

enjoyed by the individual, as to Sunday labor. This proposition was described by the corporationists as fanaticism, and the legislation that would embody it as re-actionary; but Equality used to be the motto on the advanced banner of Liberalism.

The Alliance had but little difficulty in meeting the arguments of their opponents. The men of straw set up, Mr. Paterson easily knocked down, and Rev. Dr. Caven, with his usual insight, clearly showed how little real difference of opinion existed between the two parties, on the crucial provisions of the Amendment. The results pictured by the opponents of the measure, as sure to follow its enactment, the Alliance did not wish to see, nor did it wish to see an oppressive law passed. The reading of the present law was doubtful and the main object of the proposed Amendment was to remove the doubt, so that corporations should be held guilty of an offence under the Statute if it pursued its ordinary vocation on the Sabbath. Meantime such a restriction applied to individuals only: Corporations and individuals should be placed on an equal footing before the law. In the law as at present, provision was made for works of necessity and mercy and no case of real hardship need happen under the Amended Act.

A MIGHTY MISSION MOVEMENT.

PROBABLY few have realized the magnitude of the Student Volunteer Movement, that is in a few weeks to hold its third quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The purpose is to have one convention every fourth year—i. e., one for every generation of students. There are already foreign mission organizations in 500 Educational Institutions, and courses of study are arranged extending over four years. The results can scarcely be estimated. That the young men and women attending 500 colleges and other educational centres should be instructed in the literature and principles of foreign mission work—who afterwards are to be leaders in Church and State, is a fact that may well command attention and anxiety. Every movement with grand possibilities is in danger of being led into wrong channels, where energy is worse than wasted. That danger is fully realized by the leaders of this movement and they are anxious to place themselves as much as possible under the direction of the Boards—that they may get the benefit of the experience of men older than themselves. At a Conference of Boards held in New York last week, the indefatigable chief-officer of the movement, Mr. J. R. Mott, spoke impressively of the importance of this organization and their desire to be led, their willingness to place themselves in the hands of the representatives of the Churches in foreign mission enterprise. We cannot think of any other factor to-day in society that claims more earnest and prayerful sympathy. Here are literally myriads of the brightest intellects in society in touch with mission facts. There remains but that they should be vitalized with spiritual power, in order to accomplish unheard-of-things for the Church of Christ. The request has gone forth that special prayer be offered for the Cleveland Convention, to be held on the 23rd and four following days of February.

Whilst we regard this as the most noticeable, there are many factors that are suggestive of brighter days. Although the Church is yet far from coming up to the standard of the Gospel, yet there are streaks of light in the East. The day is dawning, and there are living now persons who will see what many have been longing and praying for—the light creeping down from the mountain peaks and flooding the valleys, hitherto in total darkness. The sense of indebtedness to Greek and Barbarian is taking possession of the pulpit and the press. Whilst the old may be hopelessly

fossilized and irredemable, the young are becoming infected and inflamed with a broader loyalty than their fathers ever knew. "The field is the world" is an old doctrine but seen in new light. The present discouragements cannot arrest the mighty movement—they are mere eddies in the irresistible current—"Jesus shall reign" is no longer a dream but sober truth because more and more credible. Dr. Pentecost says "India is won for Christ already," which may be too strong a statement, inasmuch as out of 376,000,000, only about 1,000,000 are Protestant Christians, it is nevertheless true that Christianity has gained such a footing in the confidence of the people of India as secures ultimate victory. "The world for Christ" is a less extravagant motto than it used to be. We fight on the winning side.

REV. WM. BURNS' SUCCESSOR.

PROMPT action has been taken by the Executive of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in connection with the vacancy caused by the death of Rev. Wm. Burns. The duties of the position are arduous and urgent and that being the case the church is to be congratulated that the services of so suitable a man as Rev. R. C. Tibb happened to be available so that they could be secured without loss of time. The Executive could not have made a better selection and no doubt the necessary endorsement will be made by the general Committee when it meets. Mr. Tibb was until recently pastor of Avenue church, and is clerk of the Toronto Presbytery, his methodical, business habits and technical ability fitting him peculiarly for that position. To the work of the Fund Mr. Tibb brings executive ability, a wide knowledge of the affairs of the Church and of the personnel of the ministry, which will prove invaluable to him in his new sphere. His address will be Room 90 Confederation Life Building where the business of the Fund will be carried on.

LORD'S DAY AMENDMENT ACT.

THE disappointment caused by the withdrawal of the Lord's Day Amendment Act from the Ontario Legislature, has been modified since it became known that the Government does not mean to abandon the Bill, but to postpone its enactment until several interests claiming an interest in it shall have an opportunity of fully considering its provisions, and until the country shall have been heard from. The Lord's Day Alliance favored the immediate disposal of the question, not because the fullest discussion would not be welcomed, but because their efforts have been prolonged and their views made public for years. It was no sudden proposal on their part, as their agitation and litigation too, testify, yet when corporations and other business interests make a charge of haste and unfairness, the Alliance will not refuse to acquiesce in a course which will allow of further discussion and publicity. Some features of the Amendments, seem to have elicited considerable adverse criticism, viz: the part which informers might play in the enforcement of the law. It is probable that public opinion will not sustain the principle of rewarding informers with a portion of the fines which might be imposed under the law. But nothing that has transpired need cause alarm should the friends of the Alliance throughout the country stand true to their principles during the coming campaign. The duty of those who believe in a continuance of our Sabbath quiet and rest is obvious. The question is now without the pale of the Government and within the electioneering arena. The candidates for parliamentary honors are within reach of all. No constituency should be passed over by the Alliance, and pledges clear and positive ought to be asked from every candidate before election day. The