

Congregational Resolutions.

It might be a good thing for some of the office-bearers of our congregations to make a few resolutions this week. An elder that did not do any work during '08 but distribute the symbols on Communion Sabbath might take some healthy exercise in the first week of January in the way of self-examination. If this exercise leads him to make and keep a few good resolutions for '09 he will be happier a year hence than he is now. A trustee or manager who has taken no interest for a whole year in the business affairs of the congregation he was appointed to manage must have some unpleasant sensations at the end of the year. He should make a series of good resolutions and keep them. The member who has done nothing for a whole year but "object," might ask himself if he finds that objecting to everything helps on the Lord's work to any great extent. Those people who always propose to equalize the expenditure and revenue by cutting down the expenditure might ask themselves if the equalization could not be brought about by raising the revenue. Several hundred people might resolve to go to church more regularly than they did in '09. Several thousand should resolve to attend prayer meeting who have never attended at all. The men who make long speeches about economy, but never pay anything, might pay up so that their eloquence may have a better chance next year. The number of congregational resolutions that should be made is wonderful.

Resolutions for Church Courts.

It might be well for the brother who continually rises in the Church Courts and says "Moderator, I rise to a point of order," to resolve not to rise so often about that point. A point of order is usually a very small point. Sometimes there is no point at all. The brother who begins every speech by saying, "Moderator, I feel I cannot give a silent vote on this question," might resolve to let that introduce on go. The fact that he is making a speech shows how he feels. The brother who speaks on every question in every church Court might resolve to try if the church can get on with less of his eloquence for a year. The unfortunates who are compelled to listen to him can. Whole Presbyteries might resolve not to spend an entire day on business that might be done in an hour or two.

Pulpit Resolutions.

Would it not be well if some ministers would resolve this week to shorten their sermons. Public opinion demands brief treatment of subjects and there is nothing to be gained by quarrelling with public opinion in such matters. Cursing the age won't make it any better. When the Head of the Church sent you into this world to preach the Gospel at this time, do you suppose He did not know what the state of public opinion would be about the length of sermons? There is no use in saying that centuries ago the people would stand sermons three hours long with sixty heads. If God had meant you to preach at that time sermons of that kind He would have created you then. The fathers who preached then were grand old men, and they made sermons to suit their times in length. Why can't you imitate them and resolve to adapt yourself to the age in which you live? You must do justice to the subject, of course. The subject will

come back, however, but the people may not if you weary them. If there is reason to believe that you can do more good by preaching half an hour than forty-five minutes or an hour, why not resolve to preach the half hour? Every man preaches and speaks longer than he thinks he does. Making all due allowance for the nonsense talked at conferences and conventions about long prayers, might it not be a good thing for some ministers to shorten their prayers? Some of the most intelligent people—the most loyal Presbyterians—the most devoted Christians—DO complain about the length of the prayers and sermons that they hear at times. They are the best friends of the Church. Though cranks, and meddlers, and troublemakers and busy-bodies be treated with contempt, might it not be well to yield to the feelings of some of the very best of our people?

The railway mileage of Canada aggregated 22,452 a year ago. It is now according to the statement given to the public by Mr. Graham, the Minister of Railways and Canals, 23,750, an increase of 1,293 miles. There are 4,327 miles under contract, but not completed. Next year's increase will plainly be as great as this year's, if not greater. And with the National Transcontinental still under construction in 1910, for it is not to be finished until 1911, and both the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern building the extensions they are now projecting, it would appear that the year after next is also going to be a notable year of railway-building in Canada. In making the above noted statement, Mr. Graham called attention to the improvement of existing lines of railway, by the lowering of grades, the straightening of curves, and other like work, which is quite as important as the building of new lines or the extension of old ones.

Ex-President Eliot, of Harvard University, whose change of view on the temperance question we recently referred to, has been studying other economic questions as well. In a recent address before the Child Labor Committee at Boston, he placed the chief blame for present conditions on the labor unions. In Massachusetts, he says, a child of fourteen on leaving school is absolutely unfitted to become a skilled laborer. The unions monopolize the skilled labor of the country, and restrict the number of apprentices, so that a child has no chance to become a skilled laborer. Dr. Eliot thinks there is no hope of improvement while labor organizations are conducted on the present system. He is no doubt right.

The sensation of the hour in Kingston says a Press despatch under date of 28th ult., is Dean Farthing's vigorous onslaught on drunkenness and the apathy of Christians regarding it. The dean was delivering his farewell message ere he became Bishop of Montreal. Kingston, he said, was on the whole a moral city, but he knew of no place where drunkenness was so evident. Surrounding the City Hall were sixteen saloons. This was shameful. It was accounted for by failure of the Christian people to fight the enemies of the King of Righteousness. He further claimed that party politics had much to do with the uneasy condition in which the city found itself with respect to the liquor traffic.

NOT TOO OBSERVANT.

Miss Cran, an English lady, who has traversed the entire continent of North America, is writing a series of descriptive articles, in one of which she says one of the problems of the West, which requires solution, is that of the supply of nurses. Plenty of good nurses can, she says, be had in England and Ireland, (why omit Scotland?), thoroughly trained in the maternity branch of nursing.

Of course they would have to be carefully selected, but a few lectures at the various hospitals would bring forth plenty of volunteers from whom heads of the hospital would pick out the best suited for the work.

Has Miss Cran heard of the Victorian Order of Nurses, or did she see anything of the work of the Presbyterian hospitals at Albin, or Vegreville, or Teulon, or Warsaw, or Sifton, or Ethelbert, which are doing the work which she says is so much required? And the Presbyterian Church is able to undertake more of that kind of work. All it requires is the money.

In a newspaper advertisement now appearing, there is an ingenious story about "What the Corby label stands for." On this the Orillia Packet neatly replies: There is room for another interesting essay on "What the man who drinks the stuff behind the label lies down for."

While other countries are boasting of their fleets and standing armies, France is taking a good deal of pardonable pride in the solid prosperity of her people. According to a statement recently published the wealth of France today is equal to \$1,100 per head of the population. And the important thing is that the wealth is really distributed among the people. France has every reason to be proud of the showing. It is a notable tribute to the thrift, the energy and the perseverance of her people.

Mrs. Carrie Nation, the "loving home defender" of the British race, arrived at Kirkcaldy, with her daughter. On her way from Dunfermline Mrs. Nation had to wait at Thornton Junction. She improved the occasion by addressing the passengers on the evils of smoking, and terrified one man by telling him that if the Almighty had intended him to smoke he would have been built with his nose upside down to serve as a chimney. The first thing Mrs. Nation did when she reached Edinburgh was to march to the station bar and lecture a barmie. "You ought to be ashamed to stand there and serve out the devil," she said.

A nine days' convention, in the interests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, was recently held in Boston. J. Campbell White, General Secretary, conducted a daily institute, hundreds of prominent business men attending. At the evening meetings, the best addresses on missions which Boston has heard for many a day were delivered, and it was resolved to raise \$120,000 immediately among the city churches for mission work, in addition to the regular contributions. The Boston papers describe the convention as the most important religious demonstration ever seen in that city. We look forward, hopefully to the convention which is to be held in Toronto the beginning of April, and trust it will be attended with as satisfactory results.