

of current topics, in the pulpit. Nothing can be more disastrous to the influence for good of the pulpit. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God, and must continue to be so, to the exclusion of every other theme, and the preacher who thinks the Old Story has become tedious and thread-bare ought to abandon the pulpit, as unfit to handle the Word of Life. The need of the present day, as should be its motto, is "Back to the Bible."

As has been said these are words of warning. We are not aware that they apply to ministers of the church we try to the best of our ability to serve. Indeed our readers will concur in the belief that the Presbyterian Church in Canada is singularly free from the grave fault to which we have drawn attention. Decorum, earnestness, a high estimate of the sacred office of the ministry, and of the evangelizing power of the Gospel are characteristics of people and preachers in that church. Let us be thankful for the fact and acknowledge, in the light of experience, how much we owe to it. When we see the mad rush after novelty invading the pulpits of other churches, it is well to examine ourselves and seek strength and wisdom to resist the too obvious temptation of momentary and seeming success. When the funds are low, the people listless, perhaps indifference growing apace, and spiritual life languishing, then is the time for trial. But it is not the popular Sunday evening lecture, or the amusing anecdote, the witty turn of speech, that will bring relief. The only remedy is the quickening of the conscience by the Holy Ghost and the indwelling power of the Spirit. From the Old Book, yea, and the old way the church must never swerve: there can be no compromise with the world; the dividing line is sharply drawn; not peace but a sword in the Christian warfare.

That the Gospel maintains its attracting power even in this material age may be seen from the figures published lately by the *Telegram* of Toronto, as a census of church attendance. It is probable that the census for all the churches was not taken on one and the same day, a supposition which would account for the under and over estimates made. The average, in any case, may be taken as approximately correct, and it gives a large attendance. The paper in question has not infrequently done service to the churches by taking an intelligent interest in their affairs, and the census has been a real service. In the Presbyterian pulpits of Toronto (we speak of what we best know) sensationalism finds no place. The city ministers are most excellent examples of what ministers ought to be. Their works praise them. And yet with an entire absence of the devices we have here condemned the churches are not empty but fairly well attended, and the Gospel holds its sway, as it ought to do, in the pulpits. The experience here may well serve as an object lesson for the derelict churches.

#### Sabbath Bicycling.

We rejoice to place the following resolution on record. It was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Toronto Christian Endeavor Union held on Saturday: "Whereas the evil of bicycle riding solely for pleasure on the Sabbath is becoming alarmingly prevalent in our city; resolved, that this meeting representative of the Christian Endeavorers of Toronto, expresses its strong disapproval of this form of Sabbath desecration, and calls upon the members of the Union to discountenance it in every way." The Sunday bicycle practice has assumed large proportions, and the question is one that must be faced. In fact it has been allowed

to drift on too long. The evil has taken root and will be extremely difficult to remove. It has been estimated that about 6,000 bicyclists were "wheeling" in Toronto on pleasure bent, last Sabbath, an alarming number in a city so well-behaved as a rule on the Lord's Day, as Toronto.

At a meeting in Dundee, Scotland, recently, the Presbytery entered a strong protest against the work carried on on the Sabbath in the Post-Office, on the railways, and pleasure steamers, in the livery stables in Dundee, and the tramways of Glasgow and other cities. "And," queries the journal which publishes the report, "what about the myriads of 'wee shoppies' that are open from 'early morn to dewy eve' and far on to the midnight hour Sunday after Sunday? As a social question the Observance of the Sabbath is a subject of vital importance to the working classes. One day in seven to rest is as essential to human nature as it would be for the benefit of every worker either with hands or brain to enjoy a day's rest. To preserve the Sabbath is therefore a working man's question. No man should be deprived of his Sabbath rest except where it is impossible to avoid it. If all unnecessary labor were suspended on Sunday the country would suffer very little, nay, it would be the gainer." The Christian has to fight continually and everywhere for the Sabbath Day.

We may depend upon it, that were the Sabbath of less value than it is to the cause of Christ there would be less desire to desecrate it.

**A Rational Test.** The character of the Bible for truthfulness may be tested by any man, as he tests any other book. Does it prove to be true in his experience? A book on diseases and their remedies is proved to be true or false, by the results of a practical application of its doctrine. A geography has its reputation for truthfulness established, when it has been discovered that it does not lead the obedient student astray. The man who lives his Bible knows that he can trust its teachings.

**What Orthodoxy** Says an exchange. Orthodoxy is not <sup>is</sup> severity and frigidity. It is liberality and warm-heartedness. It is happy heavenly humor. The sour-visaged brother may have some orthodox ideas, but he does not represent the system by his barbed wire and vinegar countenance or conversation. He commits a double offense if he claims absolution from his sins against truth by claiming to be her champion. It takes a perfect character to keep the balance exactly; to be firm in the faith and to be patient with the faithless. But it is better to win than to worst an unbeliever. Faith gives a man joy and courage, brotherhood and blessing even for the unthankful and evil.

**Sa. tion Army** According to the last annual balance-  
**Finances.** sheet of the Salvation Army, just issued, the freehold and leasehold properties acquired for the use of the Army corps throughout the United Kingdom were valued at £583,276 1s 6d; furniture and fittings at the international headquarters, officers quarters, and training garrisons, £9,379 17s 11d. Investments and loans totalled £131,331 14s 10d; and sundry debtors on "general maintenance," "property," and "insurance" funds owed the army £11,928 11s 6d. Altogether, the assets reached £736,869 0s 11d. Liabilities included £368,781 17s 7d in respect of loans on mortgage on freehold and leasehold properties, £93,277 4s 2d loans for fixed periods; and £43,547 9s 8d on account of insurance, annuity, pension, and other reserve funds, sinking fund for leasehold properties, and the redemption of mortgages and specific legacy fund. Salvation Army fund, £222,045 10s 5d.