

fidence as the Prince seems determined to prove himself. Well will it be for Christian England if the agitation through which she is now passing shall result in the awakening of a sense of shame in the heart of her prospective ruler, a shame that shall pave the way for him to his people's honor. Well were it if the pledge demanded of Sir William Gordon-Cumming after the discovery, or asserted discovery, of his acts of cheating, should be taken by, if not demanded of, His Royal Highness. But what a commentary on the condition of things, that subjects should be compelled to encourage their future sovereign to set them a worthy example in virtue! This is the darker side of the picture. The brighter is that there should be a disposition to do this; that the conscience of the nation is still to the front; that the cry is from the national conscience to the monarch-to-be, and not from the monarch-to-be to the national conscience, Come up higher.

Rotary Clerkships.

AMONG the questions which have been started by the recent agitation in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is one which has a bearing on the interests of all our representative ecclesiastical bodies. As can readily be seen, the continuance in office for an indefinite period of one man who has, in a sense at least, a managerial authority and power, has a tendency to develop in him, though it may be unconsciously, the autocratic spirit. Fully informed as to the mind of the members of the denomination, which he represents, long before the time for action comes, he has it in his power, according to the bias of his individual mind, either to forward or to thwart the general purpose or desire of such denomination by the influence he may bring to bear in the constitution of committees that may have to deal with questions that are under discussion. This is not to stigmatize him as wanting in judicial fairness. He simply acts

upon his judgment of what is best under existing circumstances. As almost invariably he is the adviser of the presiding officer, who, of necessity, does not know the composition of the body choosing him to his high office, he has the opportunity of stamping his individuality upon the results of the session by his suggestions as to who shall be appointed to committee work. And so from year to year his power not only continues, but increases, as he familiarizes himself more and more with the views of the representative members of his denominational body, until his will becomes its law.

This is a danger which ought to be obviated. It can be done by adopting a system of rotation in clerkships. Let it be the law of our ecclesiastical bodies that no individual shall be allowed to hold office, say, for more than five successive years. Let there be progression through the office of permanent clerkship to that of stated clerkship, the former being preparatory to the latter. This will do away with all occasion for the charge of undue influence on the part of the individual. It will suppress the tendency to fault-finding and bitterness which are too apt to succeed the sessions of our assemblies, conferences, and associations. And, more than all else, it will serve to close the mouths of those without, who are ever ready to find in the Church evidences of the same underhanded wire-pulling and the same unworthy, tricky methods that disgrace our political caucuses and conventions.

An English Prohibition District.

PERHAPS it is not generally known that in a certain district in England, with a population of over 50,000, there has been a practical testing of the working of prohibition for some years past, the results of which have been so satisfactory that no one would think of proposing a change. The district referred to is North Toxteth, in the parliamentary borough of Liverpool.