

These places are the favorite resorts of many of the young men of the city, as is the case in every place where they are allowed. An effort was made about a year ago, by the temperance men of the city, to adopt the Scott Act, but it was a failure; and by this you will be able to judge who are the more numerous, the temperance men or those who are fond of their glass.

Thirdly, The sects are very strong. The Methodists have four places of worship, the Episcopalians two; then there are the Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, Reformed Episcopal and last but not the least, the Salvation Army, who have opened a barracks here, where many congregate every evening to see the holy circus—here is where religion is ridiculed—here is capital for the scoffer to carry on his nefarious work.

Each one of these denominations is trying to draw water to its own mill, and I suppose we should not find fault with them for that were the means used legitimate. But every innovation conceivable is resorted to, and the more outward show the better. Here are towering edifices, very heavily in debt—church festivals, lotteries, bazaars and many other things too numerous to mention. But as to what is preached I can not tell, for I have not been able to attend any of their meetings.

I understand, if a man attends meeting once or peradventure twice on Sundays, and casts in his mite, that with many will pass for religion, but this idea, we find, prevails most everywhere. And these things have a tendency to hatch infidels, of which class there are not a few here; many more than one would expect, seeing there are so many churches.

Our cause is weak, the weakest (excepting the Reformed Episcopal). It has suffered greatly from internal dissensions which have been a serious draw-back; but we have reason to thank God that the brethren are becoming more united, and in time the old troubles will be entirely forgotten.

We have some real good brethren who love the truth, and have means to support it, so with such co-laborers and the gospel in its purity we hope for a strong cause in this city. And another thing which I should not forget to mention is our meeting-house—a very commodious one—is nearly free from debt, which is comforting, as a church in debt is a church in danger.

THE CHRISTIAN is a welcome visitor to us, as it bears all the news from friends at home. I can assure you it is well read by us. I am pleased to learn of its success and that the brethren are giving it the required support. May it be a tower of strength for the up-building of primitive Christianity and the union of all the children of God. Then will the world be brought under the sceptre of King Jesus—then will He see the travail of His soul by having a numerous seed to serve Him.

I hope that some time in the near future I may be able to retrace my steps back to the Maritime Provinces. I longed to be on the Island when the fierce struggle was waged in Prince County, so that I might have assisted in the grand victory achieved for the temperance cause.

Kings County seems to be unfortunate, its difficulty at present is in having those in authority who, against the manifest desire, yea, prayer of the people, appointed a man who is a friend to the tavern-keepers, to be the chief inspector of licenses. But I trust a petition will be in order and forwarded to the proper authorities, and these made to feel the effects of their dastardly outrage. Shall the county bear such an insult without resentment? I think not, as there are men enough who know how to vindicate the right by bringing these men to justice, and they will do it. May the Lord assist every effort put forth to have their appointments cancelled.

Yours truly,

R. W. STEVENSON.

St. Thomas, Ont., March 25th, 1884.

#### NOTES OF TRAVEL.

On Friday, the 11th inst., having obtained leave of absence for four or five weeks from my home churches, I left my friends at home to meet with friends of other days. By the kindness of Mr. McLean, our enterprising merchant, I took a forward passage in the *Baby Elephant* for Eastport, where we arrived after a two hours' sail with a fair wind. As the boat had not arrived from Boston I sought the home of Bro. Dockerty, where I found a welcome and a dinner, two very essential things for a man when travelling. At five P. M., the last line having been cast off, our boat moved away like a "thing of life" toward the home of THE CHRISTIAN. About nine P. M. I sat down to talk with Bro. Capp and wife of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, but the time failed us to ask all that was in our minds, so at one A. M. we broke from the subject and were soon in the land of dreams. While in one of those flights of fancy I could hardly be persuaded that Bro. Capp was saying it was seven o'clock. But such was really the case, and I found that after having discussed the bounties of his board, it was necessary to move in a hasty manner to the place where the *Secret* was confined, and from which she seemed so anxious to get away. After a very pleasant passage across the Bay, we landed on Scotia's shore in time to discuss the viands at the "Royal." An hour's ride, when we were once started on the Western Counties R. R., brought us to the village of Weymouth, from whence a walk of seven miles through the mud brought me to the home of our good Bro. Steele about the time they had all lain themselves away for a night's repose, and I am still here at this writing. I have had the pleasure of meeting many warm friends at their homes and in the public assembly. We have met on Lord's days and every evening, for the purpose of worshipping and presenting the claims of our divine Master.

I find the church here much discouraged. They have been for over four years without any regular preaching, and although they have maintained the public worship on the Lord's day and the Lord's table has not been neglected, yet the love of some have waxed cold and the growth of the church has ceased. I find them anxious to have the word preached among them, and willing to make an effort according to their ability to this end, and according to what I have heard the church at S. Range and also at Gulliver's Cove share in this anxiety. I have been urged by them to move back and labor with them and I think I will do so after a little time. Yesterday I preached the funeral sermon of our dear departed Bro. Journey, and although many of his relatives were unable to attend, the house was crowded to its utmost capacity. I improved the occasion by speaking from James iv: 14.

I. The inclination in man to be independent.

II. The uncertainty of life.

III. What is your life?

(a) As to its duration.

(b) As to its purposes, aims and objects.

(c) What was the life of our dear departed brother? A sketch of his life showing the sacrifices he had made to fit him for the high and holy calling which he had chosen.

J. A. GATES.

Southville, April 21st, 1884.

#### RANDOM NOTES.

The oldest Journal in Italy is the *Gazetta di Genova*, which dates from 1797.

Telegrams from Newfoundland report that the Greenland seal fisheries are a failure.

"Most of us," says Matthew Arnold, "are what we must be, not what we ought to be—not even what we know we ought to be."

The Prince of Wales is said to be taking an active interest in the subject of better homes for the poor, and is zealous in discharging his duties as a member of the commission appointed to investigate the matter.

Mr. Spurgeon says that luck generally comes to those who look after it, and his notion is that it taps, once in a lifetime, at everybody's door, but if industry does not open it, away it goes.

There is a lindentree at Furstenfeld, in Germany, which is supposed to be 1,000 years old and the oldest tree in the world. It stands in a churchyard, and the trunk is fully fifteen feet in diameter.

A Philadelphian sent a postal card to his sister in Canada on which he had written 644 words. She answered with 714 words. Not to be outdone, he crowded on 1,003, which brought an answer with 1,526 words spelled out in full and written plain enough to be easily read by persons of ordinary sight.

A mathematician computes that a compositor's hand makes in a year of 300 days, each of ten hours' work, 3,600,000 movements in the setting of 12,000 letters each day, and the distance his hand travels at the same time is 1,364 miles a year, or over 4½ miles a day.

A gentleman who has just returned from Washington Territory was asked how he liked the country. "Well, sir, every bunch of willows is a mighty forest, every frog pond a sylvan lake, every waterfall a second Minueapolis, every ridge of rocks a gold mine, every town a country seat, and every man a liar."

Rabbits in Australia are proving great enemies to the owners of sheep runs. On one, the herbage has been so fearfully consumed by these rapidly-breeding animals, that the wool has been reduced from eight hundred bales to three hundred. Cannot these superfluous and destructive creatures be caught on a wholesale scale, and sent to England, in the frozen or some other condition?

Experiments were made recently with a telephone apparatus to be used in talking across the ocean. Whether this proves a success or not the thing will certainly be done in the near future, and friends separated by stretch of more than 3,000 miles will hear each other's voices in conversation. This is a wonderful age to live in.

The Rev. Dr. Henry M. Scudder, who spent many years in India as a Christian missionary, was long pastor of one of the largest churches in Brooklyn, and is now filling the pulpit of a prominent Chicago church, declared to his congregation one day that "for unmix'd wickedness and utter moral depravity no city of Asia could equal Chicago or New York," and that "this continent has a class of villains lower and meaner than the lowest and meanest in India or China."

During the ten years from 1871 to 1881 the number of women in England engaged in government service increased from 3,314 to 7,370; of painters and artist students, from 2,936 to 18,353; of teachers, from 94,239 to 123,995; of commercial clerks, from 1,755 to 6,078; and of printers, from 741 to 2,202. The number engaged in pure manual labor scarcely varied, but those engaged in labor requiring skill and education are much more numerous. It is evident that the sphere for women is widening.

We have to be especially careful of appearance to-day. It is almost as needful to be solicitous how we look and act as how we talk. For not only is there a party among us taking notes, but there is an invention of the pocket order just out for taking views. It is after the style of instantaneous photography. By an ingenious arrangement the likeness of any person or the outlines of any scene may be taken at a moment's notice. And this, too, without attracting special attention. Properly enough, the apparatus is called the "detective" camera.

At the important convention of Prison Superintendents at the 5th Avenue Hotel Dr. T. C. McDonald, Superintendent of the State Asylum for Insane Criminals at Auburn, said that experience, observation, and study led him to believe that tobacco was detrimental to the bodily, mental, and moral health of prisoners. He said that tobacco ranked next to alcohol as a deteriorating and demoralizing agent when used to excess. Two years ago he withheld it from his patients, most of whom had long been addicted to its use. He was surprised to see how rapidly the clamour for it subsided. They had generally improved in their bodily health and mental and moral tone. Yet how many slaves there are among our readers; out of prison, yet in chains!