

themes. The lecture, which was too long to be given in its entirety, is to be published, and from the perusal we were enabled to give of the report which appeared in the newspapers, we doubt not it will be eagerly bought up, and widely read. It cannot be otherwise than that as a sound piece of political economy it will do much good.

#### HEROES IN THE PLAGUE.

IT is matter of profound sorrow that the yellow fever is still unrestrained, and that it is seen advancing wildly and exultantly on its course of ruin and destruction. The world looks on in distress, unable to lend a helping hand. Prayers have arisen from Christendom on behalf of the suffering, and with these prayers there have gone forth many gifts of love. What thanksgiving should be raised to the throne of grace for those deeds of heroism which come to us as bright rays of light amidst the impending doom! When we read of a large number of medical men, who have stood manfully at their post of duty—relieving the sufferers and smoothing the pillows of the dying, and who have themselves fallen victims to the scourge, who can doubt that Christian heroism really exists? Look at the noble women who have left home and sacrificed their every comfort, that they might tend the sick and care for the dying, and who will say that the roll of martyrs has been finally closed. The number of clergymen who have fallen before the fell destroyer and while actually engaged in administering the comforts of religion to their dying fellow-men, tells the tale of their genuine devotion. Not merely Protestant clergymen, but Roman Catholic priests, have died in the faithful discharge of their duties. The history of this epidemic will be read in the years to come, and it will be to elicit many a tear of admiration for the heroes and heroines who gave themselves for the dying. We point with pride to patriots perishing on the battle field. But here is a battle field more dreadful even than that of Sedan or Waterloo, or those of Turkey, that were covered with the slain bodies of friends and of foes. It will be for ever to the credit of the Christian religion that so many true and noble lives have been sacrificed in ministering to the sick and dying upon the field of pestilence. The days of heroism are not ended. Witness the three missionaries who went forth to the famine-stricken districts of China, where millions fell from mortal conflict with want—who went forth carrying money, food and clothing for the sufferers, and who themselves died after having brought the relief. Will not much good come from all this? Yes, truly. Infidels and scorners must hide their heads in very shame at the sight. What have these done to bring aid to the dying? They are consistent in doing nothing, believing that there is no Saviour. But untold thousands are being led to the cross through the heroism of those devoted men and women, who sacrificed their lives in order to wait upon the dying with Christian councils and with alms. To-day the Christian religion stands high in the estimation of the Chinese because of the noble efforts of these missionaries. Well may the public journals write that if this be Christianity, the sooner the Chinese nation is Christian, the better.

#### COMMITTEE ON SACRED MUSIC.

WE wish, if possible, to stop the influx of communications demanding the immediate appointment of a committee on sacred music. Our musical correspondents have done good service in awakening the Church to the importance of their special department. Some of them have done more than this. They have disseminated views in accordance with the teachings of sound musical science; they have pointed out defects which have been allowed to creep into this part of divine worship; and they have indicated the proper remedies. Others have done little else than clamour for the appointment of a committee and give advice as to the selection of its members. Now we fear that these gentlemen would not be at all well pleased with us were we to tell them that the General Assembly does not sit permanently. They would characterize our speech as impertinent and uncalled-for; and they would probably use very strong language to make us understand that their knowledge is, at the very least, equal if not superior to our own, in all matters regarding General Assemblies, their constitution, rules, regulations, manners, customs, habits, and all other points in their natural history. And yet do not these correspondents of ours act as if they believed the contrary of this superfluous statement. If not, then what church court or what individual do they think has power to appoint such a committee? Equally futile is it for them to look to the Hymn-Book Committee for any decision as to an authorized selection of sacred music—that committee having neither received authority to deal with music nor “power to add to their number.” We are pleased to see the questions connected with church music intelligently discussed, in the prospect of the matter coming before the next General Assembly; but we would like to put an end to this unreasoning cry for the unattainable.

#### THE MONTREAL “SPECTATOR” ON MINISTERS AND MINISTERS’ WIVES.

THIS high-toned (?) weekly which was originated among other things to elevate our Canadian journalism, seems to have been reduced by the hard times to that sensationalism which personality always ensures. The personal *animus* of some of the critiques on the ministers was obvious enough and bad enough, but the thin and ill-disguised personalities heaped on certain clergymen’s wives is simply brutal.

The sting loses its force, however, when we are able to suppose that their author is an unsuccessful ministerial hack who now enjoys his little fling at his more successful brethren.

The editor of the “Canadian Spectator” has a peculiar taste, and does not seem to be troubled with scruples where the popularity of his paper is concerned. Might he not engage “Quien Sabe” to write a thrilling idyll on the Romance of the Lower Lachine Road.

#### CHINA FAMINE FUND.

REV. DR. REID has received from Chat-ham, N.B., per Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., for the China Famine Fund \$63. This is in addition to \$20 forwarded from the same place in July.

#### CHURCH UNION.

A UNION has just taken place between the Wesleyan Methodists and the Primitive Wesleyans in Ireland. It was celebrated in an appropriate manner and with becoming enthusiasm. It is the outcome of the spirit of the age, and is just what may be expected in these times. There can be no reason in the nature of things for two denominations, having the same name and characterized by the same genius, remaining apart, when being united they are so much more able to do the work they have at heart. Once union has begun between these bodies, it will quickly spread to the churches of the same name in other countries. Commenced in Ireland and fostered by the warmth of Irish hearts, it is a flame that must spread, and communicate fire to others. It was evident from the proceedings of the Quadrennial Conferences of the Methodist Church in Canada and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that these churches were feeling their way to union. Such an event would certainly mark an important era in the church history of Canada. It would not fail to exercise a reciprocal influence upon the other churches of the country. What reason we have to rejoice for living in such a day! With the remembrance fresh upon us of the scenes which took place in Montreal when the Presbyterian Churches were united under the one name of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, surely our hearts are stirred into warm expressions of gratitude to Almighty God. Think of the union of the Presbyterian Churches of America, constituting a body of upwards of five thousand ministers and of a million members. In England we have now the Presbyterian Church, which is occupying the length and breadth of that splendid country. The reunion wave has made itself felt in Scotland, as is seen from the union recently consummated between the Free Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church. What a magnificent spectacle was presented by the Pan-Presbyterian Council held last year in Edinburgh. What will take place next? is the question we are asking ourselves with bated breath. The union between the Northern and Southern Presbyterians of America is a foregone conclusion. Meanwhile let us rejoice that Christians of all denominations are coming together. No one can tell whether they will ever form one body. But whether or not, they are really one. They are carrying the same colours. They are marching under the same banner. They call the same Saviour their Captain. They are rejoicing in the same salvation. They are in common looking for the glorious appearance of the glorified Son of God. They are longing to enter the same Heavenly home. Let the churches be united in spirit, and for them there are great and glorious victories in store.

ONE of the culprits before New York courts last week was a man with nine wives, eight of whom he was obliged to face in the court room. On two indictments on the charge of bigamy he was sentenced to eight years of hard labor in the penitentiary.

ONE of the largest gifts to missions ever made is that of a liberal friend of the Church Missionary Society of Great Britain, who proposes to transfer \$175,000 to the Society for special objects in India. Another has offered \$25,000 for a special purpose not yet designated.