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OVER LAND AND SEA.

As their gods were, so their laws were; Thor the strong could
reave and steal,
So through many a peaceful inlet tore the Norseman's eager keel;
But a new law came when Christ came, and not blameless as before;
Can we, paying Him our lip-tithes, give our lives and faiths to
Thor?
Lowell.

A very interesting service was held at Marylebone Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning May 3rd, when the pulpit was occupied by Lord Overtoun and Mr. J. Campbell White, of Calcutta. Curiously enough, although the two speakers have the same name, they are not in any way related. Lord Overtoun, as Dr. Pentecost reminded the audience, is a Scotchman; Mr. Campbell White is an American. Lord Overtoun remarked that he had never before stood in the pulpit with anyone of his own name. He dwelt on the great responsibility of this country to India, and reminded his hearers that we are now at a critical moment in the history of our Indian Empire. Ancient faiths were decaying and the educated young men and women of the country were waiting for a new revelation. If we let them alone they would become educated agnostics.

The alarming decrease in the English Wesleyan Church membership is naturally enough engaging the earnest attention of the denominational leaders. Comparing Methodism in Cornwall in 1866 with the position of the denomination there in 1896, there is a decrease in the thirty years of over 4,000 members. This is traced to the decrease in the mining industry.

One, writing to the editor of *The Methodist Recorder*, says: "Your leading article laid bare more than one weak spot in our Church life. You say: 'The passion for pleasure has enormously increased. The theatre, the dance, and incipient gambling, feasting, frivolity, and sport are increasing their hold upon English society with frightful rapidity. Anybody who imagines that Methodism has escaped the influence is living in a fool's paradise.' I wish these words were not true. Alas! they are. As a Church we are suffering in many places from the plague of worldliness, and as ministers we shall have to set our faces steadfastly against this. It requires tact and courage, but it must be done. Many still say unto God's prophets, 'Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits'; but, holding our commission from God, we dare not do this."

Prince Oscar Bernadotte, the second son of the present King of Sweden and Norway, has a Sunday school for the children of the higher classes. "It is a pleasant sight," writes a contributor to *Sunday at Home*, "to see this royal prince standing at his desk in the schoolroom, and touching to hear him, in his own earnest, unaffected manner, explain the Word of God for his boys."

In Norway there are 5,048 schools, with 57,470 scholars, almost equally divided between the state Church and the other denominations, the former being slightly in the majority. In Sweden the total numbers are greater than in both Norway and Denmark combined, there being

15,000 teachers and 189,467 scholars, about two-thirds belonging to the Established Church. There are, however, about 800,000 Swedish children that do not attend Sunday school.

To rightly estimate the value to the Church of an institution like the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work, one should open up a package such as we received recently containing samples of all its periodical publications. We see a great many papers, lesson helps, etc., and if there are any better adapted to the needs of Presbyterians, young or old, we have not seen them. Beginning with the *Forward* and ending with the *Junior Lesson Leaf*, they should be circulated in every one of the congregations of our Church. A study of the catalogue of books published by the Board will leave an equally favorable impression.

"Archdeacon Govett," says *The Rock*, London, "calls attention to the deep and widespread mischief which has been for years silently effected by the illustrations in *Punch*. Since a Roman Catholic became its editor, scarcely a week has passed in which our bishops, our clergy, and the non-conforming ministers have not been made the subject of some objectionable caricature, delineating them in some unmanly, cowardly, ridiculous or contemptible aspect."

Reed pens, split at the ends like quill pens, have been found in Egyptian tombs dating probably 2,500 years before Christ.

Siberia and Greenland, it is claimed, have both at some far distant period occupied a position on the earth's surface that was tropical in every particular.

Mean men are, somehow or other, interesting studies. A gentleman who is intimately associated with the business ends of a great many religious weeklies, says *North and West* is sending out the following epigram on the subject of "mean men": "A man may use a wart on the back of his neck for a collar button; ride on the back coach of a train to save interest on his money until the conductor comes around; stop his watch at night to save the wear and tear; leave his 'i' and 't' without a dot or cross to save ink; pasture his mother's grave to save corn; but a man of this kind is a gentleman and a scholar compared to a fellow who will take a newspaper, and when asked to pay for it, puts it into the post-office and has it marked, 'Refused.'"

Excellent philanthropic work is being done in New York through the utilization of vacant lots, which, by arrangement with the owners, the unemployed are allowed to cultivate. Last year eighty-four heads of families raised crops of a market value of \$9,871.16. The expense to the Committee was \$4,281.73. This is true philanthropy, for it enables the willing worker to support himself. Are there not some philanthropists in Toronto who will organize themselves into a Committee for the similar utilization of Toronto's many acres of vacant lots?