

HERE AND THERE.

In another column will be found a newspaper cutting describing the enthusiastic reception accorded to Mr. Gladstone both on his arrival in Scotland, where he had gone to give a series of political addresses, and whilst *en route*. When the British Premier went to the Land o' Cakes in the fall of 1879 to open his oratorical campaign against the "stronghold of the bold Buccleuch," his progress was described in an eloquent speech by Lord Rosebery as a "royal progress." His reception two weeks ago was not one whit less cordial, in the most effusive manner refuting the allegations of waning power wildly made by "the Scarlet Jingoets." The personal popularity of Mr. Gladstone is founded upon an enduring basis. Not only has he championed the cause of the people, but he has done so at enormous personal sacrifice. Probably no living statesman is so thoroughly hated by an aristocracy who would have been his slavish followers had he chosen the role of a time-server. The English working-classes of to-day, thanks to a cheap press and the march of education, are not dependent upon the squire or the professional politician for their knowledge of public affairs, and their love of fair play alone, even if they had not recognized the full value of his services, is sufficient to enlist their sympathies with the statesman who has dared so much—who has endured such obloquy—in the name of truth and justice. Mr. Gladstone, being within a few weeks of completing his seventy-fifth year, cannot be expected to undertake a regular round of speech-making; but his deliverances in Midlothian have been no less eagerly looked for by his political opponents than by his constituents, and unquestionably they must have great weight with both Houses of Parliament: being, indeed, in the nature of an ultimatum to the House of Lords. The announcement that Sir Stafford Northcote is to be put up as "an antidote to Gladstone" in Scotland bears more the impress of a satirical squib than of a serious cablegram. Certainly Ajax defied the lightning, and the U. E. Loyalists are to hold Canada against all comers; and just as well may the amiable but incompetent Tory leader attempt to counteract the effects of Mr. Gladstone's eloquence.

MR. GLADSTONE'S first address was given in Edinburgh, and after a passing reference to his declarations in 1879, from none of which he receded, the Premier went on to give an account of his course of action in promoting the speedy passing of the Franchise Bill. The rejection of that Bill had suggested to many minds the inquiry whether the time had come for an organic change in the constitution of the House of Lords. Into that question, however, it was not his intention to enter. What they wanted on that question was a national expression of opinion, in the constitutional form. He believed the House of Lords had not yet placed itself in a position of irretrievable error; that there was a possibility of its coming back, with dignity, and before long. His contention was that the Franchise Bill ought to be passed, because the extension of the franchise was a good in itself; though he had no doubt that with redistribution it would be made a much greater good. Next, he maintained that in a representative country the representative chamber ought to prevail. Further, he held that the condition which the Lords attached to the passing of the Bill was a condition which would place the whole subject at the absolute mercy of the minority in the House of Commons. He did not hesitate to say that those who were opposing the Government, and making use of this topic of redistribution as a means for defeating the Franchise Bill, knew quite well that had the Government been such idiots as to present to Parliament the two Bills for the two purposes, and to work them together as one measure, a disgraceful failure would have been the result. The Government were as fixed as ever in their purpose of first passing the Franchise Bill, and then a Redistribution Bill would follow as a matter of course. He denied the right of the House of Lords to say when a general election should take place. It was an innovation, and clamour for redistribution simply meant that the Tory party did not want either Bill to pass. He was not averse to an admixture of the hereditary principle in our constitution, but those who placed it in direct conflict with the elected chamber were its worst enemies. In later orations Mr. Gladstone made further references to the dead-lock, and showed how Lord Salisbury had systematically misrepresented his former Midlothian speeches. He also showed that the present state of affairs in Egypt was the natural outcome of the past policy of the Tory party. The most significant thing in connection with this "campaign," however, is that Mr. Gladstone has not "agitated." The moral of the Midlothian campaign is that he insists on his position as having the Sovereign, the House of Commons, and a united party on his side. He therefore will not dissolve until the Franchise Bill is passed—he would rather resign than dissolve. The conclusion is

foregone. The Lords must accept the humiliating position Lord Salisbury has placed them in with what grace they may.

MR. BIGGAR, M.P., the Irish "Patriot," speaking the other day at a meeting at Derrylin, County of Fermanagh, referred to the Dublin trials for scandalous crimes, and said:—"If the Government cared to have proved these crimes there was abundant proof available. He (Mr. Biggar) would say that the head of that gang who was morally responsible for this misconduct was Earl Spencer, for if Earl Spencer had honestly told the prosecutors in these cases to try and get an honest verdict, an honest verdict would have been had. Again, Earl Spencer knew of Myles Joyce's innocence before he was hanged. Since then two men had come forward and admitted that they had perjured themselves, and Lord Hartington promised an inquiry. But what occurred? The person appealed to was Earl Spencer, who himself should be in the criminal dock on the charge of murder. When the matter was put in Earl Spencer's hands they knew what sort of an investigation would take place. They could not expect Earl Spencer to criminate himself. Other men, Poole, and Barrett, and Walsh had been hanged innocently; but while they would no doubt prefer that the people they hanged should be guilty rather than innocent, the policy of Lord Spencer's government was to hang these people whether they were innocent or whether they were guilty." This is a sample of the brutal and mendacious stuff that is served out by vulgar firebrands to an excitable and ignorant people. A kinder man, or a more just, than Lord Spencer it would be difficult to name.

THE Roman Church has made such loud boasts of its converts that the secession of one of the most distinguished, who has joined the "rationalistic" school, deserves to be noted. Professor Paley, originally an Anglican (and a descendant of the celebrated archdeacon), joined the Roman communion in the first fervour of the Oxford movement. His works in the "Bibliotheca Classica" are monuments of classical culture, and in the Roman Church he was, in this department, without a rival. He became Professor of Classics in Monsignor Capel's College at Kensington. Recently he has followed in the steps of Mr. Froude and other eminent men, and left the fold of authority for what may be called the fraternity of free thought. In the last number of a weekly Unitarian serial he pointedly assails the Roman doctrines on purgatory and eternal punishment. These he rejects as unworthy fictions. There are great minds in the Catholic Church, yet it seems hard for that Church long to retain or to justify the allegiance of men of high scholarship if accompanied by the power and practice of independent investigation. Professor Paley's case certainly invites this reflection.

THE extreme Anglophobic attitude of the French press is annoying some of the best friends of France much more than it does England. The "war correspondent" is not yet become a familiar institution of French journalism, and, having no representatives of their own in China, Parisian papers now quarrel with the war news they get *via* London. Frenchmen no doubt fret inwardly at the huge Franco-Annam-Chinese undertaking which they find thrown upon their hands, the end of which is not yet; but why they should vent their ill-humour upon England is not apparent. The strain which this puerile policy puts upon the *entente cordiale* must be highly diverting to Bismarck, whose prayer for years has been for an opportunity to sow distrust between England and France. Neither Tunis nor Egypt furnished the desired occasion, and the real friends of both countries will hope he may have no better success in connection with the Chinese difficulty. All, however, depends upon France. The Chancellor desires her isolation from the rest of Europe, and unfortunately *la Republique* appears likely to play the game of Germany.

THE calm weather of the last "heated term" had the effect of causing the races of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club to be postponed three times. The first fixture was for the 6th September, but instead of rolling over the waters of Lake Ontario the gallant yachtsmen of the Club were compelled to disport themselves on shore, and were, many of them, seen sailing in the wake of "lively craft" who had come to enjoy the "At Home" given in the Club House. This was a success. There were fields to walk through, bright skies, brighter eyes (much occupied, be it said, with some typical developments of the British Association), and all the usual accompaniments which make so pleasant these garden parties. As the Toronto Yacht Club was equally unfortunate in having still water on the following Monday, the two Clubs agreed to combine their regattas and let the winners of each match take the prizes given by both Clubs. On Thursday there was a commanding breeze, and the yachts of the first class started fairly, and after spinning