

lured forth for themselves, may eventually be drawn by the cords of a deep and inextinguishable affection to return again to the maternal bosom, and to rejoice in the affection of a heart which has never ceased to regard them with a concern that time has failed to impart or circumstance destroy.

An Election Prayer.

A prayer that is peculiarly appropriate for general use before an election has been promulgated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for special use in Great Britain until after the general election has taken place. It is as follows:—"Most Gracious God, we humbly beseech Thee as for this kingdom in general, so especially at this time for all electors of members of Parliament, that remembering their vote to be a trust from Thee, they may faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve in the great council of the nation, to the advancement of Thy glory, the good of Thy Church, the safety, honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and his dominions; that all things may be so ordered and settled that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These and all other necessities for them, for us, and Thy whole Church, we humbly beg, in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour.—Amen." The acknowledgment that a vote is a trust from God and the aspiration that it may be faithfully and wisely used—leaves little to be desired. Such a prayer cannot fail to raise the tone of politics, and impart into them a proper spirit of reverence and responsibility.

Pied Pipers.

Edmund Selous, in "The Saturday Review," gives an interesting paper on "The Oyster Catcher." Amongst other things, he says:—"That long-continued succession of thin shrill notes which may be called the piping of the oyster-catcher, is one of the most interesting features of the bird's life and habits. To understand just what it expresses is often a difficulty, nor are matters greatly helped by realizing, as one comes to do in time, that it expresses everything—everything, that is to say, which rises above the dead-level of commonplace thought and emotion. Thus, besides being the ordinary, or, at any rate, the most effective vehicle of love, friendship, fellowship, anger, hatred, rivalry, it gives utterance also to the more generalized feelings of pleasure as well as of disquietude. Nor is it a mere register, so to speak, of emotions having their source elsewhere, but, like some favorite instrument in the hands of a master, has become itself an important business and main source of satisfaction in the bird's life—so that to the joy of eating, loving, living, there is added the joy of piping, equal, perhaps, if not superior to either of the other three. Thus in the earlier part of the breeding season, two birds which, in the circumstances, one must assume to be males and rivals, may often be seen piping together to one who makes no response, and by her general modesty, or coquetry, of deportment proclaims herself a female. The rivals do, indeed, sometimes end their musical displays by flying at each other, but the wonder is that they do not do this much oftener, and to a more venomous degree. Instead, they stand for a long time side by side, and piping with the greatest empressment, and when their Dulcinea walks away, as she does, after a time, with a coy step, they follow her, still in the same relative position, and without discontinuing the duet. This goes on till finally the female flies away, and all the time the performers seem much more filled with the spirit of emulation than with that of mere vulgar intolerance—one would say, indeed, that they not only enjoy piping; but enjoyed it still more in company.

English Emigration.

The Montreal "Herald" has a short editorial which deserves attention both here and in England. In England, because it foreshadows domestic changes, and in Canada, because it accentuates the need of Church-people being alive to the necessities of our immigrants, and not leaving them to the kindness of others. "The agency that did most to empty Ireland in the last half of the nineteenth century is now at work on England. It was the savings of the servant girl and the young labourer, ungrudgingly sent to those who remained at home, that enabled millions of poor men and women from Ireland to cross the ocean and find new homes on this continent. Ireland has been drained; the tide has almost ceased to flow. But England has many that could leave home with advantage to themselves. If they want to come, the final temptation for many will arrive at this Christmas season, for we are told that not less than \$25,000 a day is now passing through the Montreal postoffice bound for Great Britain alone, most of it is coming from Manitoba and the West. The advertising influence of that amount of money, made up as it is of small amounts, to be distributed to all parts of the islands, can hardly fail to be enormous. It is a clear call from the West, and is sure to be answered."

Canadian Migration.

It is a mistake to suppose that the North-West is filling up by emigration only, migration of our own people is a chief factor. And few are aware of the filling up of New Ontario. The railway officials know most about it, and provide in advance. A C.P.R. Montreal official said recently: "The exodus of Québec farmers to New Ontario is of more extensive proportions than the average person is aware. Our estimate is that we have carried 200 adults a month this year from points in Lower Quebec to New Ontario, and to Labelle County in Northern Quebec. With these heads of families have been many children, and the total number leaving Lower Quebec each month must be nearly 500. Some of the farmers do not leave the Province, but take up quarter-sections in Labelle. Most of them, however, take up land in New Ontario. Few of them go to Manitoba or to the North-West. Next year we anticipate even a greater exodus from Lower Quebec. Those who are changing their places of abode are good farmers, as a rule, but they have been compelled by dint of circumstances to get a living out of very small farms, and they are reasonably certain to do well when they have 160 acres to till."

Irish Emigration.

We mentioned the drying up of Irish emigration. The Roman Hierarchy have issued a circular signed by Cardinal Logue and two Bishops against it, they point out that for many years past the saddest aspect of Irish affairs has been reflected in the stream of emigration from every part of the country. Hence on more than one occasion the Bishops have publicly appealed to the young people not to allow themselves to be allured by the enticements with which letters from America are frequently filled to rush into the dangers of life in foreign cities, where too often the measure of success falls short of the high expectations the emigrant, and a considerable portion of those who go away could not succeed at all. Still the process of national exhaustion continues. Unfortunately the Bishops fail to indicate any substitute.

A good man is the best friend and therefore soonest to be chosen, longest to be retained, and indeed never to be parted with, unless he cease to be that for which he was chosen.

NOVEL TEACHING.

The world is so flooded with a diversity of opinion on almost every conceivable subject that one has to be perpetually on guard against partial or distorted views, and presentations of views, which are erroneous on matters of vital concern. It is so easy to take what we read or hear for granted if it is written in a pleasing and persuasive style, or spoken in an impressive manner, more especially if it be presented as the earnest conviction of the writer or speaker, and be accompanied by much with which we have no hesitation in agreeing. Our comments are called forth by the statement made in an article in a recent issue of a theological magazine, in which the writer, whose subject is "Why was Jesus baptized," says "This baptism of Jesus has nothing to do with any question as to whether you or I should be baptized." He has been considering the baptism of our Lord by St. John the Baptist. The act of our Lord Himself in being baptized, and the baptism of all those who entered His Church thereafter shows to any reverent and candid mind the truth on this important subject, and proves how intimate is the relationship between our Lord's baptism and that of each baptized reader of this paper. And for that part each baptized Christian the world over. How can it be possible that the baptism of our Lord has nothing to do with any question as to whether any one who wishes to become a Christian should be baptized? There has been no time in the history of the Church when Christians need to pay greater heed to the Church's teaching. It is of the utmost importance that their faith should be grounded on the truth. Not doctrine alone, but sound doctrine is needed, to enable one to stand firm in the faith of the fathers; to know and teach, and above all, to live the truth. We are well aware of the taunt of formalism, which is sometimes so glibly uttered. We are also aware that the unworthy reception of the means of grace, but increases the sin of the receiver; but on the other hand, their worthy reception is, and ever has been, the ordained way in which those who will to do God's will, are by Him enabled to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Giver of all good. The law and the testimony were the ancient landmarks of the Jewish Church. The means of grace, and their authoritative dispensation, are the true safeguards of the Christian Church to-day. And the teaching which leads the way-faring man to them can neither be unsound nor untrustworthy.

IMPERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Amongst the questions that are increasing in importance as time goes on, that are slowly but gradually influencing the minds of thoughtful and public-spirited men in all parts of the Empire, and that will inevitably have to be dealt with, is that of the manner in which a better organization of the Empire can be brought about, so that the responsibilities and duties which justly belong to all its parts, considered as a whole, may be fairly and wisely apportioned, having due regard to present conditions, and relations, as well as future needs, and developments so far as they can reasonably be anticipated. It is a large question calling for the exercise of tact, judgment, and statesman-like qualities of the highest order, involving as it does, the extending, strengthening, and improving of our inter-imperial relations without diminishing the existing local control. As these large constitutional questions face the British people, how thankful they ought to be that the liberty which has been won for them, and the privileges they enjoy, have begotten a broad and tolerant spirit, which enables them to face with calm patience, and confident determination, the

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