



THE EMPIRE.

The reorganization of the Navy is to be thorough, and the addition in point both of ships and men allowed for in the very liberal estimates should insure Britain retaining her proud position as Mistress of the Seas. No less a sum than £34,457,000 is to be spent for this purpose during 1903—4. Some ten millions of this enormous sum will be devoted to the building of new ships. These, we are told by cable, are to consist of three battleships, four first-class armoured cruisers, three first-class cruisers, four scouts, fifteen torpedo boat destroyers, and ten submarines. The proposed addition of men is some 4,600. Much needed reform in the training of men is also promised. It is evidently the intention not to be caught napping as the War Office was at the commencement of the Boer war. The general feeling is that the proportion of land and sea forces requires adjustment, and that the Army should be reduced in favour of the Navy now that Britain's interests, sundered by so many miles of ocean, are growing more and more valuable at a phenomenal rate of progress. This heavy additional expenditure on the defence of the Empire may prove to hasten more than any other means the good time when arbitration shall take the place of war among the nations of the earth.

Church people at Home are much exercised over the lack of discipline

in the Church of England, which has enabled clergymen to adopt practices that are described as eccentric and extravagant by those who wish to draw it mildly. The matter was made the subject of a Parliamentary discussion, a Bill having been introduced "To strengthen the existing machinery for depriving contumacious offenders of their benefices, and to abolish the bishops' power to veto prosecutions." It would be well for the interests of religion if extremists in any direction amongst the clergy of all denominations could be put down with a high hand, as they only give cause for the enemy to blaspheme and create divisions amongst adherents, when the tendency of followers of the Great Expounder of brotherly love should undoubtedly be rather the amalgamation of existing sects.

The death of Dr. George Granville Bradley, late Dean of Westminster, followed very shortly after his resignation of his office, which he had evidently postponed to enable him to take part in the Coronation. Unlike many of the men of the old school who held high places in the Church, he was ever ready to march with the times instead of adhering rigidly to mouldy traditions. Besides this tolerance and sympathy with enlightened advancement and a most genial manner, the late dean possessed business ability of no mean order, and the great improvement in the financial position of the