

dreary and inhospitable country which stretches from it across the Russian frontier. The Bishop, even with his special passports, could hardly this time enter Russia, and when across the frontier could never have got on without the aid of a porter who had been in the States. No one knew German. From the last station in Prussia to the first in Russia is, he says, but a few yards, but these make all the difference. Race, language, appearance of all and every kind—even to the rolling stock of the railways, the stations, the very colour of the posts and the sentry boxes, which stand looking at one another across the little, nameless stream which divides the two great empires, all are different. . . . From the Baltic to the Black Sea extends a line of sentry boxes, three deep, at intervals of a rifle shot, so that fugitives escaping one line of rifle fire have to run the gauntlet of the other two. As soon as the train passes the rivulet, and it passes very slowly, Russian soldiers step upon the footboards on either side to prevent any possibility of passengers dropping out of the train without duly accredited passports. No racial change in all the world of travel can be more striking and complete than on passing this frontier.

Desecration.

The growth of wealth and luxury and the spread of knowledge is bringing about unexpected results. The discovery of the cope which Mr. J. P. Morgan bought in good faith shows that the desire of possession breeds theft in order to gratify it. Instead of admiring old things, and leaving them in their natural custody, the desire to acquire, accompanied with the means of purchase, is a growing evil. The Church Times said: "A correspondent informs us that he lately received a copy of the annual report of a local museum, in which it stated that the committee has been successful in obtaining good examples of Church plate—a paten, believed to be one of the oldest hall-marked pieces in the country, and a chalice from another church, obtained through the liberality of a gentleman who supplied the vicar and churchwardens with a replica. Our correspondent adds that he has himself been sounded by a frequenter of auction-rooms, and that it is becoming a common practice for collectors to make proposals to custodians of Church plate to buy their old examples at a price that would make it worth their while to part with them, and enable them to get modern substitutes quite as good as the originals. More than once we have called attention to these iniquitous proceedings, and we have reason to think that the evil, so far from being abated, is greatly on the increase. Interesting as are the books and illustrations describing and figuring the Church plate of the various dioceses, they have had the disastrous effect of exactly pointing out to unscrupulous collectors the most favourable hunting-grounds. This is a matter with which parishioners should concern themselves. They have so little left in their churches, as a rule, that their forefathers once lavishly gave, that they ought not to sanction by their apathy any further spoliation of the relics which give interest and distinction to their parish church. Otherwise it will not be long before the bulk of the Church plate of historic interest or value will have been removed from our altars to the shelves of private cabinets or public museums."

Irish Loss of Population.

England is not the only sufferer, the Church of Ireland Gazette says: "The statistics of Irish emigration for the first quarter of the present year are most appalling in their significance. During the three months 6,071 persons, of whom 5,680 were steerage passengers, left Queenstown for New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. For the corresponding period of last year the total

number was 2,243. It is computed that at least 80 per cent. of those who have left are emigrants in the strict sense, and that the majority are not yet twenty-one years of age. They come principally from Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Limerick, Kerry, and West Cork. Over 50 per cent. of them had their tickets sent to them by relatives in America, and at least 20 per cent. of the remainder got the money from America to purchase their tickets. There must be some definite cause for this terrible and increasing drain on the life-blood of Ireland. In spite of the gloomy pictures which are drawn for them of the fate of the Irish emigrant in the great cities of the United States, the people continue to prefer that fate to staying in Ireland, and their friends in America continue to tempt them away. Yet very many of them could get work at home, for it is pointed out that, in the districts from which they come, the demand for agricultural labour is much greater than the supply." The Gazette knows that so methodical has been the emigration in recent years that the boys and girls do not now go out to a strange land, but to friends and relatives who have preceded them.

FORWARD!

How cheering and encouraging to all lovers of, and workers in, the Church has been the outcome of the vestry meetings held on Easter Monday evening! Perhaps the feature which gave to one and all the deepest and truest satisfaction was the spirit of harmony and peace which everywhere prevailed. It recalled vividly to mind the old-time saying: "See how those Christians love one another." To refer to but one section of the Church, what "glad tidings," indeed, it must have been to the good Bishop of Toronto in a retirement enforced by illness to have realized that the good seed which he had for a quarter of a century so patiently, perseveringly and faithfully been sowing throughout his diocese was bearing such beneficent fruit. Men may conscientiously differ in opinion from one another and still be not unmindful that they are Christians and gentlemen. The large and gratifying measure of prosperity which the vestry meetings disclosed is solid and satisfactory proof that a revival, none the less real because quiet and orderly, is in evidence. An arousing and quickening of men's consciences; a stirring of their hearts; an awakening of their interest; an increasing spirit of self-denial, both in giving and working for the Church, are here as clearly and fully disclosed as the product proves the sum total of a column of figures accurately added together. Increased numbers in Church membership and communicants; mortgages paid off, or substantially reduced; larger stipends for rectors, curates or Church officials; in some places new churches being built or old churches enlarged; new organs being erected and ampler provision made in necessary church equipment—all mean earnest effort, steady progress, sincere and hearty co-operation amongst Church men and women. One of the noteworthy incidents of the vestry meetings was the large measure of support given to the proposed resolution to be brought before the next Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, advocating the compilation of a hymn book for general adoption and use by the Church in Canada. This is a distinct step in advance. It has always been a subject of regret that there should be more than one Hymnal used by our Church. The recent compilation of a revised edition of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" in England, and the strong protests which have appeared from authoritative sources as to the omission of some hymns and the inclusion of others, has led Canadian Churchmen to look askance at the prospect of a change in hymn books, which may prove far from satisfactory. From another point of view it may be urged with all due deference that

the time has come when our branch of the Church is competent to provide for our own distinctive use a book of praise which shall be adapted to the especial aspirations and needs of our own people. The genius of the Canadian Church, whilst in essentials in harmony with that of the Church of the Motherland, is undoubtedly influenced by the characteristic features of our own individual and national life. What may be well adapted to the aims and requirements of an old and matured State may be not in the same degree so well suited to a young and rapidly progressive Dominion. The time has, we think, fully come when in a large, generous and truly devotional spirit this important matter can be adequately and, on the whole, satisfactorily dealt with by the Church in Canada. We cannot be sufficiently thankful to Divine Providence that during the past year we, His children, have been so honoured and blessed, that success has attended our work and labour of love for Him in such a marked and encouraging degree. How gratifying it must be to those devoted and unsparing men and women who, in season and out of season, in storm or sunshine, through the cold of winter and the heat of summer, under discouragement, opposition, toil, weakness, and even despair, have bravely done their duty, now to be permitted, what has been so often denied to others, to see with their own eyes this large measure of success. But there is one stern, unyielding fact that faces us all. There must be no staying the hand! No sleeping at the post of duty. Von Moltke's watchword was, "Forward!" In the indomitable and persistent practice of his watchword lay the secret of his wonderful success. "Follow Me" is the command of our Divine Master. "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me." These are the marching orders which have won the success of the year that was; and they, and they alone, can win for us even greater success in the year that is. And the battle—and it is the only real battle of life—must be fought by each one of us, not to-morrow, or the day after. The word of consummate wisdom, of Truth inviolate, the word of the Lord is, "daily."

A STATESMAN'S VIEW OF CANADA.

Amongst the British statesmen who have held the office of Governor-General of Canada, and who, from education and training, from the knowledge and experience of men, affairs and countries acquired by those who help to direct and govern the Empire are qualified to express a weighty opinion on our country's future, Lord Grey does not rank lowest. It certainly calls for imaginative power—we had almost written prophetic insight—to appreciate the possible growth and development of our young and vigorous country. In our pride of ownership; consciousness of extent of our vast and varied territory; assurance of the energy and enterprise of our people, and the great progress already made on occasion, we are apt to speak of the time to come with a warmth and feeling that in our sober moments may appear somewhat excessive. But after reading the glowing speech of Lord Grey, delivered before the Toronto Club, in which that sober-minded, exemplary and progressive statesman used some enthusiastic expressions with regard to Canada, we feel more confident of our ground. "It is difficult for anyone," said the noble Lord—"even for a native born—to adequately appreciate the vastness of the Dominion, and when one realizes that a continuous rich belt of land, several thousand miles wide, stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, no man, however bold an imagination he may have, can venture to set a limit to the horizon of your future greatness. . . . The history of humanity all the world over has shown that the king-like qualities that adorn mankind are chiefly to be found among the

aces who in earth. So y congratulated try which is from your S engrossed i thoughts ma anxieties an in life, the av in retrospect project his t to come. B cate the cha to be profo foundation f perial mind what was a settled, with sified by me with civiliz tion insigni ritory, and like the an trapper and of the wilc raiment ar scene of n vanguard c steel road towns and by new an occupy the world's bes and charac of our gl mendment s great whe favour with regarded i is bound t the almos prove to c led Lord C to that in when bor with just that "it is keeping o trade, and is keeping ada does dollar to porary, ir fact, give by the su spent in I would no the Emp ships." question. will be b which Ca railway is for settle ducing p Canada : profit fro pockets. this road for by C car to sl sea, the brother and prot equivalent British knowing gain and way acree dred mil of an A one to reasonin sense, passed