and handy  
 (Let Smith's be sandy).  
 Then you will be, as I am well assured,  
 Richly manured.  
 Then why are you but three? Oh! why not four,  
 Or five, or more?

O Cow! O Cow! that promised art to all  
 By orators that every district stump,  
 To free the rustics from the landlord's thrall:  
 Art thou the same cow that once did jump  
 Over the moon? for much I fear, somehow,  
 That thou mayst prove all moonshine,  
 O my Cow!

THE Bishop of Chichester in a letter he has written to the Secretary of the Incorporated Free and Open Church Association states that the general support accorded by the newly-created electorate of the counties to the Liberal candidates was for the most part dictated by considerations of the positions the voters occupied in relation to the Church. Upon the aggregate result of the county poll the prelate deduces the lesson that the agricultural labourer resents, and justly, his virtual degradation in the Church which is his own. In other words, the exclusiveness too frequently, if not generally, manifested in the apportionment of the sittings in village churches, whereby the poor of the parish are driven, like social pariahs, into corners and distant benches, is the main and direct cause of the expressed resentment. In the country districts the parish church is the common possession, to which the entire community have an equal right and upon equal terms. In the infringement of this right and equality,

which long custom has to a great extent sanctioned, may be discerned a cause of that alienation on the part of the very poor which the Bishops and clergy never cease to deplore and have failed to arrest.

AN Irish correspondent of the *Times* shows how the Nationalist majorities were swelled at the election. In most places in Munster, he declares, the priests and the local officers of the National League were appointed polling-clerks and personation agents for the Parnellites. In the division where the writer acted as Conservative agent, 25 per cent. of the electors declared themselves illiterate. These men had to declare their vote before just the very persons who would be most certain to remember and to punish it. In Donegal another correspondent tells us that 60 to 70 per cent. of the electorate is illiterate, while even in Londonderry more than half the Nationalists voted *viva voce*, and not a few capable citizens could not even remember the name of the candidate for whom the priest had bidden them to vote. Yet even with such help as this the entire Parnellite vote, as "M.P." points out, is only 292,895, against 145,106 polled for the Unionists. Where are Mr. (Herbert) Gladstone's "five-sixths of the Irish people" pledged to Home Rule?

AUSTRIA, of all States in the world, is the one most odious in the eyes of Mr. Gladstone; and here is Mr. Gladstone in his old age trying to transform the British Constitution into the semblance of Austria-Hungary. Says the *Vienna Freie Presse*:

What Mr. Gladstone would offer is no longer Home Rule, but the inauguration of a particularist era in England on the worst model—that which has done so much mischief to Austria—the disintegration of the empire and a breaking away from the traditions which made England great. If this scheme were accomplished, not only would England's international position be shattered, but Mr. Gladstone's name would be associated with the destruction of the organism of the English Empire. He has frequently abused Austria, but now he imitates her where she is weakest. Dublin is to be for Great Britain what Prague and Lemberg are for Austria.

The Austrians have the excuse that their complicated and dangerous system was necessary. They had to make the best of a bad business. They did not voluntarily and gratuitously break an united country to pieces in order to make it a loose and unworkable federation.

CAPTIOUS critics in England fail to see where the reason for the Queen's telegram to General Prendergast can be found, as that General seems to have been quite as unable to grasp the situation at Mandalay as General McNeill was at the Arab zereba. The day after the occupation of Mandalay "a disgraceful scene of riot and bloodshed" occurred, and "more lives were lost than in any engagement during the expedition. The streets were occupied by gangs of armed Burmese, who looted and murdered almost unchecked." In addition to which, it is said that "the military arrangements were very deficient." England still smarts from the gigantic blunders of Lord Chelmsford in Africa, and the infamous mismanagement which sent out to the troops serving in Egypt brick-bats for hay, and plaster of Paris for flour.

It is gratifying to learn that England still enjoys an unapproached supremacy in one branch of industry—though it be only the manufacture of burglar's tools. Vienna has been in a state of great excitement in consequence of a robbery at Herr Granischstadten's, the great court jeweller, who has lost stock to the value of some £25,000. Burglary is rare in Vienna; the manner in which the houses are built and the house-porter system throwing exceptional difficulties in the way of that industry; but what seems really to stupefy the police is the breaking open of the safes. They say they never saw such a piece of work; and one of the detectives remarked, "Those English tools seem to cut through iron as if it were cheese."

THE election to the mayoralty at Toronto has resulted, after a contest of discreditable personality and bitterness, in a large majority for Mr. Howland. The day seems to have been carried by the Trade Union and Women's votes. The success is not claimed for either political party, and, as Mr. Howland upon coming forward renounced the Scott Act, it cannot be claimed for the Dominion Alliance, though the Prohibitionist vote was no doubt given solid for Mr. Howland, and the Prohibitionists were very active canvassers on his side. The constituencies for the Mayoralty and the Scott Act are different, women having no votes in Scott Act elections. The *Globe* itself speaks of the question of the Scott Act as having been dropped by common consent.