

willing so to act. Anything like a rule or precedent barring his worship from the chairmanship of any committee would be regarded as quite a retrograde movement, and it was obviously unfair to cast reflections on his impartiality. He has taken sides on this question just as the aldermen all have taken sides, but that fact ought not to weigh against but for him.

It now remains for the friends of the Sabbath to insist on a satisfactory agreement; one minimizing the extent of Sunday labor and providing for the protection of the men from overwork, and one which shall be just, financially, to the city. After such an agreement has been reached, it will become the duty of the Lord's Day Alliance to take prompt measures to defeat the by-law.

Divorce in Canada.

The last volume of the "Statistical Year Book" gives some interesting information, relative to divorces in Canada. In Canada, under the Union Act, 1867, divorce is one of the subjects assigned to the Federal Parliament. As, however, some of the provinces had established divorce courts before Confederation, they have been permitted to continue the jurisdiction which was conferred upon their courts. These provinces are Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. In Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories divorce can only be obtained by legislation—an act of the Parliament of Canada being necessary. The rules of the Senate touching divorce require the production of such evidence in support of the application as would be deemed sufficient in a court of law; in other respects the matter is dealt with as for an ordinary private act of Parliament. The statistics show that since Confederation 211 divorces have been granted of which 54 were by the Dominion Parliament and 157 by the several provincial courts. Prince Edward Island courts have not granted a single divorce in the twenty-seven years. The general figures give an average of eight divorces a year for the whole of Canada. The provinces which have courts of divorce have absolutely and relatively to population very many more divorces than the provinces which depend upon Parliament for divorces. The large number in the province of Nova Scotia is probably due to the fact that the cost of fees established many year ago is so small that the poorest in the land are not prevented from seeking relief in the courts.

U. S. A. Statistics.

The comparative summary of the U. S. Presbyterian Church for the last year shows an increase of candidates from 1,477 to 1,508, and ministers from 6,797 to 6,842. Local Evangelists drop off from 215 to 176 and licentiates from 474 to 455, although licensures have increased from 315 to 321. Eighty ministers have been received from other bodies, which is less than for five years, while more have been dismissed. There are 2,025 elders, 9,174 deacons, and 7,573 churches, a gain of 77, 149 being organized, 84 dissolved. The additions on excommunication were 64,826, which is slightly less than last year, and precisely 10,000 less than in 1894 if the figures are correct. The receptions by certificates 38,489, are less than since 1891. The net increase is less than 22,000, the total being 944,716, with a Sabbath school membership that goes over the million line for the first time. The total contributions are \$14,150,497. The congregational expenses are within \$100,000 of the high water mark of 1893, being \$10,413,785. Home Missions received \$980,566, almost as much as any recent year, 1892-3 excepted. Foreign Missions had \$739,103; Re-union fund \$332,350; Church erection is down to \$155,177; Aid for colleges, \$148,651; Sunday

school work, \$130,598; Education is down to \$102,367; Ministerial Relief, \$94,353; General Assembly \$92,462; Synodical Aid, \$73,152; and Miscellaneous, \$778,728. It is a magnificent record, as our record runs, for a panic year.

Calvinistic Doctrine.

The *Mid-Continent* gives the following terse and interesting note on Calvinism:—"Calvinism is mighty because it singles out, emphasizes, and builds upon, a great, central, radical, essential truth; a truth for all times and for all men; one of the 'everlasting possessions.' It is the truth of God's Sovereignty and man's absolute dependence on God. God rules in Heaven. He works out, with unerring wisdom, His purposes and plans. Our times are in His hand. The very hairs of our head are numbered; naught can befall us without our Heavenly Father's will; all things are made by His providence to be subservient to our salvation. We do not say that this is the most central thing in the realm of truth; but it is a great and fundamental truth, the glory and power of which will be displayed wherever it meets with recognition, and honor and belief. Let a man believe this with a perfect conviction, and he will be calm, and strong, and brave; and the more he feels himself to be dependent on God, the more independent he will be of men. Now, it is with the strength of this truth that Calvinism is strong, it is from this high source that it draws whatever power is peculiar to it. Sovereignty gives no encouragement to slothfulness. Was not Peter sent to Cornelius to tell him words whereby he and his house might be saved? God works by man, and while Christians sleep, we must expect sinners to sleep on till they wake up in despair! Let us think how intimately the glory of God is connected with our fidelity; and let us remember that the glory of God calls upon us to awake out of sleep; yet the glory of God whispers in every Christian's ear, "It is high time to awake out of sleep—high time to awake out of sleep; the night is far spent, the day is at hand—it has already come the sun has risen—it is high time to wake out of sleep—high time to wake out of sleep."

The American Board. The annual meeting of the American Board of Foreign Missions, this year, will be held in Toledo Oct. 6th-9th. The sermon will be preached by Dr. Packard of Syracuse New York. Some anxiety is expressed by the directors over the fact that the income up to date is nearly \$29,000 short of last year's amount. Unless this is made up before the close of the year it will have to lead to a further curtailment of their already crippled operations abroad.

An Anglican Dignitary in Scotland. Archdeacon Taylor of Liverpool while in Scotland recently, following the example of some of his ecclesiastical superiors, worshipped and preached in the Presbyterian Church. His action has given great offence to the Scottish Episcopalians and he is vigorously denounced for it by their organ the *Scottish Guardian*. It seems extraordinary that these high-flyers who prate so much about the re-union of Christendom should betray such an insane dislike of any step such as this which might have the effect of helping it on. It shows how narrow and sectarian they really are. The whole incident further proves how much more truly Catholic the Presbyterian Church is than the Anglican. Even Archdeacon Taylor would not be able to return the courtesy by inviting any Scottish clergyman, however eminent to occupy his pulpit when visiting Liverpool.

The first successful woman editor and proprietor of a newspaper in America was Miss Watson, who edited the *Hartford Courant* one hundred and twenty years ago. George Washington was one of her subscribers.