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Editorial.

RECRUITS.

In reading the reports given by the Protestant Churches of our Dominion at their annual gatherings, in May and June, one is painfully struck with the disproportion that exists, in all the Churches, between the number of pastors at work and the number of converts added to the Church. Here is a Protestant Church, which, according to the last report that has reached us, is employing 123 pastors, and the clear additions to the Church, after deducting losses by death and removal, are 435, which is at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ for each pastor, and this Church is one of the most energetic and prosperous in Canada. There are other Churches which are barely holding their old ground, inasmuch as they lose about as many as they gain during the year. A healthy population is calculated to double its number in twenty-five years, but a healthy Church should exceed this, inasmuch as, in addition to its own natural increase, it should obtain accessions from the community, still large in all Christian countries, that lie outside the Christian Church.

It is time that Christians in Canada were looking the painful and humiliating fact, to which we have referred, fairly in the face. It is good to see handsome churches springing up everywhere, it is good to multiply colleges and fill them with able professors, it is good to raise the standard of ministerial education, it is good to educate to clearer

views and a holier life the people who are already members of our Churches, but we shall lose the day, as against the world and the devil, not fully and finally, but temporarily and comparatively, unless we get our young men and young women in larger numbers to accept discipleship in the Church of Christ. "I am not afraid," said one of India's native princes when fighting against Britain; "I am not afraid of the English that I see, but of the English that I do not see." Were he allowed to fight with an army that received no supplies and no recruits from home, he and the deadly climate would soon finish the business to England's dishonor; but behind the officer in the camp and the field was the recruiting officer among the towns of England, the hamlets of Ireland, and the hills of Scotland, so that no sooner did a soldier fall than another, young and ardent, stepped into his place from the unseen land. It ought to be so in Christ's war. Death and other causes are constantly thinning the ranks of the Christian army, and unless recruits come in large numbers we can hardly, for this generation, be able to turn the enemy from the gate.

One of the most interesting and important questions, therefore, our Protestant Churches have to discuss in these days, is this one,—“What hinders our young from becoming Christians?” It is a law in nature that the young is like its parents. Within certain limits this