

THE SALVATION ARMY.—A very erroneous impression has been made on the minds of the public regarding the alleged success of the "Salvationists" in reforming outcasts and evil-livers. I believe that their success has been exaggerated beyond all bounds. I have made careful enquiries from persons favourably disposed towards the movement, and when I pin them down to facts, it is amazing (in view of what the Rev. Dr. Wilson and the newspapers have said) how few instances they can adduce of outcasts rescued and down-right evil-livers reformed. The half-dozen names which are always mentioned in this connection are those of persons who were far from being outcasts, and who appear to have followed vicious courses rather than a craving for excitement than because they were addicted to vice for its own sake. This craving for excitement has now found new objects for it to expend itself upon, and consequently, for the time, vicious courses have been abandoned. But for the greater number of those who have been brought under the influence of the "Salvation Army" are young people of either sex, together with a few of mature years, who have been all their lives more or less closely connected with some of the existing "Churches," and who find in the "Salvation Army" meetings a novelty and an opportunity for personal display which they did not find in their old associations. The effect on these has been anything but salutary or desirable. From being quiet, orderly people for the most part, "living humble lives of modest worth," they are too often transformed into pert, conceited fanatics whose sole end and aim in life seems to be to *speak in public*, and engross for a few moments the attention of the gaping crowd before them. A species of spiritual intoxication has been produced which will be most disastrous in its effects when the inevitable reaction sets in. Yet by shallow observers the "testimonies" (as they are called) of these new "verts" are looked upon as sober reality; and so with the most confiding innocence they exclaim; "See how much good the Army is doing! What a number of souls saved! This work must be of God!" However, no perceptible lessening of the sum total of crime and dissipation has been produced by the Army's work in this city during the past year. The theatre, the taverns and saloons, the police court, and the gaol, are quite as much in vogue as they were before the Salvation Army came to town. No real attempt appears to be made by them to reach the lowest people. Their line of procession is always through the principal streets instead of through the lanes and by-ways of the city. Their aim seems to be to draw out crowds who will *pay well* for the amusement afforded them. Of course, the effect of their proceedings as a whole is most demoralizing. People who would once have been shocked at the very idea of frequenting places of amusement on Sunday, now pour into the "barracks" every Sunday afternoon and evening in great crowds, and there applaud and cheer to the echo such of the fantastic performances as please them, and hiss and groan and "tramp" down such as are too gross for their not over-delicate tastes. Holy words and names, as well as very unholy ones, are freely used to "point a jest," and raise a laugh among the mob of spectators,—everything the most sacred is made vulgar and common, and *reverence*, with these people, is a thing of the past. How an agency whose general tendency is so evil can have been the means of effecting any good whatever, even in isolated cases, is one of those marvels of the working of Divine Providence which no one can fully understand or explain. But when we consider that Mahomedanism, and even some very low forms of Paganism, being the only forms of religion known to their adherents, have been devoutly believed in, and such belief attended with good results in individual cases, we need not be staggered at some good being effected even amidst the fantastic and profane buffoonery of the self-styled "Salvation Army." God uses it as a scourge to chastise the Church for her grievous shortcomings, and would fain provoke her to love and good works by the apparent sanction which in many instances He accords to the Army's

work. Let us hope and pray that she will profit by the chastening!

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

LANGTRY V. DUMOULIN.—Mr. Justice Ferguson has at last given his decision in this celebrated case. Stripped of all legal technicalities, the learned judge holds that the plaintiffs, *i. e.*, the city rectors, are entitled to share in the surplus of the St. James' Rectory Fund, after payment to Canon Dumoulin of \$5000 a year. The judgment abounds with recitals from statutes and other matters of no public or general interest. Its closing words are as follows: "I am of opinion that the plaintiffs are entitled to the declaration and the account that they ask. It was said, however, by their council at the trial that an account would not be necessary. I apprehend that an injunction, or a receiver, will also be unnecessary. If they are, the matter can be spoken to on settling the judgment." With respect to costs no decision has been given yet and the matter formed the basis of a separate argument on the 1st of March.

PORT HOPE.—*St. John's Church.*—At an apron sale and oyster supper held by the ladies of this Church recently, the neat sum of \$50 was realized. The Temperance Society in connection with the congregation is making rapid advancement in numbers and interest. Canon O'Meara is an indefatigable worker in his own peculiar way.

NORWOOD.—*Christ Church.*—At a meeting held recently, reports were presented showing the amounts subscribed towards the erection of a new parsonage. These reports were highly satisfactory. The Westwood congregation have subscribed \$200, Norwood \$400, Belmont \$40, while there are in hands \$163 contributed chiefly by the Sewing Society. A building committee was appointed consisting of the incumbent, Rev. John Gibson, and Messrs. Groom and Jotcham. Plans are to be drawn by Mr. Wilkins, and when they are ready tenders will be asked for and the work commence without delay.

GROCER'S LICENSES.—The vote on the by-law for the abolition of Grocer's liquor licenses in Toronto resulted in a majority of 359 in its favor. The temperance workers deserve congratulations on the result of this contest, seeing that they had a tremendous opposition against them. The complete returns show a very large vote and prove that the ratepayers were alive to the importance of the questions at issue. An effort was made by the licenced grocers to restrain the council by means of an injunction from passing the by-law, but on argument the judge decided against granting any injunction. Strenuous exertions were also put forth in the council to restrain the aldermen, but the victory was to be decided at the polls. The by-law has received the third reading. No doubt an extension of time will be granted for those in business at present to dispose of their stock-in-trade. One hundred houses at least are licensed in the city.

TORONTO.—*St. Georges.*—The costume concert, now a yearly affair with this congregation and held quite recently, proved very successful. The pretty dresses of the performers enhanced not a little the rendering of the various numbers on the programme. Mrs. Torrance, Miss Kathleen Sowdan, Miss Walker, and Mr. Burton in their various songs and duets were loudly applauded. The audience was select and very large.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.—The C. E. T. S., at Haliburton, is doing an excellent work. Many hitherto irreligious and profane persons have been won to better things through its exertions. Meetings take place fortnightly. C. J. Bloomfield, Esq., takes a very active part in the work of the Society.

At St. Peter's Church, the branch is increasing rapidly. At the last meeting held in the school-room, Mr. Hoyles gave an interesting address.

Fifty names were added to the membership at the close of the programme which in addition to addresses comprised singings, readings, recitations, &c.

The Temperance Society of the Church of the Ascension has very large numbers at its fortnightly gatherings. The members now number over two hundred and fifty. The last programme consisted of a selection of piano solos, songs and readings.

AN EXCELLENT IDEA.—The new minister of education, Hon. G. W. Ross, has announced his intention of introducing the regular reading of the Bible into the public schools of Ontario at an early date. A passage of Scripture will be selected each day in the year and this "lectionary" will be forwarded to the public school teachers throughout the province. This, in premise, is partly in response to the large and influential deputations from the various Christian bodies of the country, and to the pleas they urged on the subject of religious instruction in schools before Attorney General Mowat months ago. The result will be gratifying to many, but it scarcely goes far enough to satisfy all.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.—Several bills referring to various ecclesiastical matters are now before the Local Legislature. A bill respecting Churchwardens of five churches has been reported by the private bills committee with slight amendments. Another bill relating to the Toronto Rectory lands is likely to meet with strenuous opposition from the people of St. James' Cathedral.

The last meeting of the Toronto Sunday School Association was held at All Saints school house on the 21st of February. Mr. Wood acted as chairman. A paper was read by the Rev. J. D. Cayley on separate services for children. The question was earnestly discussed and decided by the meeting in the affirmative.

St. Mark's, Parkdale, had a capital entertainment in the Town Hall on the 20th ult. After the programme of music, &c., had been completed, the young folks enjoyed themselves in the mazy dance for a couple of hours. Such a plan may help to recuperate the treasury, but we greatly fear its ill effects on the spiritual condition of the people.

At the last meeting of Trinity College Literary Institute the subject of debate was, Resolved, "That the spread of education has an injurious effect upon the supply of manual labour." After an interesting debate the question was decided in the negative.

Trinity Church, Toronto, gave a concert on the 18th ult. The programme was made up of solos, duets, quartettes, recitations, and readings. The musical selections were of a high order and were artistically rendered.

All Saints' branch of the Girl's Friendly Society, held an entertainment recently, which was well attended. Refreshments were provided and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Province of Rupert's Land.

INCLUDING THE DIOCESES OF RUPERT'S LAND
SASKATCHEWAN, MOOSENEE, ATHABASCA,
ASSINIBOIA, & SOUTHERN ATHABASCA

DIOCESE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA.—The inconsistency of the Cummins' schism is shewn in the statement in a local paper that the Choral Service in the "Reformed Episcopal Church" at Victoria, held on Christmas Day, was to be repeated by the special request of the congregation. Fancy New Brunswick "Reformed Episcopalians" requesting the continuance of choral services!