

takes half-a-day, and the reclamation of untended valleys. These done, an immediate multiplication in the number of cattle maintainable would take place, and if cleanliness were but made compulsory in native dairies, their produce would speedily find its way into the waiting markets of the South. An even more immediate effect would follow the application of the principles of co-operation to the conduct of trade, and to the reaping of a vastly increased share of the boundless harvest of the sea. The position of the island is specially favourable, since it stands at the very portal of the Polar Seas, from which proceeds so great a portion of the food which the denizens of the deep require. Let these be linked with the regulation, or better still, the extinction, of the liquor traffic, especially that in beer and spirits; and a genuine national turning unto Him from whom all blessings flow, and the pessimistic picture of Iceland's dismal future will fade at once before the brightening gleams of the better time that's coming.



THE CATHEDRAL AND PARLIAMENT HOUSE, REYKJAVÍK.

But we must examine somewhat more closely the principal buildings. The church is fairly lofty, substantially erected, but plain, and certainly not able to contain above a fifth of the population; from whence it appears that attendance at public worship is not as general as in many a country parish; but that is a difference not confined to Iceland. Some gaudy robes are preserved as relics of the past. The font is pointed out, a gift to Iceland from Thorwaldsen, as an inscription testifies:—'*Opus hoc Roma fecit et islundia, terræ sibi gentiliacæ, pietatis causa donavit Albertus Thorwaldsen. —Anno mdcccxxvii.*' The Icelanders are mightily proud of 'our only sculptor,' though the possession was but indirect, for, according to tradition, his birthplace was the North Atlantic, somewhere between Reykjavik and Copenhagen, where he landed in 1770. His father was a wood-carver, and, so far as that branch of the art is concerned, Iceland even now is not without exponents of the craft. Young Thorwaldsen began with figure-heads for ships, but having gained a gold medal at the Copenhagen