

Congregationalism, as our correspondent from the late National Council suggested, may after all be too busy discussing Cambridge platforms, Andover trusts, polity and creed, forgetting its fundamental principle, without which Independency is a lie, that a church is composed of Christians, men, women, children, whose hearts God hath touched, and His Spirit quickened. Speaking of this state of things the editor of *Words and Weapons* adds, with perhaps more of truth than pleasantness: "We do not wonder that the pastors of some of these churches are anxious that sinners should have the opportunity of repenting and being converted in the next world."

WRITING thus, we however do not endorse an indiscriminate cry against work which shows no conversion. There is a spring and an autumn season, with a summer intervening. And the principle of counting converts has its evil. Who is to be the judge of conversion? At an evangelistic meeting where we were present an invitation was given for those who *desired* salvation to stand up. As one after another arose, the exultant evangelist cried out, "The Lord be praised, another soul saved." Balaam *desired* to die the death of the righteous; he died the death of the sinner. How many converts are thus counted? Let us work on in faith, be earnest, true; let us sow beside all waters, and witness ever for the truth; nothing good can die. Christ ever lives, and as sure as there is a God in heaven we shall reap if we faint not.

BEFORE our next issue the elections for the Ontario Legislature will be over. The political papers are full of electioneering appeals—mad appeals to prejudice and partyism. The great cry is Roman Catholic influence. Let no one be deceived. As parties stand at present, neither side is prepared to ignore the solid Roman Catholic vote. A new order of things must arise ere that influence is put aside, and the man who changes his vote on *that* issue changes to no purpose. We do want a more healthy Protestant tone, that is undoubted. We can only attain thereto by a more firm reliance upon the truths of God's word, and by sending them forth. The steady shining of Gospel light, without political influence or sword, put the darkness of Pagan Rome to flight; the firm, consistent witnessing to the faith for which our fathers suffered will do the same now with all sacerdotalism, cant and

unrighteousness. Not by might of sword, or power of a popular vote, but by the Spirit of our God we win the day.

We want no aid of barricade

To show a front to wrong;

We have a citadel in truth,

More durable and strong.

Calm words, great thoughts, unflinching faith,

Have never striven in vain;

They've won our battles many a time,

And so they shall again.

THERE is no question as to the bitterness of party strife in Canada, nor, for the matter of that, in England or the United States either. It would appear as if we were not content with the subjects of controversy and party difference in our own land, but we must import from the Old Country subjects of fresh dissensions and increased animosities. That these serve the purpose of some party politicians there is no doubt; but why should Christian men, why should ministers of the Gospel, endeavour to arouse by passionate appeals the prejudices and hatred of one section of the country against another? We allude more especially just now to the Irish Question. Surely it is something worse than bad taste for a light of the English Church to denounce Mr. Gladstone in regular stump-orator style, and for a Methodist and a Congregational minister to be sanctioning with their presence and voice such utterances. We may depend upon it that English statesmen are capable of settling the affairs of Ireland without the aid of these clerical legislators; all their talk is waste breath; it will not weigh a feather in the final adjudication of the matter, and can only produce bad feeling and division here. Party politics give us another great evil just now; it is that religion, education and questions of social amelioration are all made the battle-field of partisans. How to get votes, how to retain power, how to overthrow this or that ministry and get into its place, is the all-absorbing question. Accordingly we have the Protestant horse stalked out, and made to do service by those who care for Protestantism just as much as they do for the man in the moon; or Romanism is stroked and petted and indulged, that the votes of its followers may be secured. So with education; it is safe to say that this is considered only from a party point, and the highest interests of our children are jeopardized for the sake of attacking the other party. Nor does Temperance escape.