

expression to its solicitude regarding the health of Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Gladstone had had so illustrious a career, and his name was one which so justly commanded the sympathy of Italy, that a demonstration of such a sentiment by the Senate would certainly represent the feeling of all Italians. He proposed that the President and Vice-Presidents should send Mr. Gladstone a telegram expressing the sentiments he had mentioned, and conveying to him the sincerest wishes for his recovery. The motion was agreed to. The President remarked that he and the Vice-Presidents would feel it an honour to transmit the Senate's vote to Mr. Gladstone, for the latter was a man who did not belong to one nation alone, but to the whole of the civilised world. Mr. Gladstone had an especial claim on Italy, since at certain critical moments he had raised in her favour a voice which had found an echo in the consciences of all.

To this graceful expression of sympathy the President of the Italian Chamber received the following reply through the Italian Ambassador in London to the telegram of inquiry: "Mr. Gladstone's family are profoundly grateful for the kind message of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. There is no great change in Mr. Gladstone's condition, though he has latterly experienced great relief. He wishes me to tell you that he preserves unchanged his interest in all that touches the happiness and prosperity of Italy."

From bluff old President Kruger in South Africa there came a message condoling with Mr. Gladstone in his great affliction, and "trusting that the Lord will support and strengthen him." And the Pope, who was born only three months after Mr. Gladstone, was also concerned to learn of his contemporary's illness, which could not fail to interest the veteran Leo especially.

On March 29th the weather was sufficiently pleasant to induce Mr. Gladstone to go out in the garden for a short time. The sun was shining, and he was able to remain on the terrace for a brief period enjoying its warmth. His eldest daughter, Mrs. Wickham, wife of the Dean of Lincoln, joined the family at Hawarden. It was stated that Mr. Gladstone had been lately enjoying the reading of some of Sir Walter Scott's novels, which had always stood high in his favour, and from which he had quoted often in his public addresses. He liked listening, too, to the hymns played by the Rev. Stephen Gladstone; among them "Rock of Ages," "Lead, kindly Light," and "Jesu, Lover of my Soul," seemed to give him special pleasure.

At the annual meeting of the three Nonconformist Boards, held