

## The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, Sept. 3, 1896.

### Holiday Lessons.

THE holiday season being now at an end, the various walks of life will be resumed with accustomed regularity. The rest, so necessary to body and mind, will have given new hope with renewed vigor, to all who have had the privilege of enjoying it. Change of scene, cessation from activity, characterize the holiday. The city and town-folk rusticate as far as possible from the din and bustle of the paved street and stuffy office; the inhabitant of the country seeks the city and town, and sees the sights. But the end in view is to leave worry and work behind for a brief season. Is there not in this a lesson for the Christian who feels the worldly strain—the strain of sin—growing on him instead of loosening its hold? Atrophy instead of a healthy growth in grace! The soul needs its periods of change and rest as do the body and mind: and there is a rest for the people of God. Not a change from the city to the country minister, but a change from the anxieties of business, from the pursuit of worldly pleasures, from the scheming and plotting after worldly success, from the cavil and the criticisms of social life, from the evil thoughts of the heart, from indulgence in intellectual pride and intellectual sufficiency, from contracted views of grace, from self and self-sufficiency to greater trust in God, in short, from the soul's poverty to the richness of Christ; and there is to be found a complete change and the needed spiritual sustenance.

But the holiday rest is the breathing spell for greater effort in the arena of life. We are in this world to work, not to idle away the precious hours nor to dream. By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread; and happy the man who can so live as to enable himself to accomplish the most in good works. The gold dust of time is more precious than the gold standard of money, and now is the time to take stock of the past year and wisely plan for Fall and Winter work. This is especially so in the Church. Never before—because the present time must always be the most important—has there been greater need that all the effort of young and old should be rightly directed. Every act, every thought counts in the great aggregate, and right beginning now will save time and trouble in the hereafter.

The various agencies of the congregations should lose no time in getting to work on a definite plan. The Church through its stated committees has rendered a systematic, continuous effort on the part of congregations, in certain directions such as Sabbath school work, Young People's Societies' work, etc., comparatively easy, but local and general interests are manifold and now is the time to view the whole field and arrange programmes of useful labor. Attention will be drawn from time to time in these columns to lines of special effort, which it is to be hoped will be undertaken by the workers in the interest of the great schemes of the Church.

### The Late Prof. Hall of New York.

The recent death of Prof. Isaac H. Hall of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is one of the most serious losses which American scholarship has sustained in the present generation. After practising law for a number of years he accepted an appointment as Professor in the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut in 1875 and though he remained there only a short time it gave direction to the whole of his subsequent career. Already an accomplished scholar both in Greek and in the Semitic languages he became interested in the newly discovered Cypriote inscriptions and was among the first to secure any satisfactory result in the reading of them. While in Beirut he also discovered a Syriac manuscript of the New Testament containing the long lost Philoxenian version of the Gospels, which he published in facsimile after his return. Other discoveries and researches of a kindred character placed him in the front rank of archaeologists and pointed him out as the proper person to become director of the Metropolitan Museum to which position he was appointed in 1884. Here all his special capacities and trained powers had their fullest opportunity for use and development in connection with the great Cesnola collections from Cyprus and the varied mass of kindred material Roman, Greek and Oriental which that great museum was constantly called upon to consider, to determine, or to acquire. Many articles from his pen in learned magazines on these subjects remain to assure us of his diligence. Prof. Hall was borne, lived and died a Presbyterian.

### Sunday Car Question.

The deadlock between the city authorities and the Street Car Company ought to be taken advantage of to press home one or two points which are liable to be lost sight of in the Sunday Car agitation. First, the attitude of the Street Railway Company proves their interest in the question to be purely a money-making one. It is all very well to talk of the interests and welfare of the working-men, but when it comes to hard facts in writing, the railway company declines to pay for the additional privileges implied in its demands.

Next, observe how those who shouted "Workingmen" veer round to the side of the company and stand by it in its audacious contention. Not the city's interest, nor that of the citizen's is paramount, but that of the railway company. There can be no disguising the motive which inspires the monied corporations and their representatives any longer. The refusal to pay the mileage charges and to give a quid pro quo in the premises ought to open the eyes of those who were misled by the honied words of promoters. Many moderate men, there be, no doubt, who have for the sake of a supposed peace, decided to give the working-man Sunday cars, but who now will see things in their true light and change their minds.

Into the merits of the claim put forward by the company it is not necessary to enter. The City Counsel's opinion is clear and coincides with the public conviction. There are hundreds of citizens who followed the agreement closely when it was drawn up and amended, who can testify that the franchise was given for six days a week. Any other arrangement would have been absurdly unbusinesslike, for the sufficient reason that the Street Car Company would be tendering on a chance very unlikely to be seized, on a hope instead of on a practical, definite calculation.

It was meet that the Mayor, who is perfectly familiar with the details of the agreement as it stands, and who occupies a position of great responsibility should have been elected chairman of the special committee, since he was