

Anniversary celebrations, have been held, during the early days of December, in all the leading centres of the Dominion. Not much has been said of these gatherings. They have been characteristic of Presbyterianism, quiet, thoughtful, thorough. There has been little froth but a great deal of good, solid, mental and spiritual food dispensed, and attractively served as well.

Much good has been done. Many are more intelligent and loyal Presbyterians, on account of what they have heard, for the more intelligent in what is good are the most loyal to it. The principles and doctrines of our Church bear examination, and the more they are studied in the light of reason and Scripture, the more do they commend themselves.

In this direction great good must result from a work in which the RECORD is privileged to bear a part, the monthly articles for Young Peoples Societies, by writers in all parts of our Church. In proportion as these are read and studied will the Presbyterian Church in Canada grow more intelligent, more loyal, and more helpful in the work of Christ.

One great question that is likely soon to be submitted to the people of Canada, is whether they wish the manufacture and sale of strong drink to be among the lawful trades of the country.

The first point for men and women who wish to do right, is,—Is the traffic, viewed from every standpoint, in all its associations, effects, and results, right or wrong, good or evil, helpful or hurtful, to man, in his purse, his body, his character? Is it glorifying to God, or the opposite?

If right, helpful to man, honoring to God, then the way is clear. Authorize it. Become sharers in this way of doing good. Do not oppose the right by forbidding it.

If on the whole it be evil, hurtful to man, in person, purse, prospects, character; hurtful to his family, to the community, to prosperity, health, morals, religion, the duty of every man whose supreme desire is to be ruled by right, is equally clear. He can have no part or lot in it by permitting it to be authorized, without being a sharer in its evil.

No man can avoid his responsibility. If he stay at home and do not vote, he is declining to take a part in the good, if it be good; and if it be evil he is sanctioning it by his silence. Pilate washed his hands and said he had no part, but he could not in that way get rid of his responsibility.

This first question decided, all others follow. If it be right to establish the traffic it is right. If wrong, then any other proposals, permitting its longer continuance, are simply repetitions, of "Let us do evil that good may come."

Commercial honesty cannot be expected in the business world when the opposite so often obtains under the garb of religion. A painful fact has paraded for some weeks, linked with holy things. A Bible, stamped "American Bible Union," who stamped it we do not pretend to say, has been offered as a premium by many religious newspapers. One lies before us, the organ of Faith Missions, on one page exhortations of holier height than most; on another, glowing offers of a "splendid illuminated fifteen dollar bible, silk sewed, bound in Turkey, Levant," etc., etc., as a premium with the paper, for \$3.75, one-fourth the "regular" price. Some papers have no doubt offered it ignorantly, others thoughtlessly, but the wrong is there all the same, and people are deceived.

It might be known that even costly bibles cannot be sold for less than cost and a living margin of profit. Most people, however, do not stop to think but grasp at the tempting offer of much for little, especially if it comes to them in angel guise.

The Bibles look well at first glance. Their making, by the hundred thousand, might cost from one to two dollars, and a good selling profit be realized at \$3.00. The print is clear; the pictures interesting; the binding, a shoddy leather, stamped to resemble morocco; but the blessing that can accompany such wholesale misrepresentation does not come from above. Far more evil will result from such lowering of the tone of commercial honesty, than all the good done by the Bibles. If our own church and country are to prosper, it must be not merely by preaching, praying, and mission work, but also by the practice of righteousness.