

VERMONT and New Hampshire are full of deserted farms; the former occupants of which have either moved into the towns, or gone "West," and left the rocky homesteads to briars and thistles. The Commissioner of Agriculture for Vermont proposes to get Swedes to emigrate from Europe to fill up these wastes; of which there are nearly 200,000 acres in that State. Glad to hear of it; it will offset the French-Canadian Romish population, so long pouring into New England.

No serious-minded Christian but has regretted the trifling, desultory conversation—if indeed it can be called such—of people returning from church; and even before they get outside the doors. That is just where Satan "catcheth away that which was sown in their hearts." Saurin, the great French preacher, says, "Are we returning from a sermon? Why not entertain one another with the subjects we have been hearing? Why not endeavor to imprint on one another's memories the truths that have been proved, and to impress upon one another's hearts such precepts as have been enforced?"

MR. GLADSTONE is opposed to the growth of a class of idle rich men. He speaks of the late Mr. T. Rice, Editor of the *North-American Review*, with approbation, as a man of independent means, who, nevertheless, gave himself to a laborious occupation. Mr. Gladstone is himself a shining example of a very rich man, who is always busy. He says:

"The growth of a class of idle rich men would, in my opinion, be a great misfortune to America, as it must be to any other country, and I take it as a sign of a mind aspiring to public virtue when the rich man frankly and practically owns himself to be amenable to the common lot of honorable duty and labor."

I WAS struck with what one said the other day of a certain preacher. The hearer was in deep concern of soul, and the minister preached a very pretty sermon indeed, but his poor soul, under a sense of sin, said, "There was too much landscape, sir. I did not want landscape; I wanted salvation." Dear friend, never crave word-painting when you attend a sermon; but crave Christ. You must have Christ to be your own by faith, or you are a lost man. When I was seeking the Saviour, I remember hearing a very good doctrinal sermon; but when it was over I longed to tell the minister that there was a

poor lad there that wanted to know how he could get saved.—*Spurgeon*.

JUST to look back in the history of the world for fifty years, we come across the following:

The discovery of the electric telegraph; the discovery of photography; the establishment of ocean steam navigation; the discoveries of gold; the rise and fall of Napoleon III., and the establishment of the French Republic. The laying of the ocean cables; the abolition of slavery in the United States; the unification of Germany; the overthrow of the Pope's temporal power; the emancipation of the Russian serfs; the discovery of the sources of the Nile and Niger, and the exploration of interior Africa; the discovery of the telephone and the phonograph.

THERE are Roman Catholic schools, especially for young ladies, in this Province, that are conducted on the principle that it will "pay" to get Protestant girls there, even if they are taken in at the cheapest rates. And the "cheapness" too often prevails with parents. They are Roman "missions" among a Protestant population. Beware of them!

And in selecting *any* school for their children, parents should think of the companionships the children will form there. An American writer well remarks on this point:

"This is a point often overlooked, but one on which too much emphasis can scarcely be laid, especially with youth of tender years. The good influence of teachers may be nearly neutralized by a single injudicious friendship with an evil-minded boy or girl; and it is surprising how the whole tone of a school may be changed by the presence of even a few pupils whose standard of morals and manners is low."

THE Chinese Government, according to the latest despatches, seem inclined to better the instruction of the United States Government, which prohibits the immigration of Chinese laborers, by expelling all citizens of the United States from China. Canada places a head tax upon all Chinese immigrants, which is an injustice as well as an indignity, but it is hardly probable that the Chinese Government will retaliate in our case; as, in the first place, Canadians are British subjects; and in the second place, the number of Canadians in China, outside of missions, is very small. If any Christian country, however, had occasion to feel smaller than the one that