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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 1907

The new Irish Licensing Act, which came into operation on the 5th inst., enforces ten o'clock closing, and reduces the time during which public-houses are open on Sundays from five to three hours. Judging from first experiences, it is believed the Act will have a very salutary effect.

Wireless telegraphy and Signor Marconi are inseparably associated in the ordinary mind. The announcement that the inventor has become a spiritualist is somewhat astonishing. Signor Marconi as a scientific man is one thing. As a religionist he will be quite another; but his new religiosity will not destroy his past inventions. He is only another proof of how wisdom and folly can be wrapped up in the same man. "What fools these mortals be."

Rev. R. J. Campbell, successor to the late Dr. Joseph Parker of the City Temple Church, London, is reported to be sadly "off color" in his theology. The Christian World gives Mr. Campbell's own statement of his peculiar beliefs. In brief he finds fault with the popular theology both in pulpit and pew, and suggests what he would substitute for that. He says the Fall, as related in Genesis, is untrue. The belief in a Fall is due to St. Paul's Rabbinical way of thinking. There is no such thing as original sin, the only sin is a man's own practical and personal act. Atonement—His view of Atonement is obscured in a mist of words. Mr. Campbell hardly himself knows where he is when he speaks of Atonement. The Person of Jesus—Jesus is Divine, but so are we all, which at once does away with any true Divinity. It would appear that the minister of the City Temple Church may be a Unitarian; but it is a pity that a man holding such views should be occupying a commanding pulpit in the world's metropolis.

### NEWSPAPER SPACE WASTED.

The daily newspapers can hardly be said to pay a high compliment to the intelligence of their readers when they give so much space to the Thaw murder case now in progress in New York. This Thaw is the son of rich parents, and suffered the frequent fate of those unfortunately born to riches, in plunging into dissipation. At present he is on trial for his life for the murder of a man. At best he is but a miserable and vulgar apology for a man. And yet in the trial every incident is recorded as fully as if Thaw were a king of men; and he has received far more space than most of the newspapers would have given to the doings of a Gladstone, Tennyson or a Livingstone. It is a pity to see this misplaced emphasis. A few dozen letters to the editors from the heads of families, might be useful, as indicating that in the opinion of many, so much newspaper space to the Thaws of society, is much worse than wasted.

On Jan. 31, 1807, the Rev. Robert Morrison, D.D., F.R.S., left London as the pioneer Protestant missionary to China. He was sent out by the London Missionary Society, and his departure is regarded as marking the first event of importance in connection with the establishment of Protestant Missions in China.

The centenary of this event is to be celebrated at Shanghai, on April 25 next to May 5, by a great missionary conference, at which many important missionary matters will be discussed.

At a meeting last week of the Presbyterian Ministerial Association, in discussing some special commemoration in Montreal, in view of the number of points at which Canada touches China, one being the successful work of the Macao Mission, begun from Montreal. There Dr. Morrison landed, labored, lived and lies buried, with several members of his family. A grandson, bearing his name, resides in Canada. That meeting also discussed the ill-treatment, popular, municipal and governmental, of the Chinese in Canada and on this continent, expressing cordial sympathy with the long suffering Chinese, and hoping that the new Christian century, promising to be greater than the past four thousand combined, might be ushered in by at least 'British fair play' and obedience of the golden rule.

Many of our readers have seen and heard Dr. Paton, the apostolic missionary to the New Hebrides, during his visits to Canada, whose death is just announced. Born near Dumfries in May, 1824, Dr. Paton's education began in the academy of his native town and was completed at the Normal Seminary and University of Glasgow. After serving as a city missionary in Glasgow for ten years he was ordained in 1858 and appointed missionary to the New Hebrides. Dr. Paton was a man of practical ability as well as a zealous missionary worker. In 1866, when he went to the island of Aniethum, he found the people suffering from drought, and promptly remedied conditions by the simple expedient of digging a well. His work prospered largely as the result of this practical demonstration of his helpfulness, and the missions throughout the islands are now reported to be flourishing.

### UNION IN SAUGEEN PRESBYTERY

At a recent meeting of this Presbytery the following overture to the general assembly was unanimously adopted:

Whereas the Explanatory Statement prepared by the General Assembly's Committee on Union with other Churches, sent down for the information of Presbyteries, does not present a satisfactory basis of union, either as to doctrine, polity or administration. Nor does it show that it has been endorsed by the Committee; and

Whereas the proposals for organic union at present pending, have in some cases an unsettling tendency upon the minds of our people, and as a result, are hindering the work of our church. Nor is there evidence that the body of Presbyterian people, upon whom the decision should ultimately depend, are prepared to go on with the movement; and

Whereas the continuance of present negotiations is calculated to give an impression which the facts of the case do not justify.

Therefore it is respectfully overtured by the Presbytery of Saugeen that the General Assembly instruct its Committee on Union to enter into no terms of union, unless all vital questions are settled satisfactorily as a basis, leaving no such questions open for future settlement; and

That the General Assembly require its Committee to move cautiously, lest conditions arise that may prove detrimental to the peace, unity and progress of the church; and

That, further, the General Assembly direct its Committee in the meantime to consider seriously the subject of a federal union of Protestant churches in Canada with a view to securing their cooperation in all matters of common interest, as a form of union advanced as far as present conditions seem to warrant.

During his recent visit to Peterboro' the minister of Knox Church, Galt, had rather a unique experience of different churches, for he lectured on Friday evening in the George Street Methodist Church, preaching the succeeding Sunday in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the morning, and in St. Luke's Anglican Church in the evening. The Reporter tells the story as follows: Rev. R. E. Knowles went to Peterboro' to lecture on Friday evening, intending returning to Galt for Sunday, but he was less than an hour in Peterboro' when he was called on by the Rev. E. A. Langfeldt, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, who cordially and earnestly invited him to remain over Sunday and preach in St. Luke's. Mr. Langfeldt is successor to the Rev. Dr. Symons, now of the Cathedral in Montreal. He had never seen Mr. Knowles before, but said his invitation was the result of reading his books. Mr. Knowles accepted the kind offer of the distinguished clergyman, and preached in St. Luke's on Sunday evening. The congregation evidently shared the sentiments of their rector, for chairs had to be put in the aisles as early as a quarter to seven, and many were unable to get admission at all. Mr. Knowles assisted in the service, reading the lessons, and afterwards preached the sermon, which he prefaced with a few words of appreciation of the kind sentiments uttered by Mr. Langfeldt in introducing him.

When King Edward opens Parliament in person on February 12th he will be accompanied by Queen Alexandra. The opening will take the form of a full State ceremonial.

Life's real heroes and heroines are those who bear their own burdens bravely, and give a helping hand to those around them.