

upon themselves the arduous work these societies aim at accomplishing. May they be guided in the light of the Lord and filled with His Spirit. The League is a mighty force in current life and those who are appointed leaders and guardians in holy things are naturally deeply concerned in everything that influences the spiritual life. The Church has therefore, wisely, placed itself in close touch with the Young Peoples' Societies, and has found in them valuable allies. The vigorous enthusiasm of youth is being placed under tribute to the cause of Christ and wise direction as well as sympathetic feeling is required.

The churches of Toronto, with their living, working agencies will extend a cordial welcome to the visitors who will number many thousands, and in advance will do everything possible to render the visit both pleasant and profitable.

As an indication of what may be expected by way of attendance. Mr. Justice Grant, who visited Toronto this week stated that more than 2000 delegates would come from Michigan alone. It is proposed that the Western States would mass their delegates at Detroit and travel together from there.

Obituary Note. Australian papers to hand record the death of Rev. Dr. Gilchrist one of the leaders of the church of New South Wales. He was an Ex Moderator of his church, Convener of the Sabbath School Committee, and an active member of several committees. His death is greatly mourned by the church which he served with distinction and success for a long period.

A Pointed Example. When the Church is in good spiritual condition, ministers and members do not hesitate to subscribe to the creed. Those were the best days of the Church of Scotland when the covenant was subscribed throughout the kingdom. When the Church was in the lowest condition she ever reached, a century and a half afterwards, a majority of her ministers favored abandoning subscription to the Confession of Faith, and were only restrained by the expediency of a course clearly unconstitutional.

A Central Confederation. Central America is steadily advancing, although the frequent revolutions and wars give us the impression of a condition very far from intelligent independence. Three contiguous republics have been consolidated, and have been recognized by the President as one nation. It is expected that the two remaining republics, Guatemala and Costa Rica, will soon give their adhesion to the union, and we will have the Republic of Central America, to the great advantage of all concerned.

A Good Showing. The Chicago *Tribune* prints a long list of gifts for colleges, libraries, hospitals, museums and other worthy objects. The total sums up to \$33,670,120. These figures show a gain of about \$4,700,000 over 1895, and a larger than 1894 by \$13,500,000. And last year was a time of great depression and fear among the capitalists and investors of the world. The colleges were enriched to the extent of \$16,814,000. Museums and art galleries received \$2,333,500; churches were given \$2,135,000; charities of many kinds \$10,854,000 and libraries were endowed with \$1,452,000.

A Home for Old Men. The want of a home for old indigent men has been felt for long by philanthropists in Toronto. Year by year the question how to deal with men of that description has been becoming more pressing and the conclusion has been arrived at that, a Home is an urgent necessity. The Ministerial Association, quite properly, has taken up the question and a committee has been appointed to bring it prominently and influentially before the proper authorities. That they may suc-

ceed is the hope of the many engaged in charitable work in the city, for notwithstanding the many benevolent institutions none of them seem to be suitable for the wants of men who have no friends, no money, and are infirm by disease and the decrepitude of old age.

A Criticism and a Creed. Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D D., writing of Rev. Dr. John Watson's proposed creed for the promotion of Christian living, says the author of it ought to bear in mind that Christian living comes from a Christian heart that has been renewed by the Holy Spirit. While Dr. Watson's creed affirms the Fatherhood of God it utterly ignores the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and does not even mention the Holy Spirit; worst of all it maintains a deadly silence in regard to the glorious central truth of revelation, the *Cross of Calvary*! The creed of all true Christians, of whatever name, Dr. Cuyler says, was condensed by Dr. Ray Palmer into just three lines:

" My faith looks up to Thee
Thou Lamb of Calvary
Saviour divine! "

Australian Union. There seems to be no longer any doubt that there will be a union between the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and the Synod of Otago and Southland. The first mentioned Church occupies all the North Island and the Middle Island as far south as the Waitaki, while the Otago Synod occupies all to the south of that river. Numerically and as to area, the Northern Church is the larger; but the Southern Church is more compact and has a greater hold on the population, being far and away the dominant Church in that part. One of the early ministers of the latter was gifted with foresight, and when lands were cheap and men held large tracts, solicited from them many acres for churches, schools, &c. Years have passed and the acres around the churches have grown in value, and now give to the churches and other good institutions much of the support they need.—*Halifax Witness.*

The Treating System. The indefensible "treating" system has long been a conspicuous mark for the shafts of temperance workers. It is believed to be declining in use and in popularity and it cannot be abandoned altogether too soon. Among recent testimonies to its dangers is that of Justice Duel, New York, who sets treating down as the chief cause of drunkenness in that city. Most liquor, per capita, is consumed in Germany, he thinks, but there is far less drunkenness there. Public intoxication is decreasing, he believes, on account of the increasing public sentiment against it. Business men find they cannot become dissipated without losing their business and business credit. There is also a social discredit which is very marked. The law allowing cumulative sentences works admirably. Chronic drunkards use a low variety of mixed ales, which are worse, the Justice believes, than any other class of liquor. *They seem to poison men.*

Negro Prosperity and Prospects. The advance made by the negro race in the Southern States is described by a correspondent who writes from South Carolina to the Independent, as substantial and promising: The past ten years have brought many changes to the Negroes, and changes for the better. They are certainly accumulating some property. Very few of them had horses and buggies ten years ago. They nearly all walked to church, no matter how many miles away; now very few walk to church at all. They are buying land and putting houses on it, they own cows, hogs and many things which show that they are learning to spend their money for valuable things. The children all go to school as soon as they reach six years. They go when they have not enough corn bread to eat and scarcely clothes enough to keep them from freezing. They buy their schoolbooks from the white children so that they can pay for them in work, and their clothing is bought in the same way.