

and in the manœuvres of parties to secure a vantage ground for the coming Presidential Election. Nothing passed but prodigate grants of public money in pensions, the real object of which was electoral corruption. Nations will have to face this problem, and to face it soon; if they fail to solve it, the disorganization of Parliamentary Government and the fall of Parliamentary Institutions are apparently only questions of time.

WITH the "mending or ending" of the House of Lords is likely to come the ending of the State Church of England. The threads of the two lives are closely entwined with each other. Leading Churchmen are not all blind to the approach of Disestablishment, nor do they all see it with dismay. Ritualists long to be free from the Act of Uniformity and from the lay authorities which enforce it. Bishop Abraham in a published sermon deprecates any present dealings with the organization of the Church courts on the ground that "Disestablishment is, as he in common with many others thinks, within measureable distance," and that it will be better to leave the Church when disestablished to deal freely with the whole question. He cites "one of the highest prelates in the land, and one who is better acquainted with the mind and feelings of the working classes in the mining and manufacturing counties than any of his brethren," as an authority for the statement that the classes about to be enfranchised, though not hostile to the Church as a Church, are hostile to the Establishment. Not the Radical artisans only, but the whole spirit of the age is plainly adverse to the interference of the State in matters of opinion either in the way of repression or support, and in favour of free and unbiassed conviction as our only guarantee for truth. Moreover, the differences between parties within the Church are fundamental, while their contentions are scandalous and disastrous. Still the statesman who, as the elect of the new constituency, may be called upon to carry out Disestablishment will have to use tenderness and caution. The manufacturing and mining districts are not England. Their population, with its activity of mind and its radicalism, is comparatively a recent growth. In the time of Charles I. those moorlands were thinly peopled, while such population as there was, instead of being Radical, had remained feudal and Royalist; only in a few towns, such as Bradford, Leeds and Manchester, where the germs of manufactures had appeared, did the Parliamentary leader find support. The ancient churches are few, the ancient endowments scanty in proportion to the vast masses of population now gathered in the manufacturing centres; the religious life of the people is largely organized in Nonconformity, while the Church of England may be said to be already almost on a voluntary footing, depending on the zeal and munificence of her own members far more than on State aid for the multiplication of her edifices and the extension of her efforts, both of which, during a recent period, have been great. In those districts, therefore, the shock would be comparatively slight; little would be affected beyond the political dignity of the prelates and clergy of the Establishment. But it would be far otherwise in the south of England and in the rural districts generally, where society has its immemorial centres in the cathedral and the parish church. There, Disestablishment would be a revolution indeed, social as well as ecclesiastical; while the religious life of the people, unless the transaction were wisely regulated, might be thrown for a time into confusion. Why did not Destiny assign the Disestablishment to Mr. Gladstone, instead of setting him to deal with such questions as those of Ireland and Egypt? No statesman was ever so fitted by genius and character for a work which would have gloriously crowned his illustrious career.

MARK PATTISON, who died the other day, besides being a man of singular erudition, a writer of great excellence, and a social figure of importance, was notable in the history of opinion. As an educationist he was the arch enemy of the examination system, and waged against it a somewhat indiscriminate war, forgetting that the bulk of students at a University not having, like himself, special gifts and tastes, needed something to supply them with a definite aim, a stimulus and a test, while the instrument, however coarse and defective, was the only one yet devised. In truth, he not only hated examinations, but regarded the educational functions of the University altogether with exceedingly little love. University revenues he desired to see devoted above all things to the Endowment of Research. The history of endowments was against him, and seemed to show that assured income and dignity were not usually spurs to intellectual toil; nor did his own example strengthen his case: though installed in a rich Headship, with nominal work and abundant leisure for research, he produced no book at all worthy of his learning. His "Life of Casaubon," though published after his appointment, had been written before it. Those who saw him or read his writings only in his later years would

hardly have believed that in the days of Newman's ascendancy at Oxford he had been one of the most ardent of the great Tractarian's disciples, and was supposed to have gone with him very near the brink of secession to Rome. He recoiled, however, and with a vengeance, as did others not a few; and having been swept by Tractarianism from his original moorings, it is doubtful whether he ever found another haven. He, however, defended Theism against Agnosticism. That anchor held.

A BYSTANDER.

HERE AND THERE.

THANKS, probably, in some measure to the cholera scare, the insanitary condition of Toronto Bay, which was pointed out in THE WEEK two months ago, has awakened the public mind to a sense of danger. The local prints contain almost daily reference to the nuisance caused by the discharge of sewage into the several slips—a primitive mode of drainage scarcely creditable to a city of over a hundred thousand of population. A moment's reflection on the varied purposes for which the Bay is used will suffice to show the importance of this matter. In the summer months it is continually covered by boats and vessels used in pursuit of pleasure or business, and the effluvia thrown off when a tropical sun beats down upon its still waters is inconceivably offensive and dangerous, rivalling even those of Cologne of odorous memory. It is the daily resort of bathers and amateur fishers, and the prey which falls to the lines of the latter can hardly be improved by the infusion of sewage which the water contains. In winter the Bay is an *el dorado* to the city ice-dealers, and to say the least it is not pleasant to think the iced-water one uses in the dog-days is flavoured with last year's sewage. And we may add to this, that the popular Island—one of Toronto's most valuable lungs—will rapidly depreciate if the waters which wash its shores are permitted to carry seeds of pestilence in solution. The matter is one that must eventually receive attention, and the sooner the better. There is no necessity to seriously disturb the existing system of drainage. An intercepting sewer might be run along the Esplanade to collect the refuse and carry it out to some central spot to be deodorized and discharged into the Lake or to adapt it for fertilizing purposes.

THERE is a decided impression in the popular mind of Toronto that electricity as a street illuminator is a failure. It may be that, in the near future, the electric light will generally supersede gas, but the hour is not yet. The light itself is not pleasant to look upon, and it gives a ghastly appearance to many objects, notably the human countenance. It is, moreover, cold, and does not throw so genial a glow upon the thoroughfares—a not unimportant feature in winter. Perched at the top of hideous poles, whose attaching wires swing about in ungraceful confusion, the electric candle wastes its sweetness and light in illuminating upper storeys, whilst when brought to a lower level, it is unpleasant to the eyes. Moreover, it casts a very black shadow, which the unsteadiness of the light makes exceedingly irritating. And, further, the slightest hitch in the machinery, or the merest tampering by a small boy, breaks the circuit and leaves whole districts in Egyptian darkness. In London, England, it was tried in the city, and was found wanting—three systems being under experiment at once. The authorities were glad to go back to the old familiar coal-gas—the more readily because the gas companies, put on their mettle by the competition, had purified their gas, put in additional and improved burners in the street lamps, and placed the pillars closer together. The consequence is that the "city" is to-day better and more cheaply lighted by gas than it ever was by electricity. If the Toronto gas company were to bestir itself in like manner—were to increase the number of lamps, put in from three to five patent burners to each pillar, and surmount each lamp by a reflector—it would be safe to predict that both authorities and citizens would gladly go back to illumination by gas.

THAT Hanlan, the idolized Canadian oarsman, has really been defeated on his merits by an unknown Australian sculler, no "Canuck" can yet be brought to believe. Many admirers declare that climatic influences must have contributed to his defeat; others openly say he must have sold the race. It is significant of the moral tone of the sporting world that the followers of an international champion should readily entertain so damaging a conjecture, and, reversing the old consolatory cry, swear that he is not beaten, though he may be dishonoured. This is the unfortunate tendency of sport now-a-days. Manly sports are productive of much good, and when engaged in by gentlemen in a rational manner, are free from objection. But the moment they are made a business of by professionals, and are made the medium of betting, honour and they part company, and the