

and doing for words what words cannot do for themselves. The whole discussion on praise was most significant, as indicating a very general agreement that the present condition is a decided improvement on the past.

Monday evening was devoted to addresses on further characteristics of Presbyterianism. Among them were one by Judge Vanderburg, on "Its Connection with National Character"; one by President Scovel, of Wooster University, Wooster, O., on "Its Sympathy with Popular Education and the Christian Training of Youth"; Dr. John Watson, (Ian Maclaren), did not write on "Religious Literature and Theological Study," because of family sickness. Lord Overtoun spoke on "Its Dependence on Vital Godliness," and said that the Presbyterian differs from other Church orders in that it lacks the ritualistic and sensuous elements, occupying a place midway between Episcopacy, which magnifies office, and Congregationalism, which magnifies the individual, it is thus entirely democratic.

Tuesday, June 23rd was Foreign Mission Day and one of the most inspiring of all. With its reports from Western and Eastern sections, the papers by such men as Drs. George and John Smith, of Edinburgh, Drs. Jacob Chamberlain and Robert Stewart, of India, and others it was easy to appreciate Professor Lindsay's statement that the Presbyterian Churches do more than a quarter of the world's mission work. There was, however, no disposition to overlook the difficulties. Dr. D. S. Mackay, of Newark, N.J., speaking on the new difficulties mentioned four as specially worthy of note, revived and united heathenism, divided Christians, immoral whites and waning missionary interest. There was, however, no pessimism in his address and sufficient encouragement.

Patches of Paganism.

No. 1.

BY ELDER O. B. SERVER.

Views of the religious state of the Dominion are often presented, which are far from being true. It is often described as a homogeneous Christian land. This is wide of the truth. The Dominion is like the leopard, full of heathen spots, these spots are comparatively few in the Eastern portion of the land, but, as we pass from the Maritime Provinces to Quebec, Ontario and the Great North-West, these spots increase the farther westward we journey.

To these dark patches of pure paganism, the Christian philanthropist turns with deep interest and warm sympathy, and it is one of the most encouraging features in the religious outlook of our Dominion, that all the Churches, Protestant and Roman Catholic, are putting forth energetic efforts to wipe out these dark spots, and turn them into gardens of the Lord. He is a poor churl, who would not bid them God-speed.

But, apart from these specimens of pure paganism, there are, growing up, throughout the Dominion, plague spots of semi-heathenism, which can only be viewed with alarm and anxiety. They are largely the product of the apathy and lack of liberality of the Christian Churches, in regard to Home Mission Work. Were that work prosecuted with the vigor and energy that ought to characterize it, and were the pockets of our people completely consecrated, and opened for the promotion of the Great Home Mission cause, these semi-pagan blots in our civilization and Christianity would be speedily wiped out. And this out-burst of Home Mission enthusiasm would affect Foreign Mission work in all its operations, in the most beneficial manner. For it is necessary to emphasize, in the strongest terms, that Home Mission work is the only true foundation for all Foreign, and that hostility or indifference to the Home Mission Scheme is practically hostility or indifference to the Foreign.

My first acquaintance with one of these semi-pagan patches was in the Niagara District, many years ago. It consisted of a group of prosperous farmers, when you went among them they bluntly told you that they felt no need for the Gospel. They had, they said, everything here that they required,—comfortable homes and a fair supply of this world's goods. Jeshurun had waxen fat

and forgotten God. Under such home teaching the young of these households grew up careless and Godless. The unpretending Methodist Church in the settlement had become a complete wreck. No missionary was able to face the rough and roudy element, that dominated the young of the place. The Church presented a sad picture of ruin. Its windows, almost paneless, freely admitted the rain and snow. The walls were falling into decay, and the door had become a target for the young men of the neighborhood, and was riddled with bullets. That desolate building was a dark sign pointing out the semi-heathenism of the settlement, and its terrible sin in casting off the Lord.

And, alas! such wilderness spots are to be found scattered from Newfoundland to British Columbia, in far greater numbers than many suppose, and from them there issues no cry "Come over and help up." These are only the blasphemies of Godlessness and the hissing curses of profanity. And the children growing up in such miasmatic homes, in almost every case, do not know that there is a God.

What an incentive this ought to be to prosecute our Home Mission Work with whole-souled enthusiasm, and, in every way to strengthen the hands of those self-denying and zealous Home Missionaries, who amid many privations and difficulties are holding aloft the Banner of the Cross, in the remote and isolated corners of the Dominion.

God's Word in the Memory.

A friend sat by the bedside of one who was ill, repeating passage after passage of the Bible, most refreshing and comforting to the listener. One who was present afterward remarked, "I was astonished at the number and the accuracy of those quotations. It is a great gift to have such command of the Scriptures simply from memory."

It is, indeed a blessed gift, and the possessors of it should be more numerous than they are. To have a word in season as occasion may arise, for our own soul's refreshing or for others, is better than silver or gold. The habit of memorizing Scripture can be cultivated so that even those who do not commit to memory readily can, by practice, accomplish it. The help of the Holy Spirit is especially promised for this: "He shall bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." If we do our part in laying up the sacred treasure by our own mental effort, He will bring it to mind when the occasion comes for its use. Scripture words are most effective in winning souls and in instructing them in the way of life. A teacher whose mind is filled with Bible truth in Bible language, and who yields to the guidance of the Spirit, will never find it difficult to interest and instruct the class.

We have listened to prayers in which sentence after sentence was in Scripture language, which truly were "fervent, effectual, availing much." David says: "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee," and the prophet says, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." A man who became blind in the later years of his life could repeat from memory a large portion of the blessed Word which had been stored away in early days. What light shone amid the darkness from these treasures of the mind, brought to remembrance through the promised office of the Holy Spirit. One passage only each day for a year, repeated over and again while we are engaged in work, will make us possessors of three hundred and sixty-five precious thoughts of God as expressed in His written Word. "It is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips."—*Christian Advocate*.

Great preparations are being made for observing the forthcoming eclipse of the sun on August the 9th. Norway and Japan are the two most favourable countries for observation, and British official expeditions are being sent to both places equipped with the latest instruments for acquiring scientific data. The English Astronomer-Royal and two other scientists are going to Japan.