

Presbyterian News Co TORONTO

The Presbyterian Review

Announcement for 1888.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 29th, 1887

THE ANTI-POVERTY MOVEMENT AND RELIGION.

WE are far from endorsing the Henry George theories concerning land, and the raising of the national revenue and other necessary funds for social and municipal purposes by a tax on land alone.

under which the working masses both in the old and new world are groaning. It will not do to impute selfish motives. There may be some who would expect to enrich themselves, but no matter whatever may be the motives of the advocates, argument must be met by argument and not by abusive imputation of evil intentions.

That poverty will remain, land or no land, so long as men are viciously inclined and are unable to control their lusts and passions must be admitted, hence the need of moral education. In this western world, where land is abundant and cheap, it seems strange to attribute poverty to the want of land.

But it is the bearing of these matters on Religion that to the Christian is the most important question. Have truth and right and love the full sway to which they are entitled? Or is it true that our laws and social institutions justify the poverty-stricken, toiling millions in regarding the religion of Jesus as opposed to them, and Christians as their enemies?

This we know is not the religion of Christ. Is it the religion of the churches? Are we to acknowledge high and low as in God's sight? Are the rich to be lords in the church? Must the poor pay tithes to support a well-fed and arrogant priesthood?

What, then, is the need of our day? To teach men, not about Churches, but about God in Christ. To tell them that the only true religion is love to God and man; that any religion that is opposed to truth, or justice, or right, or love is not of God—is not religion at all.

them that any religion which countenances the breach of God's law or Christ's precepts, is not true religion, is not of God. To tell them that God is the universal Father, that all men are brethren, and that those who despise the poor are not Christ's disciples.

If these views of true religion were prevalent, the hostility of the labouring classes would cease and the religion of Jesus would be embraced. The wrongs done by, and the unchristian conduct of many who pass for Christians, and are often lauded for ostentatious zeal for a church, are the immediate cause of what seems to be opposition to Christianity.

TEMPERANCE MATTERS.

THE Rev. D. J. Macdonnell's sermons on drinking have provoked wide comment. The anti-temperance press is pleased. Some temperance advocates, like Rev. Dr. McCurdy in the Mail, labour to make Mr. Macdonnell's position appear as not injurious to the temperance cause.

Such occurrences as the shooting affray at Myrtle a few days ago bring to mind the prophecy of Mr. King Dodds in his showy speeches against the adoption of the Scott Act.

ing of Brown. We pass no judgment as to who was guilty of the shooting; but there is no question as to who began the quarrel, and as to the cowardly nature of the attack.

At a time, therefore, when the liquor interest is more than usually active and malignant, when, too, some pulpits are giving forth a very uncertain sound regarding the use of wine as a beverage, and when persistent efforts are made to discredit the operations of the Scott Act, it is well for Presbyterians to bear in mind the Resolutions on Temperance adopted at the late meeting of the General Assembly at Winnipeg.

"That this Assembly again declares its conviction that the liquor traffic is contrary to the Word of God and to the spirit of the Christian religion; that total prohibition is right in principle; that it is the duty of the State to pass a prohibitory law, and that this result is to be earnestly sought by all right means."

No expression of opinion could be less ambiguous or more emphatic than this. And while the largest possible measure of individual liberty of opinion and action upon the matter of temperance is permitted and enjoyed in the Church, it can scarcely be a matter of doubt that members and adherents who are sincerely anxious to do what is right on this question, will act wisely in following the recommendations of our Supreme Court.

That there are schemers who "work" the Temperance ticket for their own selfish ends is no excuse for honest men hesitating or refusing to support Temperance candidates at the polls. The plain duty of Christian people is to labour diligently for the establishment of Christian principles.

HOME MISSION FUND.

THE Presbyterian Church of Ireland has ever been a true friend of our Church, and never fails in its annual contribution. Dr. Cochrane has received from Dr. Wilson, of Limerick, the following letter, transmitting £150 to the Home Mission Fund.

"LIMERICK, Dec. 5th, 1887. DEAR DR. COCHRANE.—I hope enclosed draft for £150 will reach you in good time as a Christmas offering. It is the amount of grant from our board to aid in your Home Mission work—Western district."

THE London Presbyterian Messenger of Dec. 9th has the following:—Next year promises to be a remarkable one in the ecclesiastical world. On the first day of the year the Pope will celebrate the jubilee of his priesthood, and already there has been considerable stir in anticipation of the event.

live in the Sacred College, has given lively satisfaction at the Vatican. Meanwhile, the papers teem with accounts of the Jubilee presents that are sent to Rome. And as a further token of the extending influence of the Papal Church, the news of the retirement of Lord Lyons was immediately followed by that of his reception as a Roman Catholic, an event which has since been succeeded by his death.

Nor infrequently the charge is made by strangers visiting Presbyterian churches that they meet with but a cold reception. We have even heard it stated that the Methodist churches are more hospitable. It would appear, however, from the following, which we clip from an American Methodist paper, that Presbyterians are not always neglectful of strangers, and Methodists always given to hospitality.

"Some years ago a young gentleman removed from the country to a certain large city in the State of New York to commence the practice of law. He, as well as his wife, had been reared from childhood in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Both were comparative strangers to the city. Of course they found their way to the church, and we have ascertained that after an attendance of some two years, the young man was unable to form any acquaintances as no attention was paid either to him or his wife. They withdrew and connected themselves with the congregation of a Presbyterian church, whose people at once rallied round them and made them welcome. The natural result was they were lost to the Methodist Episcopal Church, the young man has prospered in his profession and become a most valuable acquisition to his new denomination."

It hardly requires the above instance, which might be paralleled in almost every town in the country, to demonstrate that sweeping comparisons as to the general merits or defects of the various denominations are very likely to be wide of the truth. There are congregations and congregations, and the probability is with regard to this matter of hospitality, that the evangelical denominations are very much alike, with great room for improvement. Many of our own churches are not in fault in this respect, but far too many are, and we agree with our contemporary that the more attention is called to the subject by the pastors, and by the people, the better it will be for the coming years.

Literary Notices.

PASTORAL PROBLEMS. Hints and Helps for the People of the Churches. Edited by Washington Gladden. New York: The Century Co.

The labor of many years, the wisdom of many minds, and the fruitage of a rich and manifold experience are harvested in this volume. The purpose has been to make a book which every pastor would wish to see in the hands of every member of his flock, and that no active helper in any department of church work could afford to do without. Many things ought to be said to the people of every church that their pastor cannot say. The relations between them is one of great delicacy; the happiness of both parties depends on consideration and justice—in many matters in respect to which the parties' lips are sealed. If these obligations are disregarded there is suffering; yet their fulfillment cannot be demanded. The attempt is made in this volume to set forth the ethics, the courtesies, and the properties of the pastoral relations in such a way that the people may be aided in the solution of that intricate parish problem—how to secure a good minister, how to treat him, how to keep him, how to work with him, how to send him away in peace when the time comes that he must go. Every church has a secular side, and the legal relations and business interests of the organization are matters of great importance. It is doubtful whether a statement as complete and clear, as that in the second chapter, as the very things which every man who is interested in the business life of a church most needs to know, can be found anywhere else. It has been prepared by an eminent lawyer, who has long been an active member of one of the great churches of New York. The fourth chapter finds the pastor at home, and discusses in a homely, sympathetic way the questions concerning the domestic life of the parsonage, and the relations of the people to the pastor and his family. In the fifth chapter the pastor is seen at work, and some of the wisest of our teachers offer hints about methods of pastoral service. Doubtless the pastor will be thankful for these counsels; but they are intended for the people more than the pastor, and show what the work of the pastor is, that they may give him a fair chance to do it. In the sixth chapter the people are pointed to several ways in which they may help the pastor. The seventh chapter goes to the heart of the matter; for the central purpose is to set the people at work and to show them what to do; and it covers a good part of the active life of the working church. The Sunday school is the theme of the eighth chapter, and was written by men who are recognized as leaders in this field. The final chapter treats of worship and seeks to put the proper emphasis upon this feature of the life of the church. Thus, the purpose of the book is to help the man who stands in the pulpit by showing his people what are their right relations to him and to one another, and to those without their fellowship, and to all the great services that demand their powers, and by stimulating and guiding and developing the spiritual life and practical efficiency of the church.—From the Christian at Work.

PROF. TYNDALL, who is scarcely less famous as a mountaineer than as a scientist, spent last summer in the Alps of Switzerland, and his adventures and observations will form the subject of two articles which he has written expressly for the Youth's Companion.

JOHN RUSKIN'S portrait is to be the frontispiece of the January Century. The magazine will have a frank estimate of Mr. Ruskin, as a critic and teacher, by one who has traveled and studied with him, Mr. W. J. Stillman, the well known art critic and correspondent.

The December (Holiday) number of the English Illustrated Magazine fulfils the promise of being unusually attractive. The full page illustrations, of which there are no less than fourteen, comprise: "Portrait of Rembrandt," by himself; "Potato Planting"; "Study of a Head," from a drawing by Sir Frederick Leighton, P.R.A.; "Hercules," from a drawing by Maude M. Clarke; "St. Senen Cove, Cornwall"; "Mrs. Yates as Medea"; "Peg Woffington as Mrs. Ford"; "Mrs. Abington," from the picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds; "David Garrick as Abel Druggier," from the picture by Zof Fany; "The Post Boys," from a drawing by Hugh Thomson; "The Meet at an Inn," from a drawing by Hugh Thomson; "Court-yard of the Church House, Salisbury"; "Crane Bridge, Salisbury"; "Old Lady," from a painting by Rembrandt. The illustrated articles include: "The Sea of Galilee," by Lawrence Oliphant; "Ornithology at South Kensington," by R. Bowdler Sharpe; "What Players Are They?" by J. Fitzgerald Mollooy, and "Coaching Days and Coaching Ways," by W. Outram Tistram. In fiction, the stories by Professor Minty, and the author of "John Herring," are continued, and there is also the first chapter of a new one by Mrs. Molesworth, under the title of "That Girl in Black." The number is also enriched by poems from George Meredith and Sidney A. Alexander, and a continuation of H. D. Traill's clever monthly notes "Et Cetera." (Macmillan & Co., New York.)