

"The Ascent of Man," A good many think Prof. Henry Drummond's book a down hill ascent. Thus did some of the Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland, for there were several overtures, asking their Assembly to take action regarding its teaching. On motion of Principal Rainey it was resolved by 274 to 151 that as the Church is not committed to the speculations of the book the Assembly does not find ground for judicial investigation.

Whatever of uncertainty and speculation there may be regarding the "Ascent of Man" in the misty past, the "ascent" that is going on now through the agency of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit, is a glorious fact. Never before in the world's history were there so many following Christ as to-day. Never before was God's word so widely read. Never before had Christianity the influence in the world that it has to-day. Never, on the whole, was there seen among men so much of the work of the Spirit of Christ as now. And this blessed "Ascent of Man" shall go on, earth rising heavenward as Heaven stoops to uplift earth to itself, until, sin left behind, there shall be "the new heaven and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Gathering of French Protestants. The enthusiastic gathering of about a thousand French Protestants at Montebello (Dalhousie Station on the C.P.R., about half way between Montreal and Ottawa) on the 20th of June, was one of the morning rays. More than 400 went up from Montreal and neighborhood. It was the largest French Protestant gathering ever held in Canada. They were received right royally by M. Papineau at the Manor House, the verandah of which served as a platform. Presbyterians, Episcopians, Methodists and Baptists, were there, illustrating the unity of Protestantism. Addresses were given by Messrs. De Gruchy, Amaron, Lariviere, Massicotte, Lafleur and Dr. Chiniquy. Mlle Duhamel, niece of the R. C. Archbishop of Ottawa, a lady who recently embraced the Presbyterian faith, charmed them with her singing, while the hymns by the vast assembly made the groves and mountains ring.

Not many years ago there were no French Protestants in Canada to meet. More recently when there were a few of them their meetings excited hostility. French congregations in Montreal were mobbed. Now they meet as quietly and securely as any others. There is progress not only on the increasing numbers of those who are embracing the Protestant faith, reading the Bible for themselves, and accepting its truths; but in the gradual enlightenment, slow though it be, of the Roman Catholics, teaching them that every man has a right to choose for himself in matters of faith. Such gatherings inspire confidence among the French Protestants themselves, shew to the English the reality of the work, and lead French Roman Catholics to examine for themselves that faith which gives such freedom and unity and joy.

Kindness to animals. Scripture tells us that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" in consequence of man's sin; and also tells that when sin and its curse is removed, "then shall the creation itself also be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

One phase of this curse is the suffering borne by the animal creation from the hardness or cruelty of man, and one ray of the coming promised dawn is the growing prominence given to the fostering of kindness in this direction.

Societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals are rapidly multiplying. The subject is the theme of a growing literature. Some of the present day stories, such as "Black Beauty," Beautiful Joe, &c., are gems. Periodicals, issued by Humane Associations and expressly devoted to this good work are increasing. According to their needs, and their capacity for profiting by it, the blessed Evangel comes to the brute creation as well as to man. In proportion as the latter receives it, the former shares the blessing; and in this we see the coming of that Light before which earth's night of sin and suffering is to pass forever away.

Separate Schools in Florida. Trouble over separate schools is not confined to Manitoba. The State of Florida recently passed, "An Act to Prohibit White and Negro Youth from Being Taught in the Same Schools."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:—

Section 1. It shall be a penal offence for any individual body of inhabitants, corporation or association, to conduct within this State any school of any grade, public, private, or parochial, wherein white persons and Negroes shall be instructed or boarded within the same building or taught in the same class, or at the same time, by the same teacher.

Sec. 2. Any person or persons violating the provisions of Section 1 of this Act, by patronizing or teaching in such school, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not less than \$150, nor more than \$500, or imprisoned in the county jail for not less than three months or more than six months for every such offence.

Sec. 3. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This Act shall take effect September, 1895. Approved May 29, 1895."

Slavery may be abolished, but race prejudices die hard. Not long since in one of the Northern States, a young lady, educated, accomplished, with all the necessary qualifications, was refused the position of teacher in a public school merely because there was a faint far off trace of colored blood in her veins though scarcely perceptible on the surface.

There is yet room for progress in "the Brotherhood of Man." Other darkness than that of color still exists, but it, too, must disappear.