

CHRISTIAN UNITY.

Preaching on this subject in Knox church last Sunday evening, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Ramsay, said: "The church of Christ then is a unit, both internally and externally. Ought it therefore to be one organization? Paul sought to make Christian unity visible in his great collection for the Jewish saints at Jerusalem. Of a single organization, inclusive of the whole Christian world we do not hear in the New Testament, but the apostles had not to do with conditions wherein the church of every locality had fallen into sects. In some instances the formation of denominations may be fairly justified, but surely unity of spirit will lead us to seek for opportunities of full fellowship with our brethren. Christian denominations which acknowledge one another's participation in the Christian heritage will desire to give and receive one another's spiritual gifts. They will strive to remove every temptation to regard one another as rivals and will adjust their relations to one another so as to promote as effectively as possible the common aim. To my mind, this points to corporate union. In this new country we have a number of branches of the Christian church of diverse origin. Our ancestors came from various countries and our denominational life had developed differently. At our first contact we did not understand each other, but the first unfavorable impressions have been gradually corrected. Indeed we have learned from one another and our earlier customs have been modified until it requires keen vision to detect our differences. Must we remain contented with a fellowship restricted to Bible societies, Lord's Day alliances and the like? Are we not bound to ask why we should not have similar relations in every phase of Christian life and work?"

GOOD FRIDAY.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian:

May I ask the favor of a little space in your estimable paper for the purpose of arousing thought on a case of, to my awakened mind, misplaced words? While again reading the scripture report of the crucifixion I was struck by a wonderment of who could find anything in the doings of that Friday that it should be called "Good." From its earliest inception it was trouble and distress to God's Holy One, as He said: "Now is My soul troubled," until then Gethsemane, the betrayal, arrest, mock trial by Jew and Gentile with all the fiendish spite and hatred of implacable foes, with all their brutal cruelties of inhuman sport. He was done to death and that before the day closed. Was there one hour in the whole twenty-four free from suffering for Him; and shall we, whose sins were there and then the immediate cause of His unparalleled agony, hold a memorial of the day as "Good Friday?" As well might we hold sacred that instrument of torture on which He expired, the cross, called in scripture the "accursed tree."

What does the Father think of us, professing to love and serve his Son, and yet calling the day on which He died "good" above all other days of the year.

These are just a few thoughts, but they seem to me of great significance. Shall we not all unite and pray God to give us His Holy Spirit, who, our Lord Jesus promised, would lead us into all truth. Very sincerely yours,

SEOFATHA.

Ardrea, Ont.

After a powerful address on the subject, "Is Betting Wrong?" at St. Andrew's Church, London, Rev. Dr. Ross called for a standing vote of those who were in favor of the new anti-race-track gambling bill at present before Parliament. Almost the whole congregation responded to his appeal, while the question who were opposed to it found not a single supporter.

RELIGIOUS NOTES AND NEWS.

Prepared for Dominion Presbyterian.

The Rev. Edouard Sirotti, a Roman Catholic priest of Ravenna, Italy, has been received into the Waldensian church.

The Rev. J. E. Courd who was the Roman Catholic cure of Foulbec, is now in charge of the Protestant church at Montreuil, France.

The Methodist Episcopal church have now six stations in Southern France. These have been recently established.

The Rev. Henri Ramette, vicar of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Oran, France, has been received into the Reformed Church in Paris. Mgr. Cattel is the present Bishop of Oran.

An Evangelical Alliance has recently been formed in the Republic of Brazil to protect Protestant interests. Similar societies have been formed in France and Spain and have proved a great success.

The Rev. M. Tarin, a Roman Catholic priest of Geneva, Switzerland, having served the probation period, was recently consecrated a pastor of the Reformed Church by Pastor Montel. Mr. Tarin will take charge of the church at Cros, France.

Besides their great work in Rome our Methodist brethren have over forty active missions in different cities and towns throughout Italy, with seventy Italian teachers, all Protestants; forty-six Sabbath schools well attended, and a large and rapidly growing church membership.

The Rev. Victor F. Havtefeulle, vicar of the Church of Notre Dame de Bon-Secours, Rouen, France, was recently consecrated a pastor in one of the Reformed churches in Paris. Monsieur Havtefeulle was baptized on the 15th of August last, and has now entered into active Christian work.

Because he is building a parish mission church for Protestants as well as Catholics, the Rev. Joseph P. Carrigan, of Denver, Col., has been served with a notice of excommunication and because he thinks he is doing a laudable deed in building such a church and that the bishop has no power to remove him ad nutum, Father Carrigan refuses to vacate his pulpit.

"Cranston Hall," the great Methodist school for girls in Rome, has now 1,400 pupils under the charge of Signorina Italia Garibaldi, the granddaughter of the famous general. "Cranston Hall" was formerly a large Roman Catholic nursery, but we understand that a much larger school is shortly to be built. Many young girls from the most prominent families in Rome are receiving an excellent education in this school.

It is the misfortune of Italy that it has been suffering from both intellectual and spiritual neglect, and that the Roman Catholic system has done so very little to help the people in this respect. Premier Sonnini is a vigorous reformer, now proposes a remedy for the great illiteracy of the country by establishing 40,000 schools at the cost of \$48,000,000 which he advises the state to lend to the municipalities all over the country. Although this educational reform will meet with vigorous opposition from the clerical party it would be a great boon to the country in general.

During the month of January last eight Roman Catholic priests in good standing communicated by letter with the Rev. Leon Levoyre, director of the Protestant mission to the Roman priesthood, Paris. One priest enclosed 10 francs towards the work, another 20 frs. for the Chretien Libro, Pastor Revoyre's paper. Another member wrote asking for a copy of the New Testament (Crampon). Many other members of the Roman clergy have from time to time sent small donations to this very excellent work. The work in France is daily increasing and the outlook most hopeful.

Spain in its turn is now facing an anti-clerical crisis, which close obser-

vers believe will lead to events similar to those of France before the separation of state and church. Senor Canalejas, the premier, is a vigorous Liberal and favors the introduction of a broad system of public education as a national necessity. His programme has, of course, aroused the authorities of the Roman church, who are already plotting for his downfall. The test will soon come, and it will show whether Spain is to make any real progress or submit to the domination of the Jesuit party, which has always been opposed to popular education. We are glad that the premier has the support of the king.

A study of "The Catholic Church in 1909," which appears in "The Irish Ecclesiastical Record" (a R. C. monthly review under Episcopal sanction) a writer, the Rev. J. MacCaffery, Ph.D., of Maynooth College, makes admission which can only be regarded as surprising. He has not hesitated to voice the widespread feeling of disappointment on the part of Roman Catholics in general that the Bible Commission at the Vatican, from which so much was expected, has been placed into the hands of the Jesuits, the other religious orders having been carefully excluded from the control of its studies and he adds: "In Italy generally one cannot say Catholic affairs are in a prosperous or even hopeful condition."

During the last year the losses to the church of Rome in Italy have been particularly heavy, and during the present year several conversions have already taken place. Amongst the distinguished converts who have recently left that church for the evangelical ones are, Canon Sforzini (now a Methodist minister); Dr. Bartoli (Waldensian pastor); Father Mastrotto (Waldensian pastor); Rev. Dr. Mina-Capelli (now a Methodist minister); Father Arturo Mingardi (now a Waldensian), and last of all Monsignor Adolfo Biobbio, (Waldensian), under secretary of the congregation of regulars, and domestic prelate to the Pope and professor of law in the Academy of Ecclesiastical Nobles. Mgr. Biobbio was an intimate friend of Cardinal Merry Del Val, and was recently sent as apostolic visitor to Sicily, in order to reorganize the theological courses of study in different ecclesiastical provinces. His three volumes of "Lessons in Ecclesiastical Diplomacy," and his book on "Conciliation," are undoubtedly works of high value. He has left the Roman church at the age of forty-three for a life more conformed to the dictates of reason and conscience. He is a great friend of Dr. Bartoli, the ex-Jesuit, so that we trust ere long that the distinguished prelate will be led into the full light of Bible Christianity.

ALOYSIUS TOSSETTO.

To ask for a special offering for home missions of two thousand dollars and get more than seven thousand was the pleasing experience of Rev. Dr. E. D. McLaren, Home Mission Secretary, who recently returned from the west. That happened to him in Vancouver. He set out with the object of raising sufficient to make up the \$30,000 by which the needs of the present year will, it is expected, exceed the revenue of last year. The endeavor of the Home Mission Committee is to meet this excess by extra contributions, so as to place the funds in an easy position, supposing the regular income is only the same as last year. Of this \$30,000 Winnipeg undertook to give \$10,000, and Toronto last January pledged \$5,000. Dr. McLaren went to Vancouver to ask for \$2,000, but in St. John's church on the first Sunday morning he was there the men of the congregation in fifteen minutes subscribed \$2,330, so he had to raise his aim. In the evening St. Andrew's congregation gave him more than \$1,000, and in the two days he was there contributions amounting to \$7,210 were handed in. To such a degree, says the doctor, do the men of the west realize as never before the absolute necessity of prosecuting the home mission work in order to the consolidation and the salvation of our national life.