

TWO CAPITAL CASES.

Two capital cases which have recently been before the courts in Ontario are attracting considerable attention—those of a man named Blythe and a Mrs. Robinson. The former beat his wife to death in a brutal manner at Agincourt, near Toronto. He was duly tried, convicted and sentenced, the only excuse for his crime being that he was drunk, and that is no excuse in the eye of the law. He has been twice reprieved and now has been granted a new trial. If he is again convicted he will deserve his fate, if he escapes there will be a gross failure of justice. His counsel offered to plead guilty of manslaughter at the new trial, but the Crown very properly refused. It is in our opinion a case of murder or nothing.

The other case is that of Anna Robinson, who has been convicted at North Bay for the murder of two of her daughter's infants, at Warren. The case revealed one of the worst cases of incest which ever came under our notice, and the woman's husband is no doubt the greatest sinner. The woman appears to have been neglected, abused and driven to distraction, and in view of all the circumstances public opinion is expressing itself in favor of either a pardon or commutation of sentence. A somewhat unique method is being adopted by the women of the country, who are asked to send individual petitions on postal cards to the Governor-General asking for executive clemency. A commutation might be granted in this case, but why a pardon, for no one has any right to take the life of an innocent fellow creature under any circumstances.

The crime of murder is becoming very prevalent in Canada, owing no doubt largely to the influx of foreigners. Clemency should be sparingly exercised. Rigorous punishment should follow crime, not by way of revenge but as a deterrent. At the same time in this special case a commutation of the sentence of the unfortunate woman now doomed to the gallows seems to be the universal desire; and to aid this result postal cards are being sent in to the Minister of Justice with the following request:

"I respectfully beg of you to recommend that the death sentence passed on Anna Robinson be commuted."

Get a postal card write in the above request, sign your name and place of residence, address it to the Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, Ottawa, Canada. DO IT NOW.

If the statements are true which have been made at a libel case in progress at Halifax, wherein a man is charged with circulating the Calgary Eye Opener at the time of the last election, there is a member of the cabinet which Sir Wilfrid Laurier should get rid of at the earliest possible moment. Canada demands respectability in her public men, and there have been too many instances of glaring immorality in high places. At the same time no man should be condemned on mere hearsay evidence. Since the above was written the defendant in the libel suit has been found guilty, and the cabinet minister, whose reputation was at stake in the trial, has been amply vindicated.

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

Readers of the "Dominion Presbyterian" know something of the heartless traffic in young girls for immoral purposes, carried on by abandoned wretches of both sexes, who do not scruple to traffic in guileless and weak humanity. Hon. E. W. Sims, of Chicago, believes that there are not less than 15,000 foreign girls imported and sold into this traffic annually in the United States and Canada, and probably three or four times as many native born girls find their way into the same hopeless life of vice. And all to line the pockets of wealthy traffickers in women.

Two comparatively poor women have recently sent in each \$5, the one to Rev. Dr. Carman, the other to the Rev. Dr. Shearer, President and Secretary respectively of the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, which has undertaken the laudable and difficult task of fighting this horrible traffic.

This Council is interdenominational, and represents—the Church of England in Canada, the Methodist Church in Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Baptist Church in Canada, the Congregational Church in Canada, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Dominion Grange and Farmers' Association, and the Salvation Army.

Are there not countless other women, as well as men, throughout Canada, who would esteem it a privilege to have a similar share in this humane and much needed work? If so, money may be sent to, and will be duly acknowledged by the Treasurer, Mr. Henry Moyle, or the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Shearer, either of whom may be addressed at 435 Confederation Life Building, Toronto. These gentlemen, and those associated with them, are doing this work entirely without remuneration.

SHOULD PRESERVE, NOT DESTROY LIFE.

Wilbur Wright, the aerial navigator, made several successful trips over the foreign war ships which were present at the Hudson-Fulton celebration at New York. This has given rise to further speculation as to the possible use of airships in war, where, it is asserted, they could drop dynamite bombs on the enemy's vessels. But competent authorities point out that an airship travelling at a sufficiently rapid rate to keep itself aloft would find it almost impossible to drop a bomb at the right moment, and even if it could, the penetrating power of such a missile would be small. It might damage the rigging and kill a few men, but would do little harm to the decks. Besides, by the use of quick firing guns or a fusillade from small arms, an airship would be extremely liable to destruction. It looks as if airships with dynamite bombs would be much more effective against a land force. But why talk so much about means to destroy human life. It would be much more to the purpose to devise methods by which it might be preserved.

The Ewart Missionary and Deaconess Training Home began its winter session on Wednesday, October 6th. The number of students is larger than ever before in the history of the home. The proportion preparing for foreign mission work and those in training for deaconesses is about equally divided. All are delighted with the new quarters. The formal opening of the new building will take place in the home, 68 Grosvenor street, Toronto, on Thursday evening, November 2nd, at 8 o'clock. All friends of the work are invited.

AN ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION

(Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.)

The blue book containing the minutes, the acts and proceedings of the General Assembly is supposed to find its way into the hands of all the ministers and elders of our church and they are supposed to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" its contents. But it is not possible to have this excellent but bulky volume sent out for distribution to all the members of the church. And hence it will be always found advisable for those who are charged with some leadership in the several committees to look up, and bring to the attention of the rank and file, the matters of special importance in the various departments of work. Hence we crave space in which to call special attention to one of the important recommendations made by the Assembly in connection with the report on Young People's Societies. This particular recommendation reads as follows:—"That Harvests in Many Lands" be recommended as a suitable text book for Missionary Committees in Young People's Societies, and for leaders in Mission Bands, Mission Study Classes and Missionary Societies generally."

Every one in the Church probably knows that the Committee on Young People's Societies, which is not a very obtrusive committee, has been carrying on, with great success, a missionary propaganda through books sent out under its direction. The Committee has kept out of the glare of publicity in one sense—it has not occupied much room on the stage—but quietly carrying on its operations, it has shown itself possessed of a living faith by its published works. First of all, it sent out "Reapers in Many Fields," giving an account of spheres in which men and women under the banner of the Cross were working at home and abroad. This it followed by publishing "Missionary Pathfinders," giving striking biographical sketches of the men and women who gloriously pioneered in the great departments of the Church's activity. And then in order that every one may know that these activities have borne rich fruitage, and that missions pay large dividends on the money and strength expended, the Committee has issued "Harvests in Many Lands."

The title suggests noble things and we find them here in detail, the records of the men and women who have gone forth bearing precious seed, and who have passed in apostolic procession before us as the bearers of many sheaves. If any man is skeptical about missions get him into contact with this book. If any man is an arm-chair critic—a stay-at-home doubter, read some of these pages in his hearing that he may see what God hath wrought through the devoted labors and the sufferings of those who counted it an honor to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Here we have the account of the results observable in mission fields at home and abroad; the results observable, we say, because who can write in a book the results which shall only be known in the light of eternity? As John said in his passionate love for Jesus Christ, we suppose the world itself could not contain the books that could be written as to these things unseen by human eyes.

Every Missionary Society should have copies of this book for study and for reference, and every person who claims to be interested in the work of spreading the Good News should individually possess, and read, and pray over, this volume. There is no other book which contains in equal compass any such review of the work achieved by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and it ought to be diligently used during the coming winter in all the congregations of the church. If you are a loyal subject of the King of Kings you will be glad to have provided for your earnest perusal such a compendium of the King's business as you will find in "Harvests in Many Lands." Get the book.

Paris, Ont.