

ments of the house of God. The table in a prominent place, on which are set the sacred emblems, covered, as is meet, with a pure snow-white cloth, attracts the eye. The congregation devoutly take their places and prayer and praise seem inspired and filled with greater fervor and emotion than at other times. The scriptures read will in all likelihood direct the heart and mind pointedly to that great personage in the world's history, whom ages waited for, and in whom they are all summed up, God incarnate, and to the death, with all its tragic surroundings and deep and far-reaching meaning, which took place ages ago on Calvary. By such means, not employed for effect, but natural and appropriate to the occasion, the mind and heart have been prepared, made receptive for and responsive to the sermon to which the preacher has given more than the ordinary amount of prayerful thought and feeling. The wise and sympathetic pastor having been himself on the mount, bears his people onward and upward, and by loving words of encouragement, warning, or counsel leads his people forward to the table worthily to eat and drink, and be strengthened spiritually by partaking of the memorials of their Saviour's dying love. As the sacred emblems pass from one communicant to another, the common brotherhood of all in Christ is manifested, becomes very real and is sensibly felt. At the table, when all hearts are subdued and under holy influence, the words spoken come with power and find a lodgment there which by the Holy Spirit's blessing make them fruitful and strengthening in the daily conflict, toil and temptations of coming days. As penitence and humiliation and confession were the natural antecedents to the holy supper, so thanksgiving as naturally follows and with what fulness and warmth and elevation of feeling is this thankfulness poured forth in the language of some psalm, rich with the hallowed associations of past generations of God's people who on similar occasions have used it, in lands far and near and under all varieties of circumstances, or in the words of some more modern hymns which have flowed spontaneously from a heart filled so to overflowing with the love of Christ that it must needs break into a song.

What shall we say of such seasons? How necessary they are, how wisely appointed and adapted in divine wisdom to our needs, how fruitful in holy living, what means of renewing Christian strength and hope and faith and courage! Let the church prize her sacred times and seasons, look forward to them, prepare for them, sacredly guard them, cherish them, faithfully observe them, and thus be so filled with the spirit of them and with that of Him who has given them, that she will reflect with ever-increasing clearness and fulness and beauty His life and spirit who is her life, and so His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

#### A DEFECT OF PRESBYTERIANISM.

THE following from the last issue of the *New York Evangelist* is so appropriate to a subject at present under discussion in our columns, that we reprint it entire:

A recent letter calls our attention to what is one of the great defects of our ecclesiastical system—the uncertain tenure of office by pastors, so that they are often turned out of place and the means of support, with no way of relief. The Methodist Church has an organization so perfect that it provides a place for every man, and a man for every place. In the Episcopal Church, a bishop, who has the oversight of a whole diocese, can see that there are no fields unoccupied and no laborers unemployed. But in the Presbyterian Church there seems to be no rule but that every man should look out for himself, a service that is very painful to one of modest disposition, who does not like to push himself to the front, and which therefore leaves many of excellent qualifications to rust in idleness. It cannot be said that they are unwilling to work. They are not only willing, but anxious, yet their sense of self-respect forbids them to obtrude themselves upon vacant churches. How shall the defect be remedied? Some attempts have been made by the appointment of Presbyterial Committees to keep a look out over the field, exercising a sort of Episcopal oversight, and by means of friendly communication to the one and the other, to bring together vacant churches and unemployed ministers. How far it has been successful we cannot tell. Only this we know, that many cases still remain of men who are compelled to stand all the day idle because no man hath hired them. Who will provide a mode of relief for a state of things which in many cases makes of no avail the long years of training for the ministry, and thus neutralizes the learning and the piety of many in the Presbyterian Church, who might be filling spheres of usefulness.

In our issue of Jan. 24, in the article a "Polyglot Festival," a mistake was made by our correspondent in giving as treasurer, Mr. Sutherland, music-dealer. It should be Mr. D. Sutherland, book-seller, treasurer.

#### AFTER THE PLEBISCITE—WHAT?

This is the practical question now—What next? "Why! prohibition, of course!" Well, yes, after the plebiscite, prohibition, but not *next*. It will take some time to get prohibition, even with the least possible delay, but what of the time that must necessarily come between the plebiscite and prohibition? That time may be short or long, during which we must wait; but we must not—we cannot wait in idleness. There must be action. There certainly has been unusual activity and the danger to be avoided now is a reaction to inaction. Our enemy never rests. We have the right on our side, but the right must be zealously guarded—must be vigorously pressed forward.

Of the many things that should come after the plebiscite, we would emphasize these

#### EDUCATIONAL WORK MUST BE CONTINUED

with increased earnestness. Neglect this most important part of our work and valuable ground will be lost. Let all the churches and the different temperance organizations redouble their efforts along this line, so that when we get prohibition it may be made all the more effective.

The Presbyterian Church has continually emphasized the importance of this plan of the work, and has recommended Sessions, Sabbath Schools, and Christian Endeavor Societies to appoint committees for the purposes of interesting the people in temperance work, and of securing signatures to the total abstinence pledge, especially from among the young. We desire, now, to remind congregations of the importance of this work, and to urge all that have not yet taken any action in this direction, to do so at once—to lose no more time. Fortify the young by sound Christian teaching, and a solemn pledge against the deceptive temptations of the saloon—yes, and also against the hidden danger of the social glass. Send to the Rev. Stiles Fraser, Convener of the General Assembly Committee on Temperance, for pledge books, pledge cards, etc., and do not let inactivity come after the plebiscite in any case.

#### PRESS THE DEMAND FOR PROHIBITION

at the earliest possible date, upon our rulers. While the educational work must be carried on with greater vigor than ever, there must be no relaxing of the demand for prohibition legislation of the strongest type. The voice of the people in the matter must be heeded. It cannot be ignored nor treated even with indifference. Speaking in Toronto, on the 4th October last, the Hon. G. W. Ross said: "The advanced prohibitionists contend that the country is really for prohibition. Good and well. The vote if favorable, will not only be a vindication of their contention, but will be a mandate to the Legislature of which there can be no evasion." The vote has been decidedly favorable. Mr. Ross is right, and right again when he said: "Did you ever hear of a legislature that refused to bow to public opinion? Such legislatures are known by their epitaphs, not by their legislation. . . . There was a House of Commons that taxed the bread of England's millions in the interests of the agricultural landlord. There came up from the battle fields of public opinion, a House of Commons that said: 'It is not meet for us to tax the children's bread for the sake of the landlord,' and bread was made free."

The soundness of Mr. Ross' position is further illustrated by a member of the House of Commons, from Wales, who in speaking at the great temperance convention held in London last month, he said: "Gallant little Wales has placed temperance in the forefront of its battle at the last elections, the result being that in thirty-four contests for Parliamentary members, only two survived to tell the *Licensed Victuallers' tale*."

By such action we now see the British Government committed to support Temperance legislation, and another M.P. in speaking at the same meeting said:—"So far, the Government has kept faith with the Temperance party, and it is to their interest to continue to do so; the Government has everything to gain by being faithful and true, and everything to lose by being fickle. In 1891 the Government crossed the Rubicon, in 1893 they have burned their boats, they have earned the eternal hatred of the liquor power." As far as I can discuss the signs of the times, the Government of Canada is approaching pretty near to the Rubicon,—nearer than some of them like—the Royal Commission has been sent out to explore, and now the courts are to examine the crossings—yes, the Rubicon must soon be crossed. The way is being rapidly prepared, and when once

crossed the boats must be burned. There can be no more going back. We must press on for the Rubicon, with all our might, and if the Government won't go *over*, then it must go *under*. Of course, if the decision of the courts should show that the Provinces have the power to pass a prohibitory law, then the Provincial Government will be in this position. In the meantime the Dominion Government is the only recognized source of prohibition.

The third thing we would emphasize in this connection, is that Prohibitionists must unhesitatingly declare that

#### WE WANT NO REVENUE FROM RUM AND RUIN.

Then it will be the duty of the Finance Minister to get the revenue from some other source. That is his business, not ours. Minister Foster does not need to be told this plain truth. He knows it now. He is reported to have lately said: "It makes no difference so far as revenue is concerned whether it be raised on tea, coffee, direct tax, or liquors. This is a people's matter for them to decide." This is certainly right. Now immense majorities in Manitoba, P. E. Island, and Ontario have said, and others will yet say as plainly, that "We want prohibition. We do not want you to raise any revenue from liquors. Get it where you can, or where you choose, but do not get it from liquors." We all know that revenue must be raised; but to ask the Temperance people to raise it, or to say from what source it should come, is nonsense; we pay our Finance Minister to do that work for us. Our voice now is, *Do not get any revenue from liquors*. He, or his successor, must soon obey that demand. We understand perfectly well what it means, and are not afraid of the consequences, for we fully agree with Mr. Foster when he says, "Personally, I have no doubt, and never had any, if the waste, expense, and ruin entailed by drink were done away with the country could well afford to pay three times the taxes in a different way."

We have no doubt either, and we must press our demand that our revenue shall be obtained in "a different way"—and the sooner the better.

The Rev. Dr. Cochrane, convener of the H. M. Committee, desires us to intimate that he has received £150 sterling from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for North-west Missions. Also, \$200 from the Farrington Independent Church, Brantford, to aid in the support of a missionary in the North-west, and \$90 additional to be divided between Home and Foreign Missions. Also, \$150 from the St. Andrew's Mission Band, Perth.

A meeting in the interests of the McAll Mission will be held in Old St. Andrew's Church, corner of Carlton and Jarvis, on Wednesday, 31st inst., at 8 p.m. The Rev. Charles G. Greig, M.A., Paris, who has been connected with the mission for fifteen years and has been appointed Dr. McAll's successor, will speak of the work of the mission. Fresh from the field, the address will be most interesting. We bespeak a good audience.

#### Books and Magazines.

DR. BRUNO'S WIFE. A Toronto Society Story. By Mrs. J. Kerr Lawson. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. Anstruther: Charles S. Russell. Toronto: The Toronto News Company.

Mrs. Lawson has been better known to Canadian readers as a popular contributor to the press than as a novelist, yet even as a novelist she is not unknown. Several of her stories have appeared with the *imprimatur* of well-known old country publishing houses and have been received with general acceptance. "Dr. Bruno's Wife" might just as well have been called by another name so far as the gist and motif of the story are concerned; and the reason why it is so called is disclosed only in the very last sentence of the book. The subtitle, too, is misleading and possibly detrimental, for the incidents and characters, so far as they are recognizable as incidents that may have happened and people that may have existed, might have been with just as much propriety attributed to any Canadian or American city as to the city of Toronto. Apart from these and some other less noticeable defects arising chiefly from careless revision and proof-reading, the work has merits which the reader will cheerfully recognize and appreciate. The plot is ingenious, and the characters are drawn with a bold, vigorous, artistic hand, showing, if not as yet perfect skill, a facility that is more than promising and a capacity that has not yet touched its highest limit. The satire of the story is trenchant and severe. Much or all of it may be well-deserved. Social shams, like other shams, deserve little consideration, and it is a matter of taste or temper whether they should be gently or rudely picked up and thrown aside. Mrs. Lawson evidently thinks that, in some cases, they should be also trampled upon.

DEERHURST; OR, THE RIFT IN THE CLOUD. By Julia Douglas. Boston: A. I. Bradley & Company.

A wholesome, entertaining story, neatly printed and very aptly illustrated.