

To Chepstow, thence to the Castle of Caerphilly.

*Aug. 17th.* Farringford. Mr Darwin called, and seemed to be very kindly, unworldly, and agreeable. A. said to him, "Your theory of Evolution does not make against Christianity": and Darwin answered, "No, certainly not." In the afternoon the Dean of Chichester and Sir William Wood (afterwards Lord Hatherley) called. It was very interesting to see the old friends together. Dr Hook asked A. to read "Enoch Arden." He replied he could not to-day. Dr Hook thereupon began in fun to read it so badly that A. clutched the book, "No, I cannot stand that," and read it all to them.

*Sept. 9th.* A. read me a bit of his "San Graal," which he has now begun.

*Sept. 11th.* He read me more of the "San Graal": very fine. We drove on the Down. Kingfishers and oyster-catchers seen. Last night he went to Mr Pritchard's to look thro' his telescope, and was charmed with the Nebula in Hercules, "that mighty firmament"; and with Jupiter and his four moons "filling all the field," and as he said "more *homey*" — the planet seeming so much more akin to earth.

*Sept. 14th.* He has almost finished the "San Graal" in about a week (he had seen the subject clearly for some time). It came like a breath of inspiration. I was pleased to think that the Queen and the Crown Princess wished him to write it.

*Sept. 23rd.* We took Lionel to Eton, and left him in Mr Stone's house. At Mr Warre's request A. read the "San Graal" MS complete in the garden.

Of his views on the Irish Church Bill I wrote to Mr W. C. Bennett:

"We look with anxiety to the Irish Church Bill, feeling that the only wise course, as far as we see, is to retain the Endowment, apportioning part to the English Church in Ireland, part to Educational purposes, or any other equally sacred for the good of the Roman Catholics.

Any severance of Church and State is, we think, above all things to be deprecated, as fostering the common tendency to look upon parts of man as man instead of the whole being. I write this seeing how much interest you take in politics, and feeling how much we all ought to take."