

SOIREE AT INGERSOLL—ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS.

On the 26th February, a Soiree was held in the Presbyterian Church at Ingersoll. The attendance was good—filling the church to overflowing. Indeed, after the passages and all the available space were occupied, several sleigh loads of persons, who were unable to procure admission, had to retire. There were eight speakers—ministers of different denominations—on the platform. Among the subjects on which they addressed the audience were, "A defence of Church Soirees"—"Christian Union"—"Christian energy and activity, and Missions." The sum which was realized, and which has been applied to the liquidation of the debt upon the church, exceeded £20.

Cleered by the result, and desiring to have their place of worship free from debt, the trustees resolved to make an effort, by means of a subscription, to discharge the balance. Having contributed handsomely themselves, they will now call upon the friends of the cause for their free-will offerings to this desirable object.

The church is a handsome building, very creditable to the small but rising congregation. It is placed upon a lovely spot, selected, at least recommended, by the devoted missionary now in China, the Rev. Wm. C. Burns, during his visit to Canada some years ago, where he preached to attentive congregations under the shade of the beautiful trees which surround the church.

SOIREE AT PICTON.—On Wednesday, the 25th February, a Soiree took place at Picton, in connexion with the Female Working Society. This was the first occasion on which any social meeting of the kind had been held in the congregation, and it was looked forward to with a considerable degree of interest. The meeting was of a very pleasing kind, all present appearing highly to enjoy the exercises. The minister of the congregation, Rev. W. Reid, presided, and after ten, interesting and eloquent addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. Gregg of Belleville, and the Rev. R. F. Burns of Kingston. Several pieces of sacred music were performed in the course of the evening, in which the choir of the congregation was assisted by some friends from Kingston, formerly members of the Picton congregation. On the whole the meeting was highly successful; not only were the funds of the association (intended for the painting of the Church) added to the amount of £15, but harmony and good feeling were the result; and all seemed to feel, that such meetings, when properly conducted, are calculated to be both pleasing and profitable.

SOIREE AT STRATFORD.—A correspondent thus briefly notices the Soiree recently held in the Rev. Mr. McPherson's Church. "Our Soiree came off delightfully. The Rev. Messrs. Ball, Wallace, and McRuar, gave us excellent speeches on Christian Union, Christian energy and activity, and Missions. The music was enchanting, and the company, consisting of upwards of 300, of all Protestant denominations, retired at a late hour, satisfied that social intercourse on Christian principles, and enjoyed with Christian decorum, un-

speakably transcends the wild hilarity of the wicked."

LADIES' ASSOCIATION, OAKVILLE.

It has been with great satisfaction that we have recently noticed the proceedings of the Ladies' Associations connected with our larger and long established congregations; and may they long continue to render such substantial aid to the various schemes of the Church, and to missions generally. It is right that the larger and more influential congregations should take the lead in every good work. But it gives us no less satisfaction to observe, that our smaller and more recently formed charges, are not backward in following the good example set before them. As a proof of this remark, we have just been informed, that the first annual meeting of a society of this kind, connected with the recently settled congregation of Oakville, has been lately held, when it was reported that the value of the year's contributions (consisting of money, ladies' work, and materials,) amounted to £35 7s. 6d., currency—which was expended in the following way, viz: a box of clothing, &c., for the use of the Female Boarding School at one of the missionary stations in the Samoan Islands—value, (including charges for freight, &c.) £27 7s. 6d.; a box of clothing, &c., sent to the French Canadian Missionary Society's Institute at Point-aux-Trembles—value £7; printing the constitution of the Society, £1. In connection with this society periodical meetings are held for prayer, hearing missionary intelligence, and executing any work which happens to be in the hands of the Depositary. These meetings, we have no doubt, have proved very useful as well as interesting, to all who have attended them. May the good work go on and prosper; and may the time soon come when each of our congregations, whether large or small, will be able to speak of a flourishing Ladies' Association.

CATHOLIC REGULATIONS FOR LENT.

The *Catholic Telegraph* contains the "regulations" and "exhortations" of the Archbishop of Cincinnati, for the season of Lent. We copy them:—

1. All the days of Lent, except Sundays, are fasting days of obligation.
2. This fast is to be observed by all persons over twenty-one years of age, who cannot plead the exemptions usually acknowledged by the Church.
3. Meat is allowed, by dispensation, at every meal on Sundays. It is further allowed at one meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.—It is also allowed on Wednesdays, except Ash-Wednesday, the Wednesday of Ember Week, (the 3rd of March,) and the Wednesday of the last, or Holy Week.
4. Fish and Flesh are not permitted at the same meal.
5. Lard is allowed in cooking.
6. Eggs, butter, and cheese are allowed without distinction of days.
7. Custom has authorized the taking of a collation, which is not to exceed the fourth part of an ordinary meal—towards evening—and also a cup of coffee or tea in the morning.

The Archbishop says, "Let us not see, let us hear not of any drunkenness on Ash-Wednesday,

on Good Friday, on Saturday nights and Sunday morning, or at any time during Lent." A good Catholic, according to the Archbishop, may violate the Sabbath by drunkenness on that day, provided it is not in Lent; and even during that season, it would seem to be less sinful to be drunk in the afternoon than in the morning of the Sabbath. Not a word does this dignitary say about the Divine authority for observing the whole day, "remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy." There is prudence, to say the least of it, in not appealing to such authority, because the above rules have no shadow of warrant in the Word of God. When shall the veil be removed from the eyes of the votaries of a degrading superstition—when shall these doctrines of devils be exploded, and the seducing spirits that command to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving, be consumed by the Spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of his coming, to spread the Gospel throughout the world?

The mere command of a fallible sinful man, unsupported by, nay, opposed to the Word of God, would have no weight with intelligent minds in the Romish Church, were the right of private judgment not denied to them. The authority of custom is recognised in the Archbishop's regulations, but the law and the testimony are nowhere hinted at. The faithful are commanded to eat according to the regulation, and exhorted not to get drunk, otherwise than is allowed by the regulations.

THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW—ITS RESULTS.

In the report of the Mayor of Portland, to the Board of Aldermen and City Council, some very important facts are brought to light, in regard to the working of the Maine Liquor Law. We give a brief abstract of that report. Mayor Dow states that its operation has been, in the highest degree, salutary, and that there is reason to suppose, that it will eventually be adopted by all the other States. Many persons who were intemperate have abandoned strong drinks, from the difficulty of procuring them. The law has executed its mission with more ease, certainty and despatch, than was anticipated by its most ardent friends—it has been most triumphantly successful. The House of Correction is empty. Commitments for offences against the laws are greatly reduced. The peace of the city has been better preserved. The law is stringent, and firmly and energetically enforced. There have been 101 convictions for selling intoxicating drinks, for which fines to the amount of \$1310 have been imposed; amount of fines for keeping liquors, \$360; for selling and keeping, \$373; whole amount of fines and costs, \$2943. The whole number of seizures has been about 50, and the market value of the liquor seized and destroyed, \$5000.

We look forward to the day, we trust, not very remote, when a similar remedy shall be applied to the drunkenness of Canada. Public opinion is tending in that direction. Galt, to her honor, took the lead in recommending the adoption of