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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1883.

TWO of our D.D.'s. have been across the "Rockies" lately and have put their travelling experiences in the form of lectures. Principal Grant crossed on Canadian soil and no doubt can tell his hearers many interesting things about the Pacific coast and the way thereto. Dr. Cochrane went to British Columbia by San Francisco and turned aside to study the Mormon problem on his way. A few years ago "What I Saw in Winnipeg" was a good subject for a lecture. Nobody takes that subject now. A good many of our people think they know too much about Winnipeg and several other places in the North-West. The fact that the "Rockies" are substituted for Winnipeg and its surroundings shows what enormous strides we have been taking in the North-West. Calgary and the Rocky Mountains seem nearer now than Winnipeg did ten years ago. Unless someone discovers the North Pole soon there will be nothing more to lecture about in this country. No one can get further west than the Pacific for a subject and the gentlemen named will say all about that coast that is worth saying. Nothing more can be done in the way of informing the people until the Ontario press men go over on one of their annual excursions. When two or three dozen editors have tried their descriptive powers on the Rockies all previous efforts may be laid on the shelf along with the lectures on Winnipeg.

EVERY one who has read the evidence given in the election trials at present going on in different parts of the Province, must have noticed that nearly all the corrupt practices brought to light have been directly or indirectly connected with bar-rooms. If the corrupt practices connected with these places could be struck from the record few elections would have to be avoided. Though the law against keeping bars open on polling day and against treating by candidates and their agents is as plain as words can make it, still bar-rooms seem to have been in full blast in too many constituencies and in some a large business was openly done during polling hours. From a moral point of view it is a good thing that these investigations are being held. Respectable men of both parties can see at a glance where a good deal of the evil that efflicts the body politic actually originates—it originates in the bar-room. The enormous expense and inconvenience caused by avoiding so many elections must surely get us fresh legislation and a sounder public opinion on this question. Whatever a member's political creed may be he cannot feel very kindly towards customs that unseat him and put him to the labour, worry and expense of a new election. Unseated members who have lost their places through treating should constantly say to themselves as they go through the agony and abuse of another canvass—*The whisky did it.*

THE "Globe" says:—

It would be a graceful thing to elect one or two women to next year's Toronto School Board—either by the Council, or by acclamation in one or two of the wards.

Why by acclamation? Why should not the women form Committees, canvass, bring out the voters, and do all the other things that male aspirants have to do at elections? The foregoing paragraph furnishes a capital illustration of the point so well made by "The By-

stander" and published by THE PRESBYTERIAN a few weeks ago. Women cannot have all the privileges of women and at the same time fill the positions usually filled by men. The very first proposal to put one or two women on the Toronto School Board is coupled with the request that no one should oppose them. Why ask this favour? If a woman aspires to an office in the gift of the people why may she not be opposed as well as her husband? Does the "Globe" mean that a certain number of our population must be allowed to fill positions in the gift of the people whether the people wish it or not? It may be quite true as the "Globe" says that women make good trustees in London. They might do so in Canada, but those who think so should turn out and put them at the head of the polls. It comes to this in the end that a woman cannot have all the undoubted and unquestioned advantages she now enjoys and fill the place of a man at the same time. If she takes a man's place in the country, she must be ready to fight for the country. If she wishes positions in the gift of electors she must be ready to electioneer; if she wants a place on the school board her friends must elect her. People may soon get tired of electing even ladies by acclamation.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

AN endeavour was made by the Ministerial Association of Toronto to ascertain the number of non-church-goers in the city. The result of the investigation at once indicated that some means should be devised for bringing the people within the range of Christian influence.

The immediate outcome has been the initiation on an extensive scale of evangelistic services now being held throughout the city. Meetings were held last Thursday at Shaftsbury Hall in which representative men from the various churches took a leading part. The addresses were of a practical character and gave the impression that heartiness, unanimity and success would be likely to attend the effort.

In every district of the city nightly meetings are now being held. Many of the city pastors are taking an active part in the work of addressing the large congregations assembled, giving counsel to enquirers and guiding the movement. They are assisted by several energetic and devoted laymen who are rendering important service. Great good has already resulted from these special endeavours to preach the Gospel to the masses. Large and lasting results are anticipated.

In undertaking this important work the ministers are evidencing much self-denying zeal. The duties and labours of a city pastorate impose abundant labours and great responsibilities. These of themselves are sufficient to task to their utmost the powers of mind and body. The ordinary congregational machinery needs close and constant attention. It is not therefore a light sacrifice they make in engaging in continuous evangelistic services. The movement is also an evidence that they wish to make a honest effort to meet a growing want. In all large centres of population there is an increasing class who neglect the means of grace lying within their reach. If portions of our city population are insensible to the needs of the soul, it is the Church's manifest duty to bring the Gospel to them. The extensive effort now being made to preach the Gospel to the people is therefore worthy of support. It has a clear claim on the hearty co-operation, the prayers, and the liberality of the Christian people.

In the nature of things, however, an effort on so large a scale cannot be expected to become a permanent institution. The means for its maintenance are wanting. The steady congregational work would suffer. The churches will share in the blessed results accruing from the mission. A large ingathering may be expected. But the need of the Gospel by the masses will go on extending. This need cannot be met by spasmodic effort. Some agency both efficient and permanent will have to be devised if this work lying at the Church's door is to be adequately done. Several speakers at the opening meetings made pleasing references to the unity now existing among the various branches of the Christian Church. They possess the resources needed to carry on a sustained and systematic work. Could not the Evangelical churches of Toronto unite in organizing an efficient city mission? If they cannot agree to do this, then let the denominations separately take up the work. There are very strong reasons, however, why the former would be preferable.

BANEFUL READING.

THE instrumentalities that have done most for the advancement of mankind in modern times have not been absolutely faultless. Forms of evil peculiar to themselves have attended every invention of modern days. Steam, that indispensable agency in the manufacturing industry and commerce of the age has caused the death of thousands. Electricity has become the swift messenger of man's thought, carrying his communications to the ends of the earth with incredible swiftness. It is fast annihilating the darkness of night yet the robber and the assassin possess their cyphers as well as kings and cabinets and have employed the telegraph in the service of crime. The printing press, is one of the mightiest instruments of modern civilization. Of the press of to-day it may truly be said that out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. What then, do we sigh for the days when these mighty modern forces did not exist? By no means. It would be foolish in the extreme, and as idle as foolish. The benefits to mankind are incalculably greater than all the evils that have followed in their train.

John Milton pled strenuously and eloquently for what he called "the liberty of unlicensed printing." We have it now in all its fulness. We have it with all its tremendous possibilities for good and evil. The law represses what is dangerous to the State, and that only imperfectly. To day corrupting and unclean literature pours from many a press. The proverbial dime novel, the sensational story paper, and the records of the foulest and most debasing crimes circulate in millions. Literature of this stamp finds its way into the hands of vast multitudes of readers. Who are they? Young people mostly though not exclusively thousands of boys and girls at their most impressionable stage of mental and moral development devour these highly seasoned stories with avidity. The impressions made are most injurious. Many will outgrow the taste for such reading and acquire a desire for improving and instructive reading. There are many who are hopelessly corrupted by the moral contamination to which such reading exposes them. Even in the case of those who rise above the slime and pollution of immoral literature they carry with them scars that tell plainly of the wounds inflicted by the reading of impure and criminal books and papers.

Our Canadian laws are more strict in preventing the dissemination of corrupting literature than those of the United States. At all events they are more strictly enforced. The post-office authorities forbid the use of the mails for its transmission. But with all their watchfulness, sufficient to work untold mischief is permitted to circulate among our Canadian youths. Its evil effects are only too plainly visible though it does not produce the erratic, mischievous and ridiculous results that are frequently chronicled in United States newspapers. Boys whose imaginations are inflamed with the recital of heroic bandits, daring burglars, gentlemanly train robbers, and expert cow-boys, occasion their parents great anxiety and humiliation by their unannounced departure from home on a career of romantic criminal adventure.

The latest recorded case of a hero-struck juvenile is exceedingly painful and likewise exceedingly absurd. A boy fourteen years of age, living with his parents in a comfortable home in Cleveland, Ohio, disappeared. It was ascertained that his outfit consisted of two revolvers and a bundle of dime novels. After his departure an investigation of his personal effects was made. Among them were found documents belonging to a secret society of which the absent adventurer was a chosen officer. It bore the name of the Silver Skulls. The most remarkable paper in the collection contained the form of oath by which the members were bound to each other. Ten members, ranging from eleven to fifteen years of age, composed the Society of the Silver Skulls. They bound the members by imprecations not to divulge the secrets of their order. The acolyte was required to curse "fathers, mothers, sisters and their posterity." The little invincibles sent a missive threatening death on a certain day to a playmate if he did not join the brotherhood before the date mentioned.

All this appears very grotesque. The foolish boy will be glad enough to return to the father, mother and sister, on whose heads he called down his maledictions. He will come to see what a ninny he made of himself and for a time he will be completely crestfallen. What will his future be?