

Lord. Its quartette choir is certainly in good voice, its organ well played, and its selections of music, so far as they indicated the taste of its musical director, appeared to be unobjectionable. But at the distance at which the present auditor was placed, the indistinctness of the utterance of the singers was so great as exceedingly to mar the effect of the service. One singing, for example, which was unannounced, and to which thus no clew was offered, it proved impossible to identify. More than one hearer complained that, aside from not recognizing the words, and receiving any impulse toward any emotion whatever from them, they found it impossible even to identify the language of which they formed a part—as being Latin, English, or some other. Surely it is not too much to ask for, and to insist upon, such distinctness of utterance as would make such a complaint impossible. Why is not Paul's saying [1 Cor. xiv : 11] as applicable to singing, as to praying or exhorting : "If then I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be to him that singeth a barbarian, and he that singeth will be a barbarian unto me" ?

THE JESUIT BILL has been voted on in Parliament. We are ashamed of our Parliament. A chaplain of one of the American State Legislatures once prayed, "Lord, keep us from despising our rulers ; and keep them from so acting that we can't help despising them !" And we need that prayer now. In the meanwhile, by pulpit, platform and press, many of our ministers have been freely speaking their minds on the subject. Among others, Rev. H. D. Hunter, of London, has been preaching on the subject. In the third and fourth sermons of a series on the subject, Mr. Hunter gave "six reasons why the Bill should never have passed ; and why it should now be annulled." These were, briefly—(1) Because it was without one shadow of justification in *civil* righteousness. (2) It was equally without justification in *moral* righteousness. (3) While professing to settle everything, it settled nothing. (4) Because it recognized a foreign and alien power in the legislation of a British Province. (5) Because the Bill denies the validity of Britain's claim to this country, which it won on the plains of Abraham. (6) Because it recognizes the incorporation of an order which should never have been incorporated.

SOME British writer drew attention the other day to the large number of admirable men who have borne the patronymic of "John" : as Knox, Hampden, Milton, Owen, Bunyan, Howard and Williams. It may be a fancy merely, but it always to us seemed as-

sociated with strength and honesty of purpose ; as witness, Roaf and Climie, among ourselves, not to speak of several living examples. And now two of the strong and wise brotherhood of *Johns* have passed away—John Bright and John Ericsson. Bright will be remembered for ages to come, as the great untitled Tribune of the People ; and the querulousness of his two or three later years will all be forgotten in the grandeur, the honesty and the power of his efforts for the liberties of England. Ericsson was an Inventor : that, and nothing else ; but that pre-eminently. His giving the artificial draft to steam furnaces, his successful adaptation of the screw-propeller, and his turning the attention of the world to solar heat as a motive power, all entitle him to the gratitude of mankind. We do not include his remarkable invention of the "monitor" turret in naval warfare—for in this he did not leave mankind better than he found them ; the true test of philanthropy.

ANOTHER BUBBLE BURST.—The great Copper Syndicate. Davie Crockett used to say, "*Be sure you're right ; then straight ahead !*" But these "copper kings" neither paused to think whether they were morally right ? or even commercially safe ? They had an immense capital ; they had a binding agreement with all the chief mining Companies ; they would hoard the copper till it got scarce ; and then they would sell it, at prices, and in quantities, to suit themselves. But in these days of invention, when copper got dear, manufacturers used something else ; and now the price is down, and there is no market for it ; and the Syndicate has burst, losing some thirty million dollars. The Bank of France has taken over the whole affair, to save a dangerous commotion in France. It is well. There will be an end of these selfish "syndicates" by and bye. In the meantime the McShanes, who advertise in our columns, will be able to furnish Church Bells at a cheap rate : a fact concerning which, our people building new churches, would do well to enquire.

ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS.—At the end of the year we struck from our list all names five dollars or more in arrears. In June, we intend striking off all names *four* dollars in arrears ; and thus gradually work down to a cash basis. No copies are now sent outside the Dominion till paid in advance.