

We have never been an admirer of Gladstone's foreign policy. No, nor of Beaconsfield's either; the one is as vacillating as the other was meretricious. We desire peace; but when the battle-flag is unfurled, then we want no half measures, such as have certainly characterized this miserable Soudan difficulty. Our indignant sorrow is that so many brave men have fallen in such an unworthy imbroglio.

THE *Congregational Year Book for 1885* of our English brethren is before us, and should have been noticed sooner. It is voluminous, and manifests the abundant labours of our friend Dr. Hannay. Its most noticeable novelty is a summary of returns respecting the accommodation provided by the churches for public worship. According to these returns there is a grand total of churches and mission stations of 4,347 of which 1,052 are in Wales; sitting accommodation for 1,568,357, of which 336,051 are in Wales. In 1852 the number of places credited to the Congregational body was 3,244, and sittings 1,001,507, hence in thirty-three years there has been an increase of 1,103 buildings and 565,850 sittings. Gratifying as this is, our more abundant statistical sense craves more; how many of these sittings are occupied? What membership, even nominal, does this represent? And what is being accomplished financially by the different localities? One thousand sittings may represent one hundred hearers; we are still at sea. However, our brethren are moving in the direction of mutual confidence in the matter, and they may eventually outstrip us in the frankness of published details. The chairman's address, obituary notices, and chapel plans gave a permanent value to the voluminous work. May its genial and wise editor be long spared to serve the churches of the fatherland.

ON more occasions than one in these columns attention has been drawn to the fact that as a denomination in Canada we seem to have reached the turn of the tide, and are in the flow. This demands newly consecrated energy, and closer fellowship. The demand upon our liberality will for a time increase. Nor need we fear even to sacrifice, though few of us have reached that pitch of endeavour yet. We drew attention last issue to

the Stratford Church. One of our most liberal and energetic friends writes that he has been on the spot, and is convinced that we (the larger denominational fellowship) ought to help them. A little aid just now will be worth tenfold more in the future; indeed we shall make a good investment now by coming to the aid of the resurrected church. Five hundred dollars will put them in a position hopefully to help themselves.

While on the subject, a still wider one. Local claims are in measure paramount we know; but a much more general interest must be taken in our denominational schemes. Thanks to the personal visitation of our Missionary Superintendent, collections for the Canada Congregational Missionary Society are pretty general. We are growing fast in this direction. Our college, however, does not fare so well. Of fifty-seven settled churches reported in Ontario, forty-two contributed according to the statistical report of the last *Year Book*. Quebec reports eighteen churches, thirteen contribute, and fifteen out of twenty settled charges in the Lower Provinces. Ontario is not to the fore in this particular. We are not scolding, but we are pressing facts as an incentive to renewed and continued effort. We need a more general interest in each other, more loving sympathy, to know each other better: and a more general circulation of our "fortnightly" will, if attained unto and maintained, be no unimportant factor in this thrice blessed endeavour.

THE first Presbyterian Church in the Maritime Provinces was founded at Halifax in 1750, by Rev. Aaron Cleveland, great grandfather of President Cleveland. It is now known as St. Matthew's, and is the leading Presbyterian Church in Halifax.

The above extract, taken from a Montreal paper, is going the round of the press, and it is but right that the following facts should be stated: The Rev. Aaron Cleveland in 1750 formed a Congregational Church in Halifax, composed chiefly of persons from London, England and from Massachusetts. The land for the house of worship was given by an order in council to the congregation, and it is said the frame of the building was brought from Boston, Mass. The Church was named the Mather Church after the celebrated Congregational divine Cotton Mather.

Among the successors to Mr. Cleveland