These provisions are not free from difficulties, some of which are immediately apparent, while others would emerge when the scheme began It is quite true, for example, that, as regards Christian to be worked. doctrine, this scheme requires all that was demanded by the Church of the first four centuries; and it is a proper subject of inquiry whether the same would be sufficient in the present day, or whether we may not still need some of the safeguards against Roman teaching, which were introduced into all the reformed confessions of the sixteen century. For the laity there is certainly no such need; but the same could hardly be said of the clergy. It is quite true that no one who subscribed the first of these articles could teach or hold the Roman doctrine of authority; but they would not be precluded from teaching many doctrines which would be equally offensive to Protestant congregations. We will mention only Tran-substantiation and Purgatory. We can hardly believe that these were regarded by the Conference as open questions; yet the effect of these articles would be to place them in that position.

With regard to the Episcopate, where the difficulty seems so great, it may by and by turn out that this is the least of all the obstacles in the way The name of Bishop is hardly repulsive to Methodists, since, of Re-union. as we understand, the largest Methodist body in the world is the Methodist Episcopal Church in the States. To the Presbyterians, the word is undoubtedly more offensive: but in the present day it is so more in the nature of a decaying prejudice than as representing any strong practical conviction. In many cases bishops have less power than Presidents and Moderators, and it would be easy enough to define the limits of their power in the Constitution of the Church. Apart from this, the only difficulty is connected with their permanent tenure of office; and this may hereafter be regarded as advantageous. We doubt whether there are many English-speaking men in the world who regard the recurring elections of a President as more conducive to the well-being of a country than the life-long tenure of a sovereign. Here, indeed, we have a good illustration of what we have said as to episcopal powers. The President of the United States has more direct control over the working of the laws of the country than has the Queen of England; and there is no reason in the world why the superior officer of the Christian Church should have more power than an ordinary president, merely because he was called by a different name and ordained in a somewhat different manner. Time will show whether any way can be found of getting over the difficulty at

The third article is noticeable as omitting all reference to Confirmapresent felt. We humbly think that the Conference was quite right in so doing. Without entering upon the origin or utility of Confirmation, it is enough tion. to remark that it cannot be placed on the same level with the two great sacraments. It is impossible to say what may come out of these suggestions, or whether anything, and how long it will take to bring about such a union as is desired. It is obvious that, if we would hope for such a union as is desired. It is obvious that, if we would hope for ultimate Christian Union throughout the whole Church, it must first take effect among the reformed communions. Towards the working out of this consummation the Lambeth Conference have at last made a good beginning.

## IN A DARK HOUR.

Yes, yes, I know what you would say, and yet Life is so sweet, life is so very sweet ! Leaves dancing in the sun make quick the beat Of saddest heart, and love must still forget Life's toil and care, its fever and its fret. How blue the sky shines through the summer's heat ; How merrily the blood defies the sleet ; One golden day illumes a gray year. Let Those talk of tears who never knew relief; For me the hoarded honey of the past

Outlives the wintry interval of pain. Come loneliness, or lovelessness, or grief, The memory of days too sweet to last Shall make my heart run o'er with joy again.

A. ETHELWYN WETHERALD.

## LOUIS LLOYD'S LETTERS.

WITH all due respect to the gorgeous Rockies and the wonderful country beyond them which the C.P.R., has opened up for us, those odd, sprawling, ambitious prairie towns, those thriving foreign settlements need yield nothing in point of interest to the Pacific division of the road. Nature is there tempered with humanity, a heterogeneous humanity; and perhaps nowhere on earth can one better study Germans, French, or English than as they stand divorced from everything but national individuality, neither smoke, nor flaring gas, nor confusing din troubles the impression one might have of perhaps fifteen different peoples, each in its pristine condi-tion. tion. Regina and the surrounding country are peculiarly adapted to the Crofters, Germans, Russians, Alsatians and that genius popularly known as "the younger son," have all settled somewhere about. There are Canadians also, Canadians who show you of what marvels the land is a "

Travelling through the North-West an eastern dilettante must experiland is really capable. ence feelings similar to those of an esthetic parent contemplating his thirteen-year-old son. He is proudly enthusiastic, boundlessly hopeful,

but he is not charmed. In the smallest village there seems the principle of the town, and in the largest town the peripatetic cow has the right way.

Regina bears to Moosomin a relation not dissimilar to that which some successful merchant might bear to an equally successful farmer. The former expresses himself more coherently, his hands are whiter and his general appearance sleeker, but the mistakes he makes grate upon one with a harshness the latter's boorishness never approaches. Our room at Moosomin contained comb and soap-commodities well-bred people are supposed to carry with them, but little else. The youth slouched in to dine as if edging a way through brushwood, yet we found there more interest, more "character" as Garth Grafton would say, than where the front parlour could boast those ghastly results of civilization-the cambriquin and dumb-store.

Why Regina should be where it is, or why it should not be where it is, I cannot tell you. It will most probably stretch and stretch to the dividing line between sky and prairie, but there still seems no special reason for such growth as far as position is concerned. You search in vain a hill, a river worthy the name, and your eyes weary with wandering over interminable flatness, look again on the town, relieved as they would be contemplating a cluster of tents on the desert. However, the raison d' être of Regina becomes more apparent after visiting the luxuriant surrounding country. Regina itself, as I have already stated, appears sleekly successful. An aristocratic military contingent greatly quickens trade in the perfumery department of druggists' shops, and ultra fashionable maidservants keep merchants up to a point they might never attain if solely dependent on the conservative British dame.

It was our pleasure and duty to pay our respects at Government House before going any where else. Government House lies, yes, I may say lies, a mile from Regina. In driving to it we passed the Executive buildings and Indian office-unpretending wooden structures. The house itself is the funniest little rambling one-storied frame building. The modest approach is embellished with buffalo skulls. But once across the threshhold we find something infinitely more impressive than chilling stone and brick-a charming home made to speak welcome from every corner by the deft fingers of Mdlle. Royale. We can only predict success for a household, which, having so invaluable a member, will surely know how to combine hospitality with dignity; and, while making visitors feel thoroughly at home, will never allow them forget they are in Government House. Far from considering forms and ceremonies, meaningless absurdities except at Rideau, we would hold them the more necessary the less ostentatious are the gubernatorial buildings. Stronger than any free-and-easy, slipshod, lazy, democratic way of conducting affairs is the eternal fitness of things.

There are two farms near Regina, which, I suppose, may be counted among the finest in the Northwest. One belongs to an Ontario man, the other to an Englishman, and we found just that difference between them discernible between the work of a professional and an amateur. • In the first case, from parlour to dairy, from the uttermost verge of 1280 acres to the doorstep everything bespoke the farm. We entered a substantial, practical house, whose snowy floors were covered with "rag" carpets, and whose browned, blooming, vigorous master and mistress suggested nothing but marvellous crops, sunny butter, home-made bread and rare jam. They had no need to attempt to reconcile past finery with their present existence painfully an naturel. You were not asked to five o'clock tea, but you were invited to inspect the dairy, a dairy where the milk of twelve cows was kept and the butter therefrom. For this butter a very ready market could always be found in Regina. Indeed, were all the farmers' wives about to take more interest concerning the success of what seems peculiarly their domain, they would gain rapid rewards, for dairy produce is by no means plentiful, grain-growing having superseded every other enthusiasm. Our Ontario friends, you see, and people like them are really those wanted in the Northwest.

The English farm was quaintly pretty with its sweet, faint smelling front garden, too quaint, too pretty "for the like of us Nor' Westers. When you transfer the contents of a Bayswater drawing-room to a Canadian farm house one or the other must suffer. There were dainty conceits in, furniture and ornaments, and the refreshments so hospitably offered us were found delicious; but nobody could ever imagine our hostess at the churn, and her daughter, fresh-cheeked though she was, appeared too charming in shooting gear to follow the avocation of a raw-handed milk-maid. Thus we learned with no surprise the London gentleman had spent more money than his neighbour from Ontario, but that he owned less land and made smaller profits. A walk round the farm was curious, curious because things were shown us after much the same fashion in which an amateur might exhibit his curios. Some thoroughbred pigs were commented upon as if they had been bric-a-brac and the excellence of a "self binder" our English friend pointed out as he would have done the artistic points of a palanquin. The whole affair seemed far more like his "fad" than his means of subsistence. Two Indians we met on our tour were employed on the farm. They did not attempt to answer when addressed, but shot off towards their work in a quick, slippery, disconcerting way. As farm hands our guide found them very satisfactory, and gave each man a dollar or a dollar and a half per day. However opinions concerning the Indian in this capacity differ very materially, for one farmer vowed he would not have him near his premises.

Mr. James' five acre vegetable garden on the out-skirts of Regina is only another proof of the prairie's limitless capabilities. Its produce has taken first prizes every where. With opened mouthed awe we contemplate sixty-four pound cabbages, and so prodigiously luxuriant was the celery, that even the Right Honourable, the member for----quite failed to recog-