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It is difficult to separate religion from reverence, and it is impossible to connect reverence with the preachings of Sam Jones and Sam Small. This we must frankly say. But we do not want to be narrow or to stand up for a hide-bound Christianity. Whatever does good, is good: this principle, in its full extent, we without hesitation embrace. If it could be shown that Christianity could be most practically and forcibly taught by a clown from the circus, with his costume and paint on, and through the medium of a discourse varied by tumblings and grimaces, we should at once say, Let it be done. Nor does there seem to be any reason for mistrusting revivals in the abstract. Men advance and improve, individually and collectively, in the spiritual sphere as well as in other spheres, not always by regular progress, but sometimes by impulse. What amount of good Messrs. Jones and Small may be doing we cannot pretend to guess, because we cannot look into the hearts of their congregation, distinguish religious impression from the excitement of the platform, and tell whether the religious impression will be lasting, or whether, if it is not lasting, it will be followed by an irreligious reaction. Macaulay, in a well-known passage, has warned Protestant Churches against the exclusiveness which the Church of England showed in the case of Wesley, who, as he says, in the Church of Rome, instead of being rejected, would have been recognised and employed in a congenial sphere of activity as the founder of a new order of monks. Wesley, however, was reverent: he would have turned from irreverence with disgust; and his success in drawing hundreds of thousands to God seems to prove that irreverence is, at all events, not indispensable to conversion. The same may be said with regard to Spurgeon, though his style as a preacher is as free, vivid, and telling as any style can be. What we do earnestly deprecate is heedless disparagement of the ordinary ministers and ministrations of religion. The special influence of Messrs. Jones and Small must, in any case, soon be withdrawn, and people must return to spiritual food of the ordinary kind. It would be imprudent in administering a stimulant to poison our daily bread.

On the approach of winter, with signs of more than the usual demand on charity, Mr. Pell once more pleads in favour of some systematic provision for tramps and casual distress; the fear of introducing "the English poor law" stands in the way. It is utterly baseless. We need not do anything beyond what is required by the special circumstances of our own case. The growth of cities brings with it inevitably a certain amount of casual distress for which provision of some kind, public or private, must be made. Public provision administered by a regular officer with proper safeguards against imposture is really less demoralising and degrading than private alms lavishly, ignorantly, and often wrongly bestowed. How could our people be demoralised or degraded by the institution of a city officer to whom mendicants might be referred, perhaps by means of tickets, and who would be furnished with the proper records and other safeguards against imposture? The Conference of Combined City Charities stopped a good deal of imposture. It was public; but did it demoralise or degrade? It would be almost as reasonable to object to the institution of public hospitals as to object to public relief for casual distress. However, there is no use in trying to force sentiment. The prejudice will subside in time, and the necessity will be felt. For many years the duties of a relieving officer have been discharged, in no small measure, by the voluntary activity of Mr. Pell.

The death of Mr. Capreol closes a rather pathetic history. No more will the good old gentleman buttonhole you on the street or take you to his office to show you how, by some letter of sympathy or some new invention, a gleam of hope had been shed upon the enterprise which formed the dream and the absorbing object of his life. His public spirit was unquestionable; his enterprise, if feasible, would have been very beneficial; nor does it seem to have been chimerical, though the obstacles were too great. Of a hundred seeds, one grows, and it takes a hundred failures, in the way of invention or discovery, to make one success. Ninety-nine adventurers are cranks, the hundredth is Columbus. After all, Columbus only stumbled on America in trying to find a western passage to India. An impartial tribunal will award the failures their share of gratitude.

WE were mistaken in our forecast of the result of the Quebec elections. For a reduction of the Government majority we were fully prepared, but we were not prepared for its total disappearance. The alliance between the Nationalists and the Rouges appears to have been better managed than there was reason to expect. Defeated the Government is, though the exact measure of the reverse will not be known till it appears whether the Nationalist-Conservatives are more Nationalists or Conservatives, and what course the Independents will take on a vote of want of confidence. It is utterly unlikely that Dr. Ross will resign; in Quebec a Premier with a majority of only one or two against him and the patronage in his hands is not in a desperate case. But the loss of twenty-two French seats is admitted by the Conservative organs. It is an event, the importance of which is very imperfectly measured by its effect on the prospects of a particular Administration. Riel was the ostensible issue. But who cares for the man Riel? Who, even in the most benighted of Quebec constituencies, really believes that if treason is a crime Riel was unjustly put to death. The name of the French leader of the North-West has become the symbol and watchword of the French nationality in its antagonism to the British. It is a struggle of races for the upper hand. This the English of Quebec see, and they seem to have cast a tolerably solid vote for the Government against the partisans of Riel. French nationality advances, it grows in intensity, it is thrusting the British out of every part of the Province, except the commercial quarter of Montreal; it is encroaching even on the British Provinces. It aspires to the revival of New France in connection with her mother country, and the complete obliteration of the Conquest. Had the conqueror used his rights in the first instance Canada would have been British; what it will be now, who can tell? Such is the state of things in presence of which we find ourselves, and it is the more menacing for Confederation because New France is interposed between Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while the Maritime Provinces themselves are in a state of commercial, if not of political disaffection. The Government of Sir John Macdonald has apparently lost its French basis, and its fate in the approaching Dominion elections becomes doubtful. But supposing it falls, what will take its place? A "Liberal" party made up of (1) the hard-shell Grits; (2) the Canada First section, of which the leader himself is the founder, and which originated in a revolt against the hard-shell Grits; (3) Roman Catholics who are liegemen of a power which in its Encyclical declares internecine war against all Liberal principles; (4) French Nationalists, whose aim is the triumph of the French element over the British; (5) Irish Home Rulers, whose aim is the dismemberment of the United Kingdom; (6) people of the Maritime Provinces struggling to get out of Confederation. It seems hardly possible that out of such a medley anything stable should emerge. There will be a confused shifting of the political scene; but what will be the next act of the drama, only those to whom it is given to read the stars can tell.

THE commercial treaty between Great Britain and Spain, that came into force on Friday last, ought to benefit the trade of the Maritime Provinces very much. Canada has a year to try the treaty in before committing herself to its acceptance; and this should enable the merchants of the Maritime Provinces to lay the foundation of an extensive trade with Cuba and Porto-Rico, exchanging the fish the Americans insist on shutting out from their markets for raw sugar and other West Indian produce. We incline much, however, to the opinion that if the Americans saw that Canadian fishermen were independent of the American markets, they would hasten to throw these markets open: at any rate independence, and self-reliant indifference to the attitude of the Gloucester fishermen, is a good position for Canadian fishermen to attain.

THE sub-committee of the United States Senate, appointed to investigate the Fishery Question, has concluded its task, and, has to all appearances come to the conclusion that the making of a satisfactory treaty with Canada is an impossibility. This can be hardly surprising when regard is had to the ludicrous character of the statements which the committee, of which Senator Frye was a member, gravely took down as evidence. Thus, one large owner and outfitter of vessels at Gloucester said: "We want no treaty; all we want is more duty on Canadian fish, and then they will soon come to terms, as they cannot do without us." Another, after complaining that "Our vessels have been seized unjustly by the petty officials of a dependency of Great Britain" declared: "We want no treaty, as we can get along without Canada. All the bait we want can be procured on our own coast. Give us equal commercial privileges, increase the duty on Canadian fish, and adopt retaliatory measures." And an irate captain declared: "I am an American, and my six generations were. If the United States submit to a little insignificant bankrupt dependency like Canada,