

How much should vacation do for us ! It should bring the boy, who left school pale and weak, back with bright eyes, and ruddy cheeks, and strengthened limbs. It should show us the girl, who before holidays was growing thin and sickly, now full of life and spirit. It should present the spectacle of our boys and girls ready for the tasks of another year. To those who are to return to school no more, what significance is there in the thought of a last vacation ! But while it means that the days of childhood are over, and the years of boyish and girlish fun and folly are ended, it is the Pisgah height from which inspiring views of the promised land of trade, or commercial or professional or married life, may be obtained. Many a boy thinks it is all well now that he has not to go to school, but he will soon learn he is exchanging one form of learning for another. Happy he or she who goes to the task of learning to be useful with a contented heart, determined to make the best of life. For such, there is surely success lying before them in the future, though now it is hid from view.

What a blessed period is vacation for the teacher. How seldom do children, and even parents, think upon the severe labour, upon the expenditure of vitality, upon the sacrificing toil of those whose duty it is to teach the young idea. Yet it is so. A teacher's place is no sinecure. The school master or mistress has a hard and too often a thankless task. Many a one becomes blanched in the cheeks, flaccid in the muscles, and wearied in the brain, because of the exhausting work of the school. To the many toiling teachers in our land who are now so justly recognized as members of a high profession and noble calling, we present warm congratulations on their having reached a period of well-earned rest. We wish them, one and all, a pleasant vacation, and that they may return with a valuable stock of health and mental vigour to be expended in another year upon the responsible duties of their office.

ASSEMBLE YOURSELVES TOGETHER.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D.D.

Loneliness has its perils in the religious life. You hear now and again of a man who says he is going to give up all religious associations of a public kind, and is going to remain at home. Some men amongst us are now boasting that they are Christians *unattached*; independent Christians. What is this religious independence as it is interpreted by these men ? Not one of those little gas-lights shining there is independent ; everyone of them is a blink of sunlight. If I saw it coming, I should get out of its road. Tell me that all the stars are caught in one great scheme, and that not a sparkle of the glory of the least of them can be lost, and I am proportionally at rest. Loneliness, I repeat, has its perils in the religious life. When the devil gets a man absolutely alone, who'll win ? Not the man—in the vast proportion of cases. There was only one man that won in single fight, and that man was the Lord from Heaven. O, let us shelter one another, let us be mutual protections, let us have a commonwealth of interest and sympathy, let us live in one another's prayers and sympathy and love. Union is strength : two are better far than one—if the one fall, he can be lifted up again ; but if he fall alone, who

will assist him to his feet ? Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is. God leaves His footsteps on the earth, and if we follow His footprints we shall find Himself. He has built His churches, raised His altars, and He says, "Where my name is recorded, there will I meet thee, there will I bless thee." Be in the way of blessing : if you cannot find Himself, find His footprints ; go to His altar and say, "He ought to be here, He has sworn to be here"—whilst thou art yet speaking, the apparently dead cold ashes will glow, and on that altar there shall rise up a living flame, and out of the fire thou shalt hear the voice of thy lost God.

We must speak to one another now and then, or the poor aching heart would die. They that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard it. Christianity institutes a fellowship, a community of interest and spirit and purpose. We are the complement of one another. No one man is all men. You have something I want, I have something you want. In these higher meanings, let no man call aught that he has his own. Let us have all our highest thoughts and sympathies common, so that there shall be no poor man in the church the poorest scholar having access to the richest thoughts, the deafest ear having the opportunity of listening to the sweetest music. You remember how the commander of the ship "Fox," when his crew rose almost in mutiny, and his passengers accorded him nothing but the coldest looks, when he reached land, said : "Thank God, there was one relief, and one only : I had a fiddler on board." That musical instrument brought the hearts together when nothing else could. A snatch of a song, a strain of some forgotten music, one touch of nature—and that did far more than all the captain's orders, exhortations and attempts to persuade his all but mutinous companions that all was right. Do not stray away from the music of the church : do not suppose you can hum tune enough for your own soul, or whisper yourself into victory and triumph : *your mouth will dry and your tongue will cleave to the roof of your mouth.* Sing with your Christian Brethren. Read the Scriptures together, unite in holy prayer together—this is partial heaven. Thus I again repeat the exhortation, Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together ; beware of loneliness, beware of the independence which is isolation, seek for communion, for music, for protection, for security, for all that comes of organised life, household delight and trust ; and thus the enemy will never find you alone and at a disadvantage, but always surrounded by those who can recall the sweetest memories to your recollection, and enrich your hearts by reminders of the infinite promises of God, and thus a commonwealth shall be the basis of victory.

News of the Churches.

REV. A. O. COSSAR has gone to the sea-side to recruit his health.

REV. D. MCKINNON supplied Osprey the last two Sundays in June.

UNIONVILLE is advertising for tenders for the erection of a new brick church.

REV. E. IRELAND has resigned Pine Grove. He preached his farewell sermon last Sunday. He is open for a call.

REV. JOHN BURTON, who received a call to the Northern Church, has concluded to remain in his present field of labour in Belleville.

STOUFFVILLE.—This church celebrates the laying of the corner-stone every year on the first of July. This year was a success as usual. The proceeds of the social were \$124.

WATERVILLE, QUE.—A very interesting ceremony was performed in this village on Wednesday afternoon, June 25th, viz., the laying of the corner stone of the Congregational Church. The stone was laid by the Rev. A. Duff, of Sherbrooke, with appropriate remarks. The pastor, Rev. G. Purkis, after a few words to the people, read a document giving a brief history of the Church from its organization in 1862 to

the present time, together with other facts relating to the village, this with the leading papers of the Dominion and United States, and the copper and silver coins current in the Dominion were placed in the cavity. The stone thus laid was the finishing stone of the foundation. The service was opened and closed with singing and prayer, and appeared to be much enjoyed by all present. It is expected the building, which is 45x33 feet, will be finished and ready for use before winter.

Religious News.

THE Pope has declared his approval of the Irish University Bill.

THE English Church Houses of Convocation met on Tuesday, June 24th.

THE African Methodist Churches of New England have a membership of 1,317.

THERE is a proposal that Evangelical churchmen should purchase Exeter Hall, London.

THE new Metropolitan Church, Boston, has called Rev. H. A. Shorey, of Dorchester, and he has accepted.

REV. DR. HERWORTH, of New York, has recently passed through London, Eng., on his way to Palestine.

PENNSYLVANIA has more religious denominations than all the other States of the Union put together.

PROF. FRANCIS L. PATON of the Chicago Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has declined his call to London.

THE Rev. T. Gasquoine is compelled to leave his church in Oswestry, Eng., after fifteen years of work ; the cause is ill health.

THE one hundred and eleventh anniversary of Chestnut Congregational College, London, was held on the 26th of June.

REV. S. H. TYNG, Jr., is recovering from his severe illness, but he will not be able to engage in active work for some time.

WE see that George Macdonald was to preach at Westminster Chapel, London, Rev. H. Simon, pastor, two or three weeks ago.

REV. DR. PARKER, of London, Eng., will supply Mr. Beecher's pulpit on the last Sunday in August and the first three Sundays in September.

CANON LIDDON says that there are hopes of the reunion of Christendom through the giving up by Rome of some of her untenable positions.

THE General Baptist Association of England has 182 churches, with 24,003 members. It held its hundred and tenth annual meeting in Halifax lately.

THE Primitive Methodist Conference of England met in Leeds on the 10th of June. The total membership of the connexion is 182,877, with 1,135 ministers.

AT the next General Convention of the Congregational Churches, to be held at Salem, the advantages and perils of the one-service system will be fully discussed.

MR. GLADSTONE is expected to attend the Church Congress at Swansea, South Wales, and to read a paper or speak on the condition of the Establishment in Wales.

THE American Sunday School Union organized during the last year 1,087 schools containing 4,915 teachers and 39,769 scholars.

THE Congregational Church in Norwich, New York, celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary June 22nd. The pastor, Rev. Samuel Scoville, is a son-in-law of Henry Ward Beecher.

BANGOR (Me.) Theological Seminary has recently received large additions to its endowment fund, Mrs. Stone, of Malden, having given \$10,000, Benjamin Sewall, of Boston, \$5,000, and parties \$9,000, for that purpose.

THE children of a coloured Sunday school in Philadelphia, when asked what Nehemiah reproved the people for doing, showed that they understood the case by their smart reply, "For a-huckstering fruit an' vegetables on Sunday."

SALEM Chapel, York, built for James Parsons, is fifty years old. The people worshipping there celebrated the occasion on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June. Rev. E. Paxton Hood and the pastor, Rev. John Hunter, were the preachers.

AN International Temperance Camp meeting will be held at Thousand Islands July 30th to August 4th. Hon. Neil Dow is announced as one of the speakers, and Miss Frances E. Willard will give an address on "How to reach the better classes."

NEW Congregational Churches have been opened in England, in Salisbury on the 11th of June ; Summertown Church, Oxford, on the 8th ; and a lecture hall and class rooms in connection with the Streatham-hill Church, London, on the 17th.

JOHN KING, a crippled newsboy in Cincinnati, whose eager craving for books led him to devote his savings to the accumulation of a library, has recently made the munificent present to the Public Library of the city of 2,500 volumes of standard value.

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