

is true, our good brother J. B. Silcox would enjoy the inevitable laugh as much as any one:

"A Winnipeg paper tells the following incident:— Rev. J. B. Silcox visited Rat Portage recently and spent a Sunday there. He was naturally invited to address the Sunday school, and he did so. The lesson for the day led him to make some observation respecting the fourth commandment, and, in order to make his teachings the more impressive he asked the children several questions. One of these was something like the following:—"Who are the people who break the Sabbath day?" The little innocents, thinking that they knew all about the matter, answered, "The people of Winnipeg, when they come to visit Rat Portage."

It is to be regretted that the managers of our annual Exhibitions have not sufficient faith in the attractiveness of what is legitimate to such an occasion to enable them to dispense with "side shows," some of them of a very questionable character. When games, racing of horses or of men and such things are added, there is the peril of bringing in practices surrounded with evil-betting, trickery, roguery of various kinds. That we are not imagining evils may be seen by a perusal of our daily papers. These annual gatherings to show off art and science in their various departments, should be kept as free as possible from the defiling pitch of gambling.

The Mail (Toronto,) has come boldly out on the side of prohibition. Is this a case of genuine conversion? At any rate it has more political courage than the *Globe*.

THE following is from *The Home Missionary*, for October, the organ of the American Home Missionary Society. It is so like our own case, only "bigger," that we transcribe it for our readers' meditation:

TO THE FRIENDS OF HOME MISSIONS.

"The managers of the American Home Missionary Society met around their business board yesterday, with grave and perplexed faces. There was reason. They had to face a debt of \$26,980.33, and not a dollar of unappropriated funds in the treasury with which to meet it. Our missionaries have not been regularly paid since the quarter ending July 1st. To them and to them alone this debt is due, and growing rapidly larger. The contributions of individuals have steadily declined since the opening of summer, and no large legacies have come in to meet the consequent emergency. The home missionaries are patient men. Not a complaint has been heard. But most distressing letters have been received by every mail. Some of these men have sickness in their families. It is hard to see our sick suffer for the want of comforts. Some of them are borrowing money at the banks at high rates of in-

terest. They have no other way. All of them are living on credit, which weakens the influence as ministers, and casts a heavy shadow upon their own spirits. Most of them, it is true, depend only in part on the Society, and can look to their people for the balance of their salaries. But even this relief has failed. The season in many parts of the field has been a hard one for the churches. They are unusually behind in their payments, and the poor missionary is thus doubly perplexed for his living. It should also be remembered that our superintendents, and many of the men in our foreign departments, depend for their whole support on the treasury of the Society, and are left by the present exigency without any source of relief whatever. This failure of home missionary funds so soon after the Saratoga Meeting and its enthusiastic pledges, fills them with amazement and with doubts. What can we do in this grave crisis, but send a cry of distress to the friends of our cause through the land? City churches are closed or their membership widely scattered. We cannot ask these churches to gather special collections at this unfavorable season. But we believe that hundreds of the scattered members, reading the story of our needs, will respond by the earliest mail with individual help. Many of the country churches, on the other hand, are in a favorable condition to make a united response, and we believe will take pity on the suffering men and women who are fighting their battle without supplies at the far west and south. The managers of the Society take no blame for this exigency. They have obeyed the call of the churches in the scale of the work now laid out. Sudden contraction on account of short funds is impossible. Pledges have to be made, as a rule, twelve months in advance. They have to be made on faith. There is no other way. And because this faith, though often tried, has never been disappointed in sixty years, therefore they send out again their confident appeal for help. *We must save our country.*

THE Editor has been on the wing again and would record some of his impressions and experiences. Taking advantage of the presence in the city of so many Methodist brethren we resolved to leave our pulpit for one day to their tender mercies; receiving notice of meeting both of College Board and of Missionary Executive, determined our direction Montrealward, though as the first meeting was not till Tuesday and we were free from Saturday, we had two clear days to spare. Having offered our services for Sunday to two of our vacant churches, and they being declined with thanks, we departed in uncertain selfishness to make our way as circumstances indicated. Our first point was Bowmanville to our printer, whom we found coat off, at work over the Year Book and grumbling lustily at the delay caused by some proof being kept unnecessarily long. As Editors are of the *genus homo* and not at all open to the woe of having all men speak well