

## MR. BOK AND THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Mr. Edward Bok is editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal*. It is altogether unnecessary to speak of the conspicuous success of his work in connection with that great paper. He is, without doubt, a man of marked ability and unlimited energy and resourcefulness. But evidently he is troubled with "spells." Several times now we have known him to be afflicted with what we would diagnose as church-mania. A short time ago he undertook to tell us why young men did not go to church. The sum and substance of it all was that the modern church neither understood the young man's religious needs nor knew how to meet them, while the preacher was conspicuous among all classes of men for his incompetence and failure to understand the duties or realize the possibilities of his own calling. And now it is the religious papers. For some time *The Ladies' Home Journal* has been leading in a crusade against patent medicines. It has done a real public service in letting the people know the large percentage of alcohol that many of these nostrums contain, and in calling attention to the many and manifest evils that are wrought by them. All honor to it for its fearlessness and aggression in this matter. But the editor now feels called upon to abuse the religious press for its alleged failure to help along a good cause. And the abuse is very wholesale and abusive. Here are a few sentences: "The papers of the religious press of the country are clogged with the very advertising that decent secular periodicals have refused to accept." "In the full knowledge of the contents of these medicines, these advertisements, shunned by the decent secular periodicals, are wantonly solicited." "Is it any wonder that the religious press of the country, save in the case of a few notable exceptions, has become a synonym for ridicule and disgust among intelligent and discerning people." "The newspapers are wheeling into line, and censorship of patent medicine advertising has begun. But the religious papers have absolutely stood still."

On this the *Christian Guardian* properly remarks: That all this indignation is of the cheapest and most pharisaical kind will be evident to any one who seriously and fairly considers the matter, and who knows anything about the custom of the religious press in the matter of advertising as compared with the secular papers. All religious papers are not above reproach in their advertising columns. We are not sure that our own always is, but there can be no doubt that the religious press is not lagging behind the secular in this matter, and that it has a fairly acute conscience touching the patent medicine evil.

F. M. Tidings for October contains a touching little story entitled, "A Word in Season," by our occasional contributor, "Bonnie Brae," of Ottawa. So good a writer should be a frequent contributor to the various church publications.

## THE PRESENT POPE.

It is pretty well known that the present occupant of the Papal chair was unexpectedly called to his high position and is scarcely the ecclesiastical politician and smart diplomatist that one would expect to find in these days. Still, we are far away from Rome in several respects and cannot form a clear idea of the character of the man upon whom, in these days, such great responsibility rests. The following statements taken from two leading journals of the great city which we regard as the centre of our empire are interesting, and are no doubt based upon adequate knowledge.

The *Tribune* says: "Pope Pius X is justly beloved and respected, but from the first he has shown few traces of that skill and power which have rarely deserted the Papacy in its most anxious vicissitudes. The situation which confronted him might surely have been so handled as to substitute a genuine goodwill for the restless and superficial peace which was often characteristic of the days of the Concordats. Unfortunately it has been so handled as to make the relations of church and state more bitter and difficult."

The *Spectator*, also discussing the crises in France, gives this pen picture: "The Papacy is ruled by a man who is not a diplomatist, who thinks it his conscientious duty to keep the church independent of lay control; and who, it is probable, looks as the last resort for divine assistance. The Pope is not exactly a fanatic, but he is a resolute churchman. He has been greatly affronted by the suppression of the Concordat, which he regards as a Treaty, without any negotiations with himself, and he looks upon those of the Curia who advise moderation as Laodiceans whose counsel may weaken the authority of the Church throughout the world." After showing how firmly and fiercely the majority in the French Republic stands for "laicism", and how the two opposite principles are bound to clash, this writer concludes an interesting article in the following words: "The Pope, though a man entitled to respect for his courage and for his devotion to conviction, has mistaken his era and the wishes of the French masses, who desire that the offices of the Church shall be performed in the ancient way, but who intend that, whether they are or not, the Government of France shall be controlled by lay thought, lay aspiration, and lay men."

## ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.

It is always the right thing to make it easy to do right. For that reason, nothing should be made obligatory, seeing that the bulk of bribe-giving and bribe-taking is centred around what is called "getting out the vote." Hanging back until the latter part of the day, waiting to be bribed, would be decidedly discouraged by making it every voter's legal obligation to get out his own vote.

As to knowledge and manipulation of the ballot by deputy returning officers, and the like, there would be considerable lessening of the temptation by the use of the mechanical method of voting, where the elector would need only to press a button.

## WORLD OF MISSIONS.

1599 were added on confession of faith to the Presbyterian Church in the Philippines last year.

A Persian woman, a Moslem, has given \$2,000 for a women's ward in the missionary hospital in Urumia.

The High Commission of Siam is urging the missionaries under official sanction to undertake the vaccination of all the people in the northern provinces. This will afford a grand opportunity for preaching the gospel.

A revival in Urumia, Persia, is blessing men, women, and children. A missionary writes: "The chief and primary cause of this blessed work of grace is unquestionably the presence of the Holy Spirit, manifested in answer to much earnest prayer."

A missionary in South Africa declares that the greatest fleeting missionary opportunity today is among the great Hausa people of the Central Soudan. They are ready to hear and welcome the Gospel. The Mohammedans are sending in their preachers by the score. "The faith of Islam is an advance upon heathenism and the Hausas are adopting it, thousands in a month. But Mohammedans are harder to win to the Christian faith than idolaters."

Rev. Alfred Wasson, writing from Korea of its Methodist missions, says: "The Korean church is filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice. They build their own country churches, and each church supports in whole or in part a native helper, who gives his time to extending the kingdom among his heathen neighbors. Many of the poorer Christians obtain money for supporting the preacher by taking out a handful from their regular allowance of rice each day and selling it. Every convert is a missionary."

The annual assembly of the delegates of the Samoan Churches in connection with the London Missionary Society was held at Malua, Samoa. There was an attendance of 324 ordained pastors and native missionaries and 247 lay members, and the meetings were of a most enthusiastic and hopeful character. Sixteen young men who had successfully passed through their probation were ordained to the native ministry. The mission has been successful in this portion of the South Seas.

## AN OPEN LETTER FROM MR. MEIKLE.

Rev. William Meikle, B.A., has issued the following letter:

Glace Bay, C.B., Oct. 1st, 1906.

Dear Brother,—After a pastorate here of somewhat over five years I am about to engage for a time at least in evangelistic work.

It is scriptural for a minister to "Do the work of an Evangelist"; it is right for brethren to assist one another in gospel services, but there is still a place and need for the Evangelist who can devote all his time to special work. I was in evangelistic work for many years, yet in my pastorates I availed myself of the assistance of evangelists with blessed results.

The demand for this work is increasing. Revival is spoken of, written about and prayed for all over the world. And it is needed. Why not have it? Let the prayer of every minister, office-bearer and member be, "Lord, give us a revival and commence in me." This prayer earnestly offered and consistently carried out would soon ensure a general and widespread revival.

I ask your prayers for the work in which I am to engage and for the efforts of all faithful evangelists. Yours fraternally,

W. MEIKLE.