

have a right to take the Scripture lessons recommended by the Bible Study Union, exactly as any publisher has a right to take lessons recommended by the International Committee, and make them the basis of lesson papers. What is covered by the copyright is the treatment of the Scripture, furnished in the one case by Mr. Blakeslee, in the other case by the editor of the "Sunday-School Times" and by other editors. While the "Sunday-School Times" is attacking Mr. Blakeslee and the Bible Study Union, and imputing unworthy motives to them, the International Lesson Committee is adopting some of the fundamental principles involved in the Blakeslee System. At a meeting of that Committee recently held in Philadelphia, it was resolved to indicate a longer lesson than has been common, and so to state the topic as to show the historical connection and progress, marking certain selected verses which may be printed in the "Helps" and be the sole lesson for those who prefer short ones. It was also resolved to prepare for 1896 a separate course of primary lessons. This concession to the demand which has been increasingly made for a change in the International course comes late and comes grudgingly. It ought at least to be accompanied with a frank recognition of the service rendered to the churches by Mr. Blakeslee, in really coercing the International Committee to adopt a method which no persuasion and no criticism sufficed to induce it to consider.

The depression of trade has caused deficits everywhere even in Great Britain, and the Liberal Ministry, which desired to abolish the taxes on the "breakfast-table," has been obliged instead to increase taxation. The burden of this increase it divides between the propertied classes and the working classes. The latter it would reach by an increase of twelve cents a gallon on spirits and twelve cents a barrel on beer; the former it would reach by a slight increase in the income tax and a considerable increase in the tax upon large inheritances. The proposed taxes upon the working classes, it will be observed, fall exclusively upon intoxicants, and therefore exclusively upon their luxuries. In like manner, the proposed taxes upon the propertied classes are so arranged that the burdens will be lighter rather than heavier upon incomes merely sufficient to provide the necessities and comforts of life. The income tax is so changed that it will be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., instead of 3 per cent., on incomes above \$2,500, but on incomes less than that amount a portion ranging from \$500 to \$700 will be exempt. This exemption is greater than heretofore, and indicates a strengthening of the popular feeling that incomes merely adequate for healthful living should be lightly taxed. The smallest income taxed will be, as before, \$750, but the possessor will be taxed on only \$50 instead of \$150. In the inheritance tax the reform proposed is still more far-reaching. The Administration proposes that the complicated inheritance taxes shall be consolidated, and that the taxation be made progressive—the rate rising from 1 per cent. on estates between \$500 and \$2,500 to 8 per cent. on estates above \$5,000,000. Estates less than \$500 will be, as heretofore, exempt. The last Conservative Chancellor, Mr. Goschen, partially recognized the progressive principle by imposing an additional 1 per cent. on all estates above \$50,000. Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the Liberal Chancellor, in the present budget boldly avows this principle, and we may expect soon to see it an established part of the tax system of Great Britain, just as it is already of the systems of Switzerland, Australia, and, in some degree, also of Canada. Such progressive taxes, while socialistic in the sense that

they help to equalize the distribution of wealth, are anti-socialistic in the sense that they widen its distribution and preserve the principle of property and make its operation more beneficial.

Cabinet crises continue to be the order of the day in Europe. We reported last week the recent resignation of the Egyptian Ministry and the fact that the English Commissioner had practically nominated the new Ministry. In Holland, where it was expected that the Queen Regent would avoid a dissolution of Parliament and form some kind of a coalition ministry, on account of the failure of the bill extending the franchise, a dissolution has actually taken place; the Minister of Foreign Affairs has resigned, but the rest of the Cabinet remains intact. Liberal opinion seems to favor the action of the Ministry, as do also the Catholics and the group known as Anti-revolutionaries. No details of the results of the general election held last week have yet been received. In Belgium the Ministry resigned after a defeat on the question of proportional representation, but the situation gained an element of humor from the fact that there was no one into whose hands the Ministry could place their resignations, the King having quietly slipped off to Switzerland incognito, without leaving his address. This ministerial episode may delay for a little the parliamentary reform now being carried through in Belgium, but it is not likely to be of any serious moment. The Minister of the Interior becomes Premier in the new Cabinet, and the chief function will apparently be to conduct affairs pending the holding of the general election. In Austria there are premonitions of an approaching Cabinet crisis in connection with the Reform Bill. In Serbia the ministerial crisis was brought about by the resignation of the Finance Minister. The situation in that country does not look any more peaceful than when it was reported in these columns in some detail not long ago. The taxes are falling more and more into arrears, and there is no disposition, apparently, to pay them.

The long parliamentary struggle in Denmark, extending over about twenty years, has been recently brought to an end. The Ministry and the Upper House on one side and the Lower House of Parliament on the other have been in sharp antagonism. For nine years past the latter has exercised its power over the finances to refuse to vote supplies. The Government has raised money provisionally by royal decree, and so, by subjecting the Constitution to a strain which it could not have borne indefinitely, the Government has managed to get on in the face of an adverse majority in Parliament. From 1884 to 1890 there was a complete deadlock between the two Houses. In the latter year, however, a number of "Moderate Liberals" came to the support of the Ministry on other questions than financial ones. The death of the Radical leader, Mr. Berg, very seriously diminished the strength of the Radicals, and the general election held two years ago involved a still further loss. The struggle has now been brought to an end by a compromise over the question which has been at issue from the start—the question of army estimates. Mr. Estrup, the veteran Conservative leader, has taken advantage of the Conservative triumph to retire from active politics. This is one of the few instances in recent times in which the progressive party has been defeated after a long struggle, and this defeat is due undoubtedly to the great personal popularity of the King. A settlement secured by such influences is not, however, likely to be permanent.

We briefly noted last week the proclamation of a protectorate in Uganda. Speke and Stanley first introduced this.

interesting region to the world. Then came an era of attempted civilization by the British East African Company, with its capital of ten million dollars and its force of pioneers. A year ago they declared that Uganda was too large a burden on private enterprise, and asked the Government to assume control, to save not only the missionary stations on Victoria Nyanza and the lives of the converts, but also the lives and property of the natives, who had now upon them the horrors of war as a result of blunders which were frankly avowed to have been committed by the Company's agents. Not the least evil was the unhappy strife between Protestants and Romanists. A railway from Mombasa to Lake Victoria Nyanza, a distance of about seven hundred miles, is also a growing necessity, and could not be carried out by the Company's enterprise. Quickly following the report of the late Sir Gerald Portal, a fortnight since, came the tidings, after a five months' journey, that Major Owen, of the Company's forces, had defeated the Kabaka (King) of Unyoro. Now we have the long-expected announcement by Sir William Harcourt, in the House of Commons, that Uganda has been placed under a British protectorate, consisting of a regular administration by a Royal Commissioner, with a staff of officers and the present force of Soudanese soldiers. As had been pointed out long since, England really could do nothing else, as otherwise France or the Congo State would eagerly grasp the opportunity of seizing the country. Sir Gerald's recommendation, coinciding exactly with public sentiment, has thus decided an already decided Government to retain Uganda; and it is to be hoped that the Rosebery policy of 1894 in Africa will be more firm and consistent than was that of the Gladstone Cabinet in 1885. England may have no more Gordons to lose, but she could ill afford to part with the Cromers and Owens and Rhodeses who are the pioneers and pillars of Anglo-African civilization.



GENERAL NEWS.—The Evicted Tenants Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on Thursday of last week by Mr. John Morley; it sets up a Board of Arbitrators in Ireland having the functions of a Land Court; the exact provisions of the bill we shall discuss next week.—The House of Commons by a very large majority last week voted in favor of continuing the present grant of £10,000 yearly to the Duke of Edinburgh; the proposition to discontinue the grant was based on the assertion that the Duke of Edinburgh is now really a foreign reigning monarch.—The Grand Duke Ernest Louis of Hesse on Thursday of last week married, at Coburg, his cousin, the Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe-Coburg; the festivities were on a large scale, and a great number of royal and princely personages were present. Other royal marriages to take place before long will be those of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen to Prince Josephine, the daughter of the Count of Flanders (May 22), and that of the Czarewitch of Russia and Princess Alix of Hesse; the betrothal of the latter couple has just been announced.—Very severe earthquakes were felt throughout Greece last week; the city of Thebes was almost wholly destroyed, and in Athens many buildings were thrown down; at first it was reported that there had been little or no loss of life, but as the smaller towns and country districts are heard from it becomes evident that a good many lives were lost, while the destruction of property has been enormous.—The last events in the Brazilian war occurred last week, when Admiral Mello went to Buenos Ayres with five vessels and surrendered them to the Argentine Government, which has passed them over to President Peixoto; it is

now known that the insurgent battle-ship Aquidaban was sunk by torpedoes on April 16, in an engagement with Federal cruisers.—The Hon. Thomas J. Jarvis has been appointed to the United States Senatorship from North Carolina, made vacant by the recent death of Senator Vance, and has accepted the appointment.—Jesse Seligman, the New York banker, and head of the firm of J. & W. Seligman & Co., died at Coronado Beach, Cal., on April 23.—The Bishop of Autun, France, has been elevated to the Cardinalate.—Émile Carnot, the French Anarchist under arrest in London, has confessed that he plotted to blow up the Royal Exchange.—Members of all the Catholic orders, except the Jesuits, will be allowed to re-enter Germany.



## Professor Adolf Harnack

We surrender large space this week to an article by Professor Adolf Harnack. The publication of this article in one respect violates the traditions of *The Outlook*, for it is a reply to criticisms which *The Outlook* has not published, and which probably most of our readers have never seen. But, replying, as it does, to a rationalistic critic on the one side, and to a Roman Catholic critic on the other, it affords an admirable statement of the principles and an admirable illustration of the spirit of the New Orthodoxy, as distinguished from those of rationalism at one extreme and ecclesiasticism at the other. And this is an important service to render, because so-called liberalism is continually assuming to rebuke the New Orthodoxy as not being consistently liberal, and ecclesiasticism is as continually attacking it as a disguised infidelity.

Adolf Harnack is the son of Theodosius Harnack, a Lutheran theologian, who was for many years the Professor of Practical Theology at the University at Dorpat. He had born to him on May 7, 1851, in Dorpat, twin sons, both of whom became teachers. Adolf studied theology in Dorpat, and took his degree in 1872. In 1879 he was called to the University of Giessen, where he soon attracted attention as a lecturer on Church History; in 1886 he was called to Marburg; and in 1889 to Berlin, where now, at the age of forty-two, he ranks as the first of living Church historians. The late Dr. Schaff said of him that he was "the ablest of Neander's successors." He is one of the most prolific writers of the day, and in this respect is like Dr. Schaff. Among his first published works was "A Criticism of the Sources of the History of Gnosticism," published in 1873. Then followed his edition of the "Apostolic Fathers," in which Professors Gebhardt and Zahn assisted. In 1880 appeared his "Monasticism: Its Ideals and History;" in the next year, the first of his contributions to a large work, which has now reached its tenth volume, on "Texts and Studies in the History of Early Christian Literature." This great work has been issued in co-operation with Professor Gebhardt, and many of the ablest young scholars have contributed to it. In 1884 Professor Harnack published the newly discovered "Didache," and in 1886 the first volume of his "History of Dogma" was given to the public. This last at once attracted the attention of Church historians and theologians of every land. A second edition of the first volume soon followed, and the other two volumes were published within three years. It is safe to say that no work in theology during this generation has created so much of a sensation as this last work. Professor Harnack is a joint editor with Professor Emil Schürer of the "Theologischer Literaturzeitung," which they started in 1881. His last work, "A History of Ante-Nicene Christian Literature,"