

done, and something upon which God's smile can be sought—do it, when the inspiration comes! Only don't *wait* for the inspiration! Kindle up the inspiration, by thinking about it—its possibility, its need, its advantages, and the joy of doing it; and lo! the inspiration sought is felt, and the thing is done! And there is another side to it: that which we have called an "inspiration" to do a thing, if neglected, and the opportunity and the time for acting frittered away—the man is weaker than before. Excite! feeling, that leads to no corresponding action, is a weakness, a snare and a calamity.

THANKSGIVING DAY, on Thursday, 12th, November, passed off quietly, duly observed by the larger portion of the people, as far as cessation from labor was concerned; and by very many in the way of attending church. The better way (and the only way to get it is to keep hammering away at it till the slow-going intellects at Ottawa understand that such is the will of the people), is to have Thanksgiving Day at a fixed date, say first Thursday in November. Having it a "moveable feast" has many disadvantages; and it encourages the idea that perhaps we wait to see what kind of a harvest we get, before we resolve on a Thanksgiving Day at all. The first Thursday of November would just be a few weeks before the American day, and would promote mutual "home-coming" on both sides of the line; and people could make definite arrangements, if they were always certain of the date.

THE WORLD MOVES.—The Demographers and Hygienists have brought their seventh International Congress to a close. They resolved to meet the next time in Buda-Pesth. The Infancy, Childhood, and School Life Section, presided over by Mr. J. R. Diggle, Chairman of the London School Board, was unusually well attended. It resolved that special arrangements should be made for training children who, though not imbeciles, are defectively developed in brain and body; that upright writing should be taught; that home-lessons need some restriction; that the feeding and clothing of destitute and neglected children are necessary for their efficient education; that domestic hygiene should form an integral part of the education of the young; and that the time has arrived when the train-

ing of the blind, deaf, and dumb should form part of the national system of education. The general Congress, at its concluding meeting, endorsed these resolutions.—*Christian World*.

LEARNED PREACHING.—There is a deal of current nonsense about what cultured people prefer to hear when they come to God's house. During my first ministry in a suburban town I had in my little congregation a very distinguished lawyer for a part of each year. He once said to me: "The two things I want are simplicity in preaching and downright earnestness. My brain is tasked all through the week with the exacting labors of my profession, and I do not come to God's house to have it taxed again with any intricate questions; I come there simply to be *made a better man*." That sensible remark not only did me good service, but it expressed the real feelings of the vast majority of thoughtful and cultured people. The more intellect in the pulpit the better—provided that the intellect be employed in learning vital truth and then in making God's truth simple and persuasive. No sermon ought to be preached to the cultured auditor in the front pew which is above the reach of the good-sized boy beside him, or of his servant-man up in the gallery. The exceptions to this rule are mighty few.—*Theodore Cuyler*.

THE Provincial S. S. Convention at Ottawa was full of hope and progress. The Association has been laboring under a lack of revenue for some years; but now the Committee see their way clear for more of aggressive Sunday school work; chiefly in the way of organizing counties and townships, and thus promoting self-help—the best way of helping. Either one man will be put in the field, as a Sunday school organizer of Institutes and normal classes, for the whole year; or five or six good men for three months in the winter. We would strongly recommend the latter, under present circumstances. A good man, but one who turns out to be but a mediocre man in his work, may be engaged; and it will seem something like a hardship the putting him out of office again—while, if half a dozen are temporarily engaged, some one of these will be sure to show himself so pre-eminent in the work, as to suggest at once the right man to put permanently into it. Sixty-seven new organizations had been instituted in counties