

ful, patriotic Queen. She has done her duty as much almost by what she has not done, as by what she has actually accomplished. She has known when to interfere, and when to abstain from interposing. Consequently the State chariot has moved on without check or delay. There has been no jar between the Sovereign and her Ministers or her people. And yet she has not been a mere nobody. All this has been now said over and over again; and it is hardly worth while to repeat it here once more.

Wonderful, indeed, is the progress which has been made in the British Empire since the accession of Queen Victoria. Some one has said that science was but in its infancy fifty years ago; and, if the remark needs qualification, it is quite true of many branches of science. It is indeed astonishing to think what has been done within the Queen's reign. The marvels of the Electric Telegraph alone would mark it out as an epoch during which the whole method of communication between nations was revolutionised. As far as the conveyance of intelligence is concerned, time and space are practically annihilated. The influence of this change on modern civilization is incalculable. The barriers between nations are broken down. National peculiarities are being modified, and men are more and more considering themselves citizens of the world. But there is much more to come in the future than has yet appeared, much more of brotherhood and peace and love.

If again we think of the literature of this last half-century, we cannot doubt that it will hold its own with the productions of any similar period in our history. To a great extent it is the same with Art. If we have no contemporary architecture that will match the splendid production of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, it may yet be said that, during no like period, has there been so great progress in architecture as during the present reign.

As regards the material increase of the Empire, it is prodigious. Whilst the population of France has been almost stationary, that of the self-governing British dependencies has increased from three to nine millions. The increase of the home population, in addition to the multitudes who have gone forth to the Colonies and to the United States, has been over eight millions. As regards the increase in wealth, that is a subject which cannot be dealt with here, except at one point, the material progress of Ireland. It is frequently said that British rule is ruining Ireland, and impoverishing the unhappy people more and more. Here are some facts. In 1852 the revenue was under four millions and a half, in 1885 it was over seven millions and a half. In 1852 the value of live stock was under 31 millions, in 1885 it was over 60 millions. In the earlier period the excise duties was a million and a half, in the latter they were four millions and a half, that is three times as much. One other fact, in 1862 the deposits in the various banks were £16,556,000; in 1886

they were £341,623,000, more than double the amount of four years before.

It would be easy to enumerate reasons after reasons for astonishment and thankfulness for the goodness of God to the great Empire of which we form part. But we must turn for a moment to the future, and consider what we may hope for in regard to the future development of the great nation over which Queen Victoria presides.

In the first place, we must hope and strive for the Consolidation of the Empire. Union is strength. The present attempts to disintegrate the Empire are to be resisted strenuously and persistently. They are foolish and unpatriotic. They can be productive of nothing but mischief. If the thing could be accomplished, it would be the undoing of the work of centuries; and, although it might not be the ruin of England, it would be the destruction of her place among the nations. Home Rule, in Mr. Parnell's sense and Mr. Gladstone's sense, cannot be permitted or thought of by those who love England, or Scotland, or Ireland. Imperial Federation is a scheme somewhat more vague. Yet something may be done. Many sober and thoughtful English people are beginning to think that free trade has been carried too far; and it is not unlikely that some attempt may be made to establish a fiscal union between the various parts of the Empire.

To this subject we may return again.

M. A.

CONVOCATION.

The Annual Convocation this year was a decided improvement on those of former years, there being just enough fun interspersed to enliven the proceedings without at all interfering with them.

A feature of great interest was the presentation of Bishop Anson, of Qu'Appelle, and the Bishop-elect of Saskatchewan, for the honorary degree of D. C. L. The reverend gentlemen were presented to the Chancellor by our popular classical professor with Latin orations.

The Chancellor, in his speech, referred to the Federation question. The Government not being disposed to make compensation to Trinity for the great expense she would be put to in removing the buildings, the corporation had decided that it would be in our best interest for Trinity to remain out of the Federation. In closing he alluded, in a very touching manner, to the death of the late scholar and judge, Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron.

Professor Goldwin Smith being asked to "say a few words," made a very humorous speech, complimenting the Chancellor on his gorgeous apparel, and suggesting that on such occasions as the present he (the Chancellor) should be preceded by the college mace. He then gave the "gentlemen in the gallery" some sensible advice on reading for