

Empress his mother is not concerned, may be strong, but it may still be questioned as to whether his entry upon the position referred to would tend to promote the peace of the world or to improve the relations that exist between the German and English speaking peoples.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES BRADLAUGH. The death is announced of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, Mr. Bradlaugh was notorious for a good deal, some of which was not of ill repute. As the fruits, for example, of his service as a soldier in Ireland, which was also among his experiences, he has left on record

deeply pathetic details of eviction. The part also taken by him during the Franco-German war in attempting to stir up sympathy for the weaker country must be remembered to his credit. He had, moreover, on the whole, though with some little failure, been friendly to the Irish cause in Parliament. It is, however, to be feared that what will chiefly keep his memory green is the part taken by him as an extreme leader of Freethought. With this character was associated, for example, his derision of the Parliamentary oath and the series of assaults on the House of Commons, in which he afterwards figured. As a man of advanced Freethought, he was associated with the hardly less renowned Mrs. Besant in the publication of a certain unsavoury book—for which he, together with the lady in question, was prosecuted. Mrs. Besant, with the common unsteadiness of error, has joined the sect of the Theosophists, and is now busily engaged in aiding Madame Blavatsky and other shining lights to propagate in Europe a devotion to the tenets, or the fancied tenets, of Buddha. In what phase of opinion Mr. Bradlaugh has died we are unable to say, but we see little grounds for a hope that he had altered his mind for the better. In certain particulars, nevertheless, we may think kindly of him, and those are the particulars we shall prefer to keep before us.

CONTRADICTORY RESULTS. It seems that the meeting at which Lord Carrington deprecated, for the present at least, all thoughts of Imperial federation, had been preceded by another meeting, held in East London, the distinctive residence of the masses, at which very different conclusions were come to. We may remark, in passing, that the presence of the Prince of Wales at Lord Carrington's meeting adds emphasis to what we said last week as to the want of wisdom shown by the author of the paper in referring in a threatening manner to the Böhning Sea difficulty. The approval apparently given by His Royal Highness to the reference in question could not fail to be resented in America. The working men of the East-end, however, see in the project for Imperial federation all that is hopeful and deserving of support. It is to be feared nevertheless, that the circumstances that give rise to this hopeful view are just those that among ourselves may produce a contrary effect. One of the speakers at the meeting alluded to described the matter as one of bread and butter,—the explanation being necessarily that in London working-men look upon federation as providing for their competing on equal terms with—or to put it more prettily, sharing in the advantages enjoyed by workingmen, in the colonies. We doubt, however, as to whether the spirit of brotherhood prevails as fully as this must imply. Among those less favourably situated, and who have everything to gain, it may, indeed, be quite up to the mark, but among those who possibly have a good deal to lose, the case is probably quite different. We know at least, that such is the state of things where America is concerned. To hear those speak, for example, who argue in favour of protection, one might think that the Atlantic separated the children of Adam from a race clearly traced to the original gorilla. Our suspicion is that, on the matter being put to the proof, something of the same kind might be found to prevail among ourselves. Our conclusion is, therefore, that different in tenour as these meetings were from each other, their effect may be found to be the same. The eagerness of the London workingmen, considering its meaning, may aid towards the carrying out of the advice given by Lord Carrington—that Imperial federation should not for the present be looked upon as practical.

PRETTYLY NAMED. *Absit omen!* Was there no one to speak a word in favour of innocence in jeopardy? We hope, at least, in the interests of justice and fair play, that the baby squalled lustily. Lady Onslow's baby, in short, has just been christened Victor Alexander Herbert Huia. Well, God save her Most Gracious Majesty, who, as god-mother, gave the first two names. There is nothing any one can find fault with in her choice. To the credit of the noble house of Onslow, also, the third name, which, we are told, belongs to their family, has no harm in it. The fourth, however, is formidable and gruesome enough, like the lean kine of Pharaoh's dream, to swallow up all the others and not be a bit the better of it. Huia, the name of a celebrated fighting chief, from whom were descended the warriors Rauparaha and Rangihaua! There are associations into which to bring a decent Christian child. Who are his god-fathers and god-mothers? We do

not, of course, speak of her Majesty the Queen, who can do no wrong, who, indeed, as we see, did her part worthily. But if that child ever forgives the others, he will have more Christianity in him than they are accountable for. Fighting chiefs and tattooed heads, and Maori ovens—these are associations for a child to become acquainted with when he comes to the use of his senses—and the more sense he gets the madder he will be. As well christen him "Cannibal" straight out. Why the child cannot suck his thumb without giving his nurse a turn. It is enough to set his teeth on an edge before he cuts them.

A DOUBTFUL SYSTEM. WHAT must necessarily make us look with a good deal of apprehension on the increasing cry for Socialistic institutions is the spirit of hatred against religion that the sect in its highest development continues to display. We find, for example, that the Socialists of Paris have lately held an orgy in which a blasphemous mockery of Christian baptism took place and where the Catholic Church was fiercely denounced. But when we know that a source is poisoned we naturally distrust what flows from it even at a distance. Socialism had its origin in France, and in its origin was hostile to the Catholic Church, as we perceive it still continues. It would be very necessary for us then, in accepting even any modification of it, to be assured that religion was secure against any attack resulting from its success. As things are, however, is such the case? The answer, we fear, must be in the negative. It is at least suspicious that a majority of the declared advocates of Socialism among ourselves, are also the declared supporters of godlessness and have expressed themselves determined to maintain a system, designed at the fountain-head of their sect in its malevolent form for the destruction of religion. Such blasphemous ceremonies, therefore, as that to which we have alluded must give Catholics, or, indeed, all sincere and consistent Christians, room to pause while they inquire as to the bonds which may possibly bind all branches of the sect together, and which may be, nay, if we judge by certain appearances are, of such a nature as to make it incumbent on all who desire the preservation of Christianity to repudiate connection with the adherents of the system referred to and to offer it their determined opposition.

DANGEROUS FOLLY. THE case of a Chinaman committed for trial in Dunedin on a charge of manslaughter by thrusting a bamboo rod into the stomach of a young fellow who had made him the object of some horse-play, should furnish a further warning as to the danger attending on such doubtful sport. A case of a somewhat similar kind, in which a frolicsome lad also came by his death, it may be remembered, occurred a few months ago near Wellington. We do not know that Chinamen, as a rule, are the virtuous characters that we occasionally hear them described as being; but, at least under the circumstances in which they find themselves placed in these colonies, they are generally quiet and inoffensive when let alone. Things perhaps might be different were they more numerous; and there are certainly sufficient reasons for the steps taken to prevent their becoming so. When provoked, however, they are not controlled by the same standards of right and wrong that must more or less influence the conduct of men who have been reared among Christian surroundings, and they must be regarded as less capable of restraining themselves. The folly, therefore, as well as the impropriety, of assaulting them even in play is evident, and those who do so must be prepared to bear the consequences.

ORANGE LOYALTY. "THE voice of Ulster—or what passes for it—(says *Truth* of December 4) expressed itself in an engaging tone at a recent meeting of Orange electors in Belfast. Under the presidency of the amiable Dr. Kane the following resolution was adopted:—'We pledge ourselves to resist by force of arms, to the last extremity, any attempt by the Legislature or otherwise to place us under the domination of our open and implacable enemies.' 'By the Legislature or otherwise,' observe! A truly edifying ebullition of loyalty to the Imperial Parliament! And, unless the paper from which I quote the above is incorrect, Mr. Arnold Forster, one of the high priests of law and order, was present, and did not dissent when this resolution was passed.'—Sir Walter Scott, we may add, in his recently published journal, draws a striking contrast between the Princess Victoria of Kent and the Prince whom loyal Orangemen would have placed on the throne instead of her. The Duke of Cumberland he describes as an impudent, swearing, brat, brought up in a barrack-yard.

The *Boston Pilot* has been purchased by Mr. Patrick Donahoe, editor of *Donahoe's Magazine*, who owned the property a number of years ago. It passed out of Mr. Donahoe's hands when he became financially embarrassed. Owing to this complication Archbishop Williams took hold of the property and made John Boyle O'Reilly its editor. Under the management of Mr. O'Reilly the paper made money, and the depositors received back all the money they had invested. Mr. Donahoe will take control at once.