

what devastating and reactionary consequences have all through history flowed from the legal notion of "the Absolute State." The idea that the State cannot contain within itself any corporate body characterized by the intrinsic capacity of organic growth, but that at each step the power to develop its own constitution must be craved from the supreme civil authority, and if imparted can be imparted by that civil authority alone, has been the cause of untold mischief in the past. But now for the first time Parliament is acknowledging a free Church *as a Church* and not merely as a trust company, and near the heart of the very Act where this fateful acknowledgement is proclaimed the words are set that nothing which is being done for the Church of Scotland is to prejudice the recognition of other Churches. It is for these to take on their own behalf the constitutional freedom now won. The reverberation of this jurisprudential novelty in other quarters will be awaited with keen interest. It cannot fail, to take but one instance, to affect in the profoundest way the legal status of Trade Unions.

MY GARDEN-HOME

REV. J. W. A. NICHOLSON.

I have built me a home in the vast out-of-doors,
 With the sky for its roof and the grass for its floors.
 The lilacs and the snowballs weave a border to my plot,
 The willows and weigelias build a glorious little grot;
 Flooded with silvery sunshine, or embowered in gorgeous gloom,
 Compassed by billowy foliage and by wealth of wondrous bloom,
 Beneath a stately maple, and within this billowy bower,
 I watch the subtle alchemy of sunshine, soil, and shower,
 And feel the throbbing pulse of life through many a thoughtful hour.

Upon the balmy atmosphere—the soft surrounding air—
 The garden-elves swing censers with incense rich and rare
 Distilled in tinted chalices of flowers fresh and fair.
 Here in sunshine or in shadow I enjoy God's out-of-doors;
 With handshake welcome comers, and with Godspeed bless the goers.
 Here radiantly happy in work-time and at play,
 Night follows eerie twilight, and mystic dawn gives place to day,
 And here the Giver of all Good, as host and guest, abides always.