

and shallow; in his despair to find one reason to justify the action of the Lords, he flounders upon those very arguments which are the most cogent against its very existence. Any member of that antiquated portion of the British Legislature, before calling upon the shades of the Reform Bill, Irish Disestablishment, and every other measure of progress that has been passed during the present century, to appear and hold forth eloquently in defence of that august body, should remember that he is treading upon a mine that is liable to explode at any moment and scatter his pet to the four corners of the earth. No words of ours could give such a vivid picture of the political situation as the eloquent words of England's greatest statesman, addressed to the Midlothian Committee at Edinburgh. "For my part" said Mr. Gladstone "I find this retrospect sufficiently encouraging. If the nation is determined it will not be baffled by a phalanx of 500 Peers. We have the will of the country to execute, and cannot submit to the House of Lords: although they bear high-sounding titles and sit in a gilded chamber. The next session will not pass, without your seeing this subject again appearing above the waves, where it has for the moment appeared to founder. The nation has given us the authority and propelled us on our course, and it is our duty and our hope and belief that we shall find, with the help of the Almighty, means to reach the goal."

But now we turn to an article in the "N. A. Review" of real genuine merit entitled "Christian Faith and Scientific Freedom." Its author, Rev. J. A. Zahm, C.S.C. deserves unbounded praise for the masterly manner in which he demolishes the superficial arguments adduced to prove that the facts of science and the truths of religion are incompatible. He draws a salutary distinction, between intellectual freedom and intellectual license and shows that the most abject slaves to dogma and theory, are the disciples of the evolutionary and atheistical schools of thought. His conclusion is self-evident, for an atheist begins to study the sciences with a prejudiced mind, his sole object is to prove that religion is opposed to science, consequently all his efforts are directed to establish a precon-

ceived conclusion; a Christian on the contrary, studies nature as an open book in which, is indelibly written a faithful account of the origin of the world. We should always bear in mind the eloquent words addressed to the French Academy, by the learned Pasteur, upon his reception into that famous institution "If we were deprived of these conceptions,"—the truths of faith,—“the sciences would lose that grandeur which they draw from their secret relations with the infinite verities,” En passant, he shows that the popular impression that the Catholic Church is opposed to scientific freedom is a mere phantasm of prejudiced minds, by quoting the stubborn fact that the most illustrious scientists have ever been and are good, pious, practical Catholics. It is to be hoped that more of our learned professors and scientists, will follow in the foot steps of Rev. Father Zahm and wield the pen in defence of the mother-church and brush away the last cobwebs that obscure the refulgent light of never-changing Catholic truth.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO FOR 1892—Since the foundation of this society a few years ago it has steadily grown in numbers and importance. The society has undoubtedly done much to advance the study of Astronomy in Canada, which is sadly neglected. Our Canadian universities have almost entirely overlooked this interesting branch of science; yet, we think that this is the result of the lack of the funds necessary to procure a fully equipped observatory, and is not due to indifference of our college authorities. The report contains several papers that will amply repay a careful perusal. Those most deserving of mention are:—"A plea for the retention of the Terms "Atom" and "Molecule" and an essay on "Energy." In addition to this, the report contains many facts, which makes it very useful as a book of reference for students. We cannot agree however, with the suggestion of two of the members, that the elements of astronomy should be taught in high schools. We know from experience that the curriculum of our high schools is already overcrowded, and as a consequence the quality of some of the work accom-