

have nothing to do with politics. They look upon politics as a game of grab in which both parties are equally unscrupulous and dishonest, and therefore they think it the duty of Christians to stand by and not to touch the unclean thing. Even if the political sentiment of our country is as low as they say, does this justify their want of public spirit? Shall we close our eyes and fold our hands and allow the profane, the irreligious, the ungodly, to choose our law-makers? Would this be bringing about the fulfilment of the text? Slavery to a political party is a great evil. It puts the caucus in place of conscience and has well nigh driven God out of politics. Many vote for whomever candidate happens to be brought out by their political party without any reference to the candidate's personal fitness or unfitness for the position. He may be a drunkard, a profane swearer, a Sabbath breaker, a man who has no fear of God or love of righteousness, but if the caucus selects him he receives the vote of the partizan without regard to character."

"It is a burning shame to Christians that they pay so little attention to their holy religion in exercising the franchise. Our politics have degenerated into a cesspool of corruption. The hooding and bribery, the personation, frauds and corruption that abound are enough to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every true Canadian. The remedy lies largely with the Church. Unless the Church throws off her indifference and arouses herself to cry aloud and spare not, the cancer will spread and the fate of the corrupt nations of antiquity will be ours."

"Be it yours, my friends, always to proclaim in politics and in everything else, the glorious truth that Christianity is not an idle sentiment or a system of cold abstraction, but a power that shows itself grandly in the domestic, the social, the religious and the political life of a people. It ennobles every department of life, making the polling booth as sacred as the prayer meeting and the act of voting an act of worship."

#### The Call of Isaiah.

Preaching the sermon at the induction of Rev. A. H. MacGillivray into the pastorate of First church, Chatham, Rev. J. C. Little said: The vision of Isaiah, was a great lesson to us all that we might understand what God required of us. It is today as it was in olden times, we must in order to be qualified to serve God have had a vision of him. That is, we must see God as he is in all his power and glory. In order to be a minister of God this was especially necessary. How can we rightly serve God if we have not the right conception of him? We learn from the vision of Isaiah the manner in which we are to serve. Isaiah's vision taught the followers of Christ two things especially, namely, reverence and humility. In these days of hustle and strife we are in danger of losing much of the reverence manifested in the earlier days. Humility, the second lesson taught by the vision of Isaiah, is that we humble ourselves, as the seraphims did in the vision. We must have in our mind's eye a vision of Christ and understand how humble we must appear in his presence. The more we see of Christ by service the less we will think of ourselves, and like Isaiah, we will plead our sin and unworthiness. It is the consciousness of sin that weakens the efforts of the soldiers of Christ often-times. We must remember that our sins are forgivable, and our eyes should not be darkened by our own dependency. The minister who stands before his congregation Sunday after Sunday must be conscious of his power behind him; and as David wrote psalm

should speak as though God was at his elbow. The world needs this presence of God more to-day than ever and it is the duty of his ministers to keep him ever before the people. In this he must have the assistance of this congregation, otherwise his teachings will be of no avail. They must lend him an attentive ear and encourage him in his work. The spirit of God is the essential that would make them successful.

#### "She Hath Done What She Could."

Taking as his text Matt. 26, 14 Dr. Herridge appealed for sympathy not only for the poorer but also for their richer brethren. Though the selling of the ointment would have brought aid in raiment and food to many in need, the sympathy shown in giving it to Jesus made Him stronger and better able to do the work before Him. There are many opportunities when pecuniary aid may be offered, but every occasion when sympathy may be given should be treasured. Similar aid cannot be rendered all men, for all men are not equal. As indolence and incompetency seem inseparable from poverty, indiscriminate giving is not advisable. Dr. Herridge then spoke of poverty of intellect and of morals, and said that while the great masses were average in both, sympathy was needed for both extremes. We are generally willing to be tolerant with the laggard, but help the stronger men! "She hath done what she could."

#### "The Curse of Canada."

Speaking recently on "The proper attitude of Christians towards the liquor traffic," Rev. J. R. Dabson, St. Giles, Montreal, did not mince matters. He did not think there was any doubt as to the attitude of Christians towards the lumber, tea or silk trade; neither, to-day, was there much difference of opinion regarding slave trading or the opium business. There was not, however, the same unanimity respecting the liquor traffic. It was bad, only bad, and always bad, and he believed that Christians and people in general were nearer unanimity to-day on this subject than twenty, ten, or even five years ago. The public conscience was, though it seemed slow, being educated to regard the liquor traffic as the giant evil of the age, and it was the growing conviction and determination that it must be stamped out and banished from our country in the early years of this century.

The speaker recently saw, in the rooms of a city curing club, the picture of a club from Scotland which visited Montreal a year or two ago. Prominently situated in the centre of the group was the chaplain of the club, a minister of the Gospel, and the picture was the attractive feature of a calendar used to advertise a brand of Scotch whiskey. And the minister was not an abstainer, and made no pretensions to being one. The speaker had some Scotch blood in him, and it tingled with shame at the sight. It had caused many a sneering remark by people who were struck with the incongruity of the situation from the Canadian point of view.

Another picture appearing daily in a section of the press depicted a whiskey bottle clothed as a Highlander and dancing a jig. The glory of our land is tarnished, because from it to all lands flows that which blasts and withers our people everywhere. Thirty years hence—God grant it may be less—I prophecy there will be few, if any, men in this Dominion who will favor the liquor traffic. Sentiment is keen to the sense of right. Already the vendors of intoxicants are beginning to hide their heads and apologize for their business. And we must keep up the agitation; we must educate the conscience of the rising generation; we must shame people out of the ruinous traffic and urge the

adoption of legislation that will effectively crush it. If all could see it as some of us do, it would soon be destroyed.

#### Lindsay W. F. M. Presbyterial.

The twenty-second annual meeting of this society was held in the Presbyterian church, Woodville, on Friday the 12th January. Notwithstanding the cold weather, there were representatives from all the auxiliaries, with the exception of three or four; while those in the immediate vicinity were largely represented. The reports submitted by the secretaries of each department showed advancement, and excellent work done during the year. The amount contributed by auxiliaries is over a hundred dollars in excess of last year. Contributed by auxiliaries this year \$1,745.39, while the mission bands have given about the same as last year, \$202.64. The total being \$1,947.94. Clothing valued at \$502.73 was sent to the North West. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Robinson, Beaverton; 1st Vice-Pres. Mrs. Stewart, Lindsay; 2nd Vice Pres. Mrs. Kannawin, Woodville; 3rd Vice-Pres. Mrs. Martin, Cannington; 4th Vice-Pres. Mrs. Armstrong, Zephyr; Rec. Sec. Mrs. Bascon, Uxbridge; Cor.-Sec. Miss Lena Campbell, Gamebridge; Treasurer, Mrs. C. C. McPhaden, Cannington; Sec. of Supplies, Mrs. Gilbertson, Beaverton; Sec. of Literature, Miss Slight, Lindsay; Sec. of Mission Bands Mrs. Baldwin, Sunderland. At the afternoon session, the large church was filled to the doors. Interest centered on Miss Sinclair, of Indore, India, who is an exceedingly pleasing and effective speaker. She gave a most graphic and interesting account of the rescue of the famine children, and their subsequent training in the different orphanages and training schools opened for them. The ladies also had the pleasure of having a few words from one of our own members, Miss Agnes Dickson of F. Nelson Falls, who has been accepted by the Foreign Mission Committee, and will shortly go to our Mission in Macao, Southern China. The Rev. Mr. Mitchell of Honan, China, also spoke very briefly, after which a vote of thanks to the speakers and to the Ladies of Woodville for their hospitality was passed, and the meeting brought to a close, by the Rev. Mr. Mitchell pronouncing the benediction.

The evening meeting was also largely attended. The Rev. Mr. Kannawin presided. The report to Presbytery was read by Miss Campbell, secretary, and was received and replied to by Rev. Mr. Martin, Cannington. The Rev. Mr. Mitchell of Honan, in a most interesting address, told of the missionaries return to their former fields, after the restoration of peace following the Boxer uprising to find their property destroyed, but the attitude of the officials completely changed. Before they opposed, now they assisted. He spoke of the encouragements in the work, the opening of new centres, the willingness of the people to hear the message brought to them and also the discouragement met in delivering the message.

We trust the result that will follow the two thoughtful and earnest addresses given that day, will lead to a deeper interest than ever being taken and more earnest prayer offered on behalf of all our missionaries, in those two large fields, which they occupy for Christ and the church.