

from youth to age is a problem of vital importance. On every side men are addressing themselves to its solution. In Montreal the subject has entered the arena of the public press. In Toronto the Ministerial Association only the other day made it the theme of a practical and deeply important discussion. To lead thought on the subject in a definite direction, and to furnish useful facts and suggestions we shall publish a series of six articles to be contributed by men of practical experience, whose views should be of immense value to the Church. The first will appear next week, and will be succeeded regularly by the remaining five. It is to be hoped that careful consideration will be bestowed upon these articles and that advantage will be taken of the suggestions they will contain.

**Women at Work.** EVIDENCES are not wanting that the tide of enthusiasm which passed over the women workers in the temperance cause, a few years ago, is returning with renewed force. Recently a remarkable gathering of women took place in Chicago under the presidency of Lady Henry Somerset, the practical result of which, there is every reason to suppose, will be very tangible. This week the mothers and sisters of Ontario met at Chatham and the hopeful tone of the gathering must have impressed all who took an interest in the event. Temperance is in the air. What between the enquiries of the Prohibition commission and organization for the plebiscite the issues will be discussed in every village and section of the land, and out of it all, it is to be hoped, some good will come which will remain.

**Chicago's Grief.** A TRAGIC and terrible ending to the great World's Fair! The mayor of the city where were harboured the conventions of the world during the last six months, shot fatally by a disappointed office-seeker! What a commentary on our civilization and on the thin line of division which separates the vicious from the moral side of man. "Were it not for the grace of God, there goes Rowland Hill," exclaimed that humble Christian as he witnessed a procession to the hangman's scaffold. The fate of Mayor Harrison shows what a man regarded as well-behaved, moral, and intelligent can do when the restraint of religious conviction and a purified conscience is absent. While sympathy goes out to Chicago the truth should be present to our minds, that not only there are men capable of such heinous actions, but wherever the restraining power of grace is not in living operation.

**A Native Priest-hood in India.** GRADUALLY but surely the Roman Catholic Church is establishing a lodgement in India. The history of Roman Catholic effort in the far east dates from a remote period. In the roll of old saints are found the names of missionaries who gave their labour and their lives in the Indian field. To give completeness to the organization of the Church there, a Hierarchy with ecclesiastical provinces and bishops was founded a few years ago. Now this is followed up by papal authority to establish seminaries so that a native priesthood may spring up. A sentence in the Pope's decree is suggestive of wisdom and experience:—The Catholic faith among the races of India must always continue to be insecure and to make very uncertain progress, as long as there is no clergy formed of the natives themselves and duly prepared for the work of the priesthood; a clergy who shall not only assist the foreign missionaries, but shall themselves be able to undertake the administration of Christianity among their own people. Here is testimony to the wise policy the Protestant

Churches who have proved the value of a native ministry. With the Church of Rome similarly equipped Protestant missions in the Indian field will encounter no weak opposition which must be vigorously met and counteracted.

**A Most Deserving Work.** SURELY a work such as is carried on among the lepers of India, who have an eloquent advocate in Mr. Wellesley C. Bailey, deserves all encouragement and Christian support. It seems there are half a million of these poor and hopelessly afflicted ones shut up in one village, a community the most miserable, humanly speaking, in the world. Will their fellow men, the bone of their bone, deny these the comfort of Christianity and a hope beyond the tomb? Mr. Bailey says all that is needed is ample funds, and if that be so, it will be a blot on our profession of faith should the Gospel not be sent to the lepers. It is stated that this year the committee have had to refuse seven appeals to start new work, the reason being lack of funds. This state of things should not continue for a day longer. Any person willing to bear a hand can do so with every assurance that whatever aid is given will be put to the best use. The mission is undenominational and international. Canadian auxiliaries are being formed in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Woodstock and other places. An association has existed in Guelph for a year and by its assistance the present crusade is maintained. Contributions may be sent to the following friends, who will also gladly give any information in their power.—Rev. John Neil, 577 Sherbourne street, Toronto, Hon. and Rev. R. Moreton, Hamilton; Miss Boon, 447 Dundas street, London; Mrs. W. C. McLeod, jr., Woodstock; Mrs. Sutherland, Georgetown; Miss Nellie Perry, Galt; Miss Smellie, Fergus; Mrs. Malcolm MacGregor, Mount Forest; Mrs. Colquhoun, Waterloo; Mr. W. Yuile, Esq., 87 Redpath street, Montreal; Miss Ross and Miss Lila Watt, B. A., Guelph.

**Roman Catholic Propaganda.** THE quiet methods followed by the Roman Catholic Church with respect to converts from Protestantism is well illustrated in a recent interview by Cardinal Gibbons, at Baltimore. The cardinal speaks with authority of what takes place within his own Church, and his lofty and responsible position invests his remarks on other religious bodies with interest, notwithstanding the too rosy tints. To the interviewer he said. There is no parade made over those who come in, because, in the first place, we recognize that it is the work of God and that our priests are but the instruments, and then it is distasteful to most of those who enter the Church to have the matter talked about. We, therefore, discourage any mention of particular converts. There are everywhere signs of a return to the old Church, not only in the extraordinary growth of ritualism, but in the proceedings of sects formerly bitterly antagonistic to our institutions and practices. Thus, for instance, there has been lately established in the Methodist Church the order of deaconesses. What is this but a copy of our once royaled sisterhood? And not only have the Methodists now their sisterhoods, but the Presbyterians are also discussing the establishment of similar orders, and their formation is only a question of time. The general tendency is towards this Catholicism, slowly but steadily and unmistakably. We would have many more conversions among Protestant ministers, who would become priests except for one thing—the celibacy of our clergy. There are men longing to enter the fold of Christ, but they have wives and children to care for, a living to make and friends to lose. In their hearts they are true Catholics.