

feebler, decreasing congregations, in the rural districts of the Province of Quebec and of Eastern Ontario. It is a sacred duty laid on the Church not to abandon old friends or suffer the remnants of our people to be merged in the superstition of the majority around them as happened a hundred years ago about Murray Bay and Reviere du Loup. And to accomplish all the work cut out for them, the committee ask only the modest sum of \$28,000. Nothing more is needed to ensure that this amount will be placed at their disposal by the church, than that our people shall read and inwardly digest the contents of the committee's circular, which fittingly closes with a pathetic reference to the illness of the "beloved Convener," of whom it may be said that so long as health and strength were vouchsafed to him, they were unsparingly devoted to furthering the interest of this scheme especially as well as to aiding every good cause to which the church is committed.

#### For the Young.

The ever deepening interest manifested by the church in her young people is most praise worthy. It bodes well, in these days of disjointed, lame, views of life, that the young are being attracted to the churches and are banding themselves together for their mutual protection from error into societies. The work entrusted to the general assembly's committee appointed for the oversight of these societies is of a most important character, youth has its future before it; what that future may be must depend largely on the impulse given it at the start of its career, surrounded by Godly influences, nurtured in sound views of responsibility to God and grounded in the shorter catechism there would be little to fear of a good course and glorious ending. But cut loose from these, what a sad outlook? The design of the societies is good, their work thus far has received approval, and the committee will do much in guiding these societies for the future. The committee is in earnest and all friends ought to contribute what they can, for much is needed. Our word shall never be wanting on the right side, but over and above that word we shall use our columns for the words of others. To-day, in this issue of the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW will be found a page devoted to the work of the Committee and filled with practical, interesting reading for the young people. The page will be regularly continued. It will be the young people's page and we hope will be taken advantage of by all who wish to do real service to the cause it seeks to further.

#### Foreign Mission Funds.

The attention of congregations is drawn to the fact that at the present time the Foreign Mission Fund is in arrears to the extent of \$27,426.28, i. e., we are paying interest on that amount of money borrowed from the banks. Congregations will help the cause by remitting their contributions to Dr. Reid at as early a date as possible, and let it be remembered that a considerable increase in the Foreign Mission staff requires increased liberality. It is hoped that the Young Peoples Societies of the church, will this year contribute the \$8000, necessary for the support of the mission in Honan, and thus not only help to meet the present obligation but to extend the work. It is still true "That the harvest is great and the laborers are few."—R. P. MacKAY."

**Scottish Ritualism.** Professor Marcus Dods, criticizing a report of the Scottish Church Society's second conference, says: "During the last half-century an object lesson in the meaning and results of ritualism has been exhibited by the Church of England. From it, even he that runs may read that ritualism is not merely the childish stage of religion which St. Paul deplored and strove to abolish, but that it directly tends to externalize religion, to put ordinances in place of spiritual transactions, sanctimoniousness in place of sanctity, and to breed Pharisaism instead of godliness. That Scotland of all countries should be found following the lead of England after such opportunity of seeing what ritualism leads to is indeed pitiable and very ominous. Happily the teaching of this volume, and the entire tendency of which it forms a part, are so counter to the traditions of Scottish Christianity, and so alien to the temper and spirit of the people, that it is scarcely credible the fellow countrymen of the Covenanters will allow the clock thus to be put back."

**Liquor Statistics.** Returns from Washington on the internal revenue contain some remarkable and suggestive figures on the liquor trade of the United States. According to the returns there are 208,380 retail liquor dealers in the United States and 4,555 wholesale dealers. In addition there are several thousand dealers in malt liquors at retail and wholesale, 1,440 rectifiers and 1,771 brewers, making a total of 232,295 persons or firms engaged in the liquor business in a population of 65,000,000 people, or one to every 280 inhabitants. Coming to states, New York with 41,176 licenses heads the lists. Illinois is second with 17,833, and then follow in order, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California. When one considers the ill-repute of the saloon in America as contrasted with the descent European public house, says the *Interior*, and the alarming rapidity with which grogeries multiply under low license laws, that army of 232,295 persons inevitably recalls the Cadmeian story of sowing the dragon's teeth. There is no harvest quicker, surer, or more terrible than that the saloons of America are sowing.

**Elect good Men.** A solemn duty rests upon all voters in the municipal elections next week. The election of rulers in the civic sphere has its responsibilities just as has our daily work. Let faithfulness to sound principles prevail. Men of good character, upright men, and men of ability should be supported to the exclusion of all as are not such. The artisan and professional man would be ashamed of inferior workmanship and would regard it as dishonest to hide the flaws. It would be much more dishonest to vote contrary to one's convictions for the duty is to the state involving the common weal.

**Worth Your Best Thought.** A man is reported to be stricken with a disease which is operating upon him in such a way as to cause him, day by day more and more to take on the appearance of a monkey, says the *Herald and Presbyter*. This is nothing new. There are those who seem to have no aims or aspirations in life different from those which may be supposed to animate the monkey, and who reveal their character in looks and actions and words and dress. It is a disease of the intellect and of the heart. Then there are others who cherish feelings which identify them with the tiger, and the blood-thirsty selfishness shows against them in their countenances. Then there are others who develop porcine qualities and looks, while some take on asinine development, within and without. The beast, of some kind or other, seeks to show itself in every face, and it needs to be repressed, that the manly, the womanly, the angelic, the Christly, and the Godly, may fill the life and light the countenance.