

not but that his record in Montreal, where we trust his last and best days may be spent, will be written in like lines of love and truth.

THE Queen's Jubilee is occupying just now considerable space in newspapers, religious services and general attention. Justly so. It is no small matter to have over us a ruler with settled Christian principles and of consistent Christian life. The Hanoverian princes have not been pre-eminent for virtue. True, George III. was in his domestic relations virtuous, as a ruler, narrow, bigoted, obstinate. It would be well did truth permit eternal silence to rest upon the others. But Victoria has reigned constitutionally, and has ever been true to her womanhood whether as a mother, wife, friend or Queen. Her marriage was exceptionally happy, nor was she unequally yoked with an unbeliever. Albert the Good was the worthy husband of a worthy wife. In the fierce light which beats upon the throne no lives more thoroughly stand the test than those of our Queen and her late Consort Prince. These Jubilee rejoicings are real, and we gladly add our mite to the universal tribute. God save our Queen.

A LENGTHY article in the Boston *Congregationalist* by Dr. A. P. Foster gives some interesting facts regarding the growth of Congregationalism in the United States during the last twenty years. It tells us that in 1867 there were seventeen churches reporting a membership of over 500; now there are seventy-two. In 1867 there were reported 2,780 churches; this year there were reported 4,277 churches, or a gain of 1,497, over fifty per cent. The membership reported in 1867 was 32,981; the membership now is 60,820, an addition of over seventy-five per cent. And this growth is mainly in the cities and in the South and West. Twenty years ago there were but three churches south of Mason and Dixon's line (to their honour be it recorded, Congregational Churches never condoned slavery), and thirty-one was the entire number in the South. Missouri to-day has seventy-nine, and 224 have been added to the thirty-one.

THE increase in churches does not indicate all, Maine has only added one church, but the membership has increased 1,874. Vermont has but five

new churches to report, but a growth in membership of 2,600. These facts speak volumes, and should encourage us to persevere.

THERE is much unrest among pastors. Change appears the rule. Would not something like the following aid in bringing about more permanence in the pastoral relation?

The deacons of the Congregational Church at Upper Clapton, England, thirty-four years ago took out a policy of \$5,000 upon the life of their pastor, making it payable to his family. The church assumed the responsibility of the annual premiums, and upon the minister's death, recently, \$7,000 was paid over to his family by this arrangement, besides nearly \$1,000 received in cash bonuses by him during his lifetime.

THERE can be no question but that the series of strikes some years ago among the iron workers of England drove contractors to the Continent for the fulfilment of their contracts. Trade thus diverted never flows back to the old channel. With all sympathy for the worker, and scorn for those that oppress the hireling in his wages, we still feel that strikes are injudicious, paralyzing trade as they do, and the tyranny of unions is getting to be as unbearable as the oppression of capital. Is the Anglo-Saxon race so secure in its possessions as to bear many years the strain trade combinations put upon the holding? Read this:

The coal beds of China are five times as large as those of all Europe, while gold, silver, lead, tin, copper, iron, marble and petroleum are found in the greatest abundance. Owing to the prejudice of the people, the mines have never been worked to any extent, it being the popular belief in China that if these mines are opened thousands of demons and spirits would come forth and fill the country with war and suffering.

But China is gradually letting these superstitions go, and it may be that the Heathen Chinese will ere long, in his own land prove a formidable competitor to the Anglo-Saxon race, whose industry he can equal, and whose skill he is fast learning. At any rate, here is some food for thought.

THE *Christian Advocate* attributes much of the dubious, apologetic preaching of the age to extensive reading of semi-sceptical books by ministers, and quotes the statement of some bookseller to the effect that nine-tenths of all the books inculcating doubt of the truth of Christianity or doubt of the truth of evangelical doctrines are purchased by evangelical ministers. Be this statement cor-