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An alarming tendency to drink is  
showing itself among the Indians of the  
Yukon. This is largely due to idleness.  
An effort is to be made to counteract  
this tendency by interesting them in  
agriculture. It is hard to make an In-  
dian into a farmer, but it is worth trying.

The Catholic Register asks for two  
chapel cars for the two great transcon-  
tinental lines of railway. A chapel on  
wheels is a good idea, and our church,  
which has done so much for the north-  
west, might employ such an agency use-  
fully. Some of our wealthy members  
might make a gift of a portable church.

Germany has a law which provides that  
a man who wastes his earnings in vicious  
habits may be declared a minor, and  
his wages will then be paid to a guardian  
who expends them for the support of  
the man's family. If the man refuses to  
work the police look after him and see  
that he does. An excellent law, which  
some other countries would do well to  
copy.

A Methodist ministerial union has been  
formed in Victoria, B.C., somewhat dif-  
ferent in character from those usually  
existing. It admits to membership min-  
isters, missionaries, their wives and their  
widows. They gather together once in  
two months around the tea table, for so-  
cial intercourse and to discuss papers and  
subjects of mutual interest. Such an  
association should prove very helpful.

Church union in South Africa is more  
comprehensive than in Canada. Negotia-  
tions are in progress between the Pres-  
byterians, Congregationalists, Methodists  
and Baptists, and a satisfactory joint  
creed has been agreed upon. But how  
did they settle the question of baptism?  
That has prevented the Baptists in Can-  
ada from taking part in the negotiations  
for union. Those in Africa must be of  
a more liberal stripe.

**THE POISON OF A SNEER.**

Of all the forms of evil influence that  
of sneering at religion on the part of  
young people is perhaps most mischiev-  
ous, and especially so, where they are  
supposed to have been born and bred  
in Christian families. Not only is a  
sneer inspired by a more subtle form  
of depravity than ordinary unbelief, but  
it weighs more with the young, with fol-  
lows reason. An argument against reli-  
gion counts for so much, according to  
the weight of it, and when it is inspired  
by honest doubt, there is supposed to be  
a certain manliness about it which be-  
comes a redeeming feature in one's lack  
of faith. But a sneer is as likely as  
anything to be a pure piece of prejudice  
and malignity. It does not imply any  
sincere and intelligent thinking, and still  
less any respect for the sincere and in-  
telligent thinking of others. It is utter-  
ly void of a good impulse or motive,  
and seems to be a pure exaltation of  
the devil. Wherein, then, lies the mis-  
chief of it? In this: that it instils its  
poison through the medium of ridicule  
before which young people so easily  
wither. A sneer is usually conceived  
under some expression which is laugh-  
able; and in a smart, contemptuous,  
reckless speech which sets the company  
in a roar, one may do more harm than  
he could do in arguing for a week. In-  
deed, in nine cases out of ten, if a young  
person would but reason about the  
thing at which he sneers, he would only  
prove how little his words and opinions  
are entitled to any weight whatever.

To say nothing about the mischief  
which is done in this way among those  
young people who have more or less  
respect for religion as connected with  
our Sunday schools and churches, it is  
believed that this habit of sneering is  
the most potent instrument of evil with  
persons of similar age connected with  
printing and manufacturing establish-  
ments. It is well known that such per-  
sons, to say nothing of their elders,  
have, as a rule, perhaps little or no re-  
spect for the institutions of religion.  
Well, how did they come by it? Are  
they especially read and qualified to  
argue in matters of this sort? They  
would make no such pretensions. But  
that is a rare establishment in which  
there is not some witty, tonguey, reck-  
less person who is always raising a  
laugh at the expense of Christian peo-  
ple. He "gets off" such epithets and  
oddly biting and profane expressions  
that they have all the weight of knock  
down arguments. And yet they are not  
arguments at all, but only bitter, malig-  
nant words, spiced with wit, or with  
what passes for such in the company.  
Let young people be carefully guarded  
against such a habit as this, whether  
they would influence others, or suffer  
from their influence. If they must pass  
through the period of doubt and misgiv-  
ing, be it so. But caution them against  
that malign, Satanic spirit which would  
instill the poison of a sneer, where it  
is void of knowledge, and kill by ridic-  
ule, when it could not harm by reason.

Among the centennials to be observed  
this year is that of Horatius Bonar the  
hymn writer, which will shortly be cele-  
brated. Among his well known hymns  
are, "I heard the voice of Jesus say,"  
and the favorite communion hymn,  
"Here, O My Lord, I see thee face to  
face."

**THE POSITION OF QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY.**

The position of Queen's University  
with relation to the Presbyterian  
Church will again come up for consid-  
eration at the next meeting of the  
General Assembly, and the future of  
the university will depend on the de-  
cision arrived at. Queen's cannot ex-  
pect to retain her professors unless she  
can afford to pay them better salaries,  
and unless a retiring allowance can  
be provided similar to that they would  
enjoy under the Carnegie fund, if they  
were retiring from work in a univer-  
sity having no denominational affini-  
ties. Further, means must be pro-  
vided for expansion, for Queen's can-  
not continue to attract students, which  
fortunately she has been able to do  
in the past, unless she can keep pace  
with the ever growing demands of a  
university which would keep up with  
the new discoveries constantly being  
made in all departments of knowledge.

The position briefly stated is this.  
Previous to the death of Principal  
Grant he foresaw the future, and ad-  
vised that steps should be taken to  
nationalize Queen's. The General As-  
sembly, in 1900, when the matter was  
submitted to it, resolved that it would  
approve of any well considered change  
which would increase the usefulness  
of the university, and appointed a com-  
mittee to confer with the trustees. A  
meeting was called of all interested,  
and a practically unanimous decision  
in favor of the proposal was reached.  
The report of the committee, when  
submitted to the Assembly in 1901,  
was adopted. In 1902 the proposed  
changes in the charter were approved  
of. Only parliamentary legislation was  
required to give them effect. Mean-  
time Principal Grant died, and in 1903,  
when the draft act was submitted, the  
Assembly reversed its former action,  
and resolved that if the denomina-  
tional relations of the university were left  
unchanged they would promote a  
movement to secure an adequate end-  
owment.

For over four years the work of  
raising half a million dollars, that be-  
ing the amount aimed at, went on,  
Rev. Robt. Laird having been appoint-  
ed by the Assembly to carry on the  
canvass. The result has been disap-  
pointing. The church has not risen to  
the occasion. Andrew Carnegie gen-  
erosely offered that when \$400,000 was  
received he would give \$100,000. Up to  
October 1, 1908, about which time the  
canvass was suspended, \$312,111.60 had  
been subscribed, of which \$174,631.67  
had been paid, and most of the con-  
gregations had been visited. This  
leaves nearly \$90,000 still to be secured  
before Mr. Carnegie's offer can be taken  
advantage of. Even if the half  
million was all secured, the trustees  
have no way of providing a retiring  
allowance for aged and infirm pro-  
fessors, with the natural result that  
the university must fail to attract as  
capable men as those who will be ap-  
pointed to chairs in universities which  
enjoy the advantages of the Carnegie  
foundation, and must be prepared to