

"YE WILL NOT HEAR"

How true that is of the world of our own day, though for a different reason than that which affected the people to whom the words were spoken. They were so full of religious hypocrisy that they would not give heed to the words of truth; we are so engrossed with the business of getting money that we cannot give heed.

To make money is the great aim of life, and to attain it every other impulse is crushed and destroyed. The child is trained to make money, and learns to admire most the man who has amassed a fortune. The one brother in a family who has grown wealthy is the idol of the rest, and naturally assumes the airs of a prince among his brethren. In every small breast that puffs itself out as he walks beside the rich uncle there is cherished the determination to make money as this man has done, and to make it quickly.

This, too, is a passion—to make money quickly men jostle and push and trample upon each other because they are possessed by this passion. The farmer returning from market chuckles over the fact that he secured half a cent over the market price for his produce. The dealer in the city rubs his hands as he remembers how he took it out of that farmer. And from the newsboy on the street to the bent grey head who tries to earn a penny for bread there is found a spirit of distrust and watchfulness among men.

So possessed are men by this passion for money-making that there is room for nothing else. Suggest a plan for the betterment of your fellows and you are met with the retort—It won't pay. There's nothing in 'it.' Philanthropy is dead, the real philanthropy that takes a living interest in men. We have plenty of the sort that flings a coin to a man in misery; but of the kind that comes to a man who has fallen in his misery and lifts him up, and stays with him and encourages him to stand, we have almost none. Men have no time for that. While they stay to play the Good Samaritan a rival has distanced them in the race for money. It don't pay!

We recently heard a preacher declare that men have become so engrossed in the prevalent commercialism that they will not heed the call to spiritual duties. It would be nearer the truth to say that they cannot heed the call. So filled is the mind with sordid desire; so taken up is the time of men with worldly pursuits that there is no room to entertain an unworldly thought. Even in the house of God and on the Lord's Day, we are preoccupied; and while the prayer is ascending or the word being declared we are planning further operations in the business of making money.

The valuable library of the late Rev. Wm. Burns is being offered for sale. It has been carefully catalogued and prices attached. Rev. R. C. Tibb, 13 Madison st., Toronto, has it in charge and asks us to say that catalogues will be sent on application.

DEATH OF REV. JOHN M'LEOD.

The recent terrible disaster at Vankleek Hill will not soon be forgotten. By the falling of the gable end of the new Presbyterian church, in course of erection, three men were buried to instant death; and among them the respected minister of the church, whose name heads this article.

The Rev. Jno. MacLeod, B. A., was born in Prince Edward Island forty-four years ago. He received his primary education in the common schools of that province. For some time he studied in Prince of Wales' College, Charlottetown. He graduated in arts and in theology from Queen's, finishing the latter course about 17 years ago. His first charge was at Antwerp, N. Y.; but soon after his ordination he received a call to Richmond, in the Presbytery of Quebec. Loving Canada and the Canadian church, he returned to both, and labored at Richmond successfully for five or six years. Eight years ago he received and accepted a call to Vankleek Hill. The attendance at public worship was so large that it was found necessary to build a larger church. The church, a large stone building, is in course of erection. Mr. MacLeod was wont to go up on the walls from day to day. On the morning of the 19th of September, he would go up on a gable end which was nearing completion, about sixty feet from the ground. For some reason the wall gave way and tumbled to the ground, and in a few moments the beloved pastor was done with work on earth.

Mr. MacLeod was widely known in Quebec and Ontario. Everywhere he was beloved by all. He was an able minister, diligent pastor and a model citizen. In him the cause of temperance and reforms generally had an able defender and advocate. At the funeral service on Friday fully one half of the ministers of Glengarry Presbytery were present. The Presbytery of Quebec was represented by Revs. J. R. MacLeod, Three Rivers, and Dr. Kellock, Richmond; and the Ottawa Presbytery by Revs. Orr Bennett, N. H. McLeod and Thos. Bennett. Rev. H. D. Leitch, moderator of Glengarry Presbytery, accompanied the remains to Gould, P. Q.

Why do men so differ in regard to moral standards in politics? Is it because those standards vary? Nay, it is because men themselves are different. Of two "strenuous" men, the one lives on a higher spiritual plane than the other.

While the masses of China are very ignorant—not one woman in a thousand being able to read, and only 10 per cent of the men having been at school—yet there is a class of learned men, and their vanity is extraordinary. We have sometimes marvelled at spectacles and long hair in certain professions at home, but the same thing exists in China. "They have a gait all their own, and can always be recognized by their swaggering walk. Though quite young, with excellent eyes they wear huge spectacles, to show the multitude that through much study they are growing prematurely blind. Their nails are long and claw-like, attesting the fact that they are scholars and gentlemen who have never done any manual work and never intend to do any. Like Dominic Sampson, they interlard their speech with classical quotations to show their learning, and strike awe into their ignorant hearers.

Those who know China best tell us that the marvellous vitality of that people can be traced to three causes. First and moral cause—and that is filial piety. They have got a share of the blessing pronounced upon the man who honours father and mother. Second and physical cause—prohibiting inter-marriage of people of the same stock. The Chinese race is called "the hundred names," and apparently all its millions have only some 200 surnames. It is a binding law, which forbids inter-marriage between man and women of the same surname, it being held that at some time such people must have been of the same stock. Third and mental cause—the structure of the language. Thus China, which has not advanced a step for a thousand years, is yet full of marvellous vitality.

"Clough MacSimon," a bright contributor to the columns of the Belfast Witness, says: A correct knowledge of Holy Scripture does not seem to be a strong point with all Roman Catholics, even though they claim to have the keys of all Divine knowledge. Mr. Patrick Ford, of "The Irish World," in sending a remittance this week of some £150 or so to the New National League, thought it right to apologise for the smallness of his remittance by quoting as he said, the words of St. Paul—"That we were not to despise the day of small things." Doubtless the position is a sound one, but our readers will remember that it was the Prophet Zechariah, and not the Apostle Paul who propounded it. I am far from thinking that there are no Roman Catholics well instructed in the scriptures. I know there are some. But I fear with most of them the question is not what saith the Scriptures? as it was with the Divine Teacher Himself. But what saith the Church? Thus it is that the word of God which converts and builds up the soul, is so commonly put aside.

In the official recount of the birth rate in Montreal, remarks the Monetary Times, one striking fact stands out prominently: the average birth-rate in French-Canadian families is 43.45 in the thousand; among Catholics of other origins, 20.81, and 22.29 among Protestants. When Mr. Tarte predicted that the time would come when the French-Canadians would form a majority of the population of Canada, people shrugged their shoulders in incredulity. But these figures demonstrate that if the birth-rate in Canada were alone to settle the question, the eventual coming of this event would be a simple matter of arithmetic. From political or race considerations, no change need be expected. It is mere self-delusion to quibble about the causes; they are well known. Is this state of things to continue? There is high medical authority for saying that married women, of child-bearing age, not condemned by nature to sterility, who fail to become mothers once in three years, as a rule, pay the penalty of artificial sterility in confirmed ill-health. When this becomes thoroughly understood, a change may come.

"Blessed is the man who is busy in secret with his kindness; he finds a special joy in his unknown beneficences."—Spurgeon.