

all be shepherded for Christ, what the results would be only the divine mind could calculate.

The future of our societies, our churches, our nation, lies in the hands of the children. In shaping their lives we decide the character of all our religious and civil institutions. The surest way to overthrow the liquor traffic is to train up a race of young Daniels who "purpose in their hearts" that they will not defile themselves with strong drink nor share responsibility in placing temptation in the way of others. Our churches will be efficiently manned when the children are trained up from their earliest years for this work. The missionary problem is pressing. If the unevangelized are to receive the gospel, the children must be taught to look upon themselves and their possessions as the Lord's. Then will come the day when the good news will be carried to all the corners of the world, and the church at home will feel the impulse to its utmost bounds.

The responsibility for this work is the greater when we remember that all evil agencies are busy seeking to win the young to their side. The very perils which surround the youth of our generation should stir every earnest soul to consecrated effort on their behalf. Do you remember De Quincy's dream? He saw a vast cathedral with long drawn aisle and fretted vault and dim religious light. On either side were storied tombs and sculptured forms. Down the aisle came dashing a huge chariot, and in the track of the chariot a little child stooped and played with a flower heedless of danger. So terrible and imminent was the tragedy that when the horses' feet were about to crush the little form, the marble figure of a trumpeter lying on a tomb started up from his stony sleep and blew a blast of warning, while a marble angel leaped from his pedestal on the wall to rescue the child from death. That is no dream, alas! The chariot thunders through every hamlet and village and town and city in the land, and childhood and youth are crushed and mangled beneath the relentless hoofs. The sorrow of it should touch the stoniest heart and rouse the most lethargic to devoted service.

At last the citizens of Toronto are beginning to wake up to a realization of the character of some of the productions that are placed upon the boards of our city theatres.

A Declining Stage.

Protests, more or less decided, are being uttered; and if the protests are only made long and emphatic enough perhaps something may be accomplished. One does not need to visit the play houses in order to be convinced of the vitiating tendency and abounding nastiness of many of the plays that are presented; it is forced upon every one by the vulgar, flaring play bills that meet the eye everywhere upon the street. As it is, even customary theatre goers do not dare to take a lady to a performance until they have satisfied themselves that the production is free from objectionable features.

That the stage has been on the down grade for some time has been apparent to the most ordinary observers. Genuine humor has given place to travesty and buffoonery,—and now, salacity. It is only recently that W. S. Gilbert announced his withdrawal from the field of comic opera in which he has been so long successful. The reason which led to this decision, he thus gave to a reporter: "The taste for the class of librettos with which I have been associated is dying out, and the public now prefer the go-as-you-please sort of pieces, such as the modern burlesque. I certainly should not care, and do not intend to be connected with this class of productions." Yet these are the productions that weekly appear upon the boards in Toronto, and most Canadian cities, during the season. Such performances are an offence to the moral sense of the people, and the time has surely come when something should be done to save our young folks from the presence of what is so palpably vicious and demoralizing.



THE eyes of many Canadian Endeavorers are already turned toward "London 1900." The prospects are that it will be the largest religious convention ever held in Europe, perhaps the largest gathering of the kind held anywhere.

Interesting

British Notes.

We have just received a letter from Mr. Will S. Leslie, of Montreal, which contains a number of interesting items which we will share with our readers.

"I enquired specially about billeting. They are now at work getting lists of private houses on which they will chiefly depend. Of course, they will also issue lists of hotels, though at that season of the year, and especially during the Paris Exposition, there will not be much accommodation to spare in hotels. In any case, it is evident that those proposing to attend will need to decide well in advance, both on this account and to secure transportation. The London Committee had not formulated plans as to billeting delegations together, but they will no doubt work on something of the Nashville plan. As the residential sections are mostly far from the centre where most of the meetings will be held (say Charing Cross as a centre), I would like to see our people arrange as early as possible for the district where they will put up."

"I met a few of the workers in different parts, and from what I saw and heard it is evident that Christian Endeavor is still growing in the motherland and becoming a power for good in the evangelical churches. In most of the churches that I attended, Christian Endeavor meetings were announced, and it was pleasing to see that the uniform topics were used almost invariably. At Free St. George's, Edinburgh, Dr. Alexander Whyte, one of the grand old men of the Free Church of Scotland, was announcing the communion services to be held on the following Sabbath and the preparatory service on Thursday. 'And now,' said he, 'I have a beautiful intima-