

the labour teaching, as that was the great inducement to bigger boys and girls.

#### A Prison Governor's Views.

The management of prisons is now of great interest owing to the intended removal of the Ontario Central Prison from the city of Toronto, which now hems it in, to a large well situated farm. But even more difficult is that of a city prison. Colonel Campbell, the former head of the Edinburgh jail, in addressing an aid society asked, what was the good of sending a man time and again, year after year, to prison for three or six months. He agreed with Sir Robert Anderson as to the determining of sentences. He thought short sentences utterly useless. A man who made a fool of himself by getting drunk should get a good birching and be turned out of court. The best way of dealing with women was to send them to homes and boys to reformatories. There was a certain class of men who, no matter what was done for them, would always go back to crime. In such cases he would not only have the determining of sentences, but gradual liberation. If a prisoner improved and behaved he would allow him to work outside, making him sleep in prison for two or three months instead of entirely curtailing his liberty, until he was free from prison discipline.

#### Church Progress.

We hear many a jeremiad concerning the lethargy and leakages and losses of the Church and we sometimes wonder whether the authors of these jeremiads believe in the teaching of the parable of the mustard seed or of Daniel's fifth kingdom, represented by the stone cut out of the mountain growing and expanding till it filled the whole earth. For ourselves we prefer to dwell on the positive and constructive side of the Church's work and to note her progress. Look, for example, at the Sunday School contributions referred to in Bishop Richardson's Lenten letter to the children. They run from \$2,600 in 1903 to \$10,000 in 1907, a total four times as great as it was four years ago. Surely this is a cheering record of progress and it teaches, among other things, the value of good organization in our Sunday Schools joined to loyalty and missionary enthusiasm in the hearts of the ministers who have control of them. We are further led to expect that some of the best triumphs of the Church will be found in the Sunday School and every earnest minister and member of the Church ought to take a pride in doing anything to extend and develop so hopeful a department of Christian work.

#### Influenza

Or as it is popularly called "Grip," has become a regular winter visitor. We cannot say that we welcome the persecutor, but we thankfully acknowledge the attack to be less severe than that of some years ago, when many lives were lost through its novelty and severity. People have come to recognize the early symptoms of the disease, and by prompt care and judicious treatment they are now better able to head it off. We would naturally have preferred it to have remained in Russia—whence it is said to have come to us or other foreign parts—but like an unwelcome guest who will not be denied, we must make the best of it.

#### Irish Humour.

It would be a sad day for the world in more senses than one were, as some hard-hearted man, we believe, suggested, that the "Green Isle" be submerged in the sea for twenty-four hours. There is no country that supplies us with more cheeriness and humour than Ireland. We are advised that in the County of Waterford the other day a Roman Catholic priest refused to pay his poor rate because the poor rate collector had not paid the priest his dues. The county court judge who tried the case, however, felt himself bound to administer the law of the land rather than the moral

law, and so his reverence had to pay his rates, although his dues were still owing.

#### Bird Destruction.

We are glad to find the Royal Society is moving seriously for the protection of bird life, and has collected a number of statistics to justify legislative interference. Among them is the fact that during the last six months of 1907 there were catalogued at the plume auction sales held in London 19,742 skins of the bird of paradise, 1,411 packages of the nesting plumes of the white heron, representing the feathers of nearly 115,000 birds, besides enormous numbers of the feathers and skins of almost every known species of ornamental plumaged birds. At the June sale 1,386 crowned pigeons heads were sold, while among miscellaneous bird skins one firm of auctioneers catalogued over 20,000 kingfishers. A feature of recent sales is the offer of large numbers of lyre birds' tails and of albatross quills. What wanton destruction! Legislation may do much but fashion will succeed. Cannot our great ladies confine their depredations to the common and unnecessary sparrow? His plumage could be manipulated to deceive the very elect.

#### Mother's Failures.

Miss Annesley Kenealy had been entrusted by a friend to select "a mother's help, domesticated and fond of children," and details the results: One half in their bad writing and spelling showed a lack of practical education and application. Seventy per cent. were "fond of games and devoted to outdoor life and accomplishments," which failed to fit them for indoor work. Many were extremely pleasant, several decidedly pretty and engaging. They were a credit to their country so far as comeliness, cheerfulness and general niceness were concerned. But in practical every-day common sense standards of domestic and personal training these girls represented a social tragedy. They belonged to the ever-increasing class of men and women who are not taught anything thoroughly, who begin and end life as smatterers. They didn't like sewing, could not manage a machine, liked dusting the drawing room and arranging the flowers. Knew nothing of reading aloud or how to make a poultice. And so through a wearying list of "sorry I can't do this," what they could not do being the most obvious duties of a small unexact home. The one thing they did really well was going for walks, not one was suited or trained for marriage with a young man of moderate means. "It is no use," sums up the writer, "to teach girls domestic economy and house-keeping out of text books. They must dust, sweep, market, and play the parts of parlour maid, cook and store-keeper as seriously as though they were earning their living by it. Such girls, if necessary, can command fair salaries; they make excellent wives for men of large or small incomes."

#### WIPE OUT THE DEBT.

We understand that the Committee of Laymen who were appointed to look into the financial condition of St. Alban's, the cathedral of the Diocese of Toronto, has brought in its report. The committee has made temporary arrangements with the owners of the mortgage on the property. Now is the time for the Churchmen of that diocese to remove the reproach of a cathedral overburdened with debt from the start and to fulfil the obligation which rests on each and all of them. In other words to get to work, and before the summer comes to clear off the whole cathedral debt. There is one good way of getting it. The committee has been empowered to continue its good offices and to add to its number. Let the committee appoint two or three of the most active and influential Churchmen in each parish of the city of Toronto to undertake an immediate canvass of the parish to

which they belong. These men should be sought out, appointed, and got to work without delay. As much as possible, where men of means are to be visited, they should unite their forces. It is a large enterprise and calls for judicious and businesslike handling. To make a success of this canvass calls for the same kind of tact, energy and perseverance as has made these men successful in their various callings in life. The cause is an inspiring one—to rescue the Diocesan Cathedral, to free it from its burden of debt, and place it on a secure foundation for future completion. The call is imperative and comes with intense earnestness and pathetic power from God's honoured and venerable ambassador, Archbishop Sweatman. For long years this cathedral has been the crowning wish of his life. Comparatively few Churchmen know how this noble and unselfish Prelate has longed, and toiled, and denied himself to provide for his beloved diocese a sacred temple worthy of the Church over which he presides, and the cause to which it is dedicated. And now Churchmen and women of Toronto Diocese, in city, town and country, old and young, rich and poor alike, will you not range yourselves beside your aged Spiritual Leader and before he crosses the ocean as your representative at perhaps the greatest gathering of your Church the world has ever seen, the Pan-Anglican Assembly, to be held in the city of London in the month of June next, and grant him the yearning desire of his heart—St. Alban's Cathedral freed from debt—no longer a perpetual cause of poignant sorrow to his troubled heart, but a source of inexpressible joy and gladness even to the end of his days? Let those who can give thousands, give and give quickly, and so with the hundreds, fifties, twenties, tens, fives, ones, or even less, for as no one is too rich, so no one is too poor, to give at the call of the King of Kings through his loyal and faithful ambassador.

#### DECADENCE.

Nations, like all created things, grow old, lose their youthful vital energy and are passed by or overwhelmed by others. This problem, which confronts every man worthy of the name of statesman, probably influenced Mr. Balfour in choosing "Decadence" as the subject of his "Henry Sedgwick Memorial" lecture recently delivered at Cambridge. Mr. Balfour was inclined to believe that in a modified form, and while the rule of decline and fall held good with all nations, the decay of a particular group might operate to the benefit of civilization as a whole, and decadence would thus become recognized as a necessary condition of progress. We think, however, that in an increasing degree decline is likely to differ in character to that of, say, three thousand years ago. Day by day the world is more closely bound together. The arbitrament of the sword does not entail tribal extermination as in the period of the world's history, when half a dozen nations occupied the space of Palestine. The nearest approach to Old World ways characterized the advance of Russia eastward, and as the result of the clash between Russia and Japan. The result, one result at least, of this conflict is not the banishment, extermination or slavery of the people of the soil, but what these people relish as little as slavery the enforcement of improved habits of domestic life, cleanliness, intelligent, and hard work, education, in other words the fitting of the country people to hold their own with other nations. We are told of the results in China, which has been oppressed and plundered, and part of whose territory was the field of battle. China has changed, has accepted the new ways forced on her by other nations, and it is now thought may go further and faster than Japan in the race of nations. One dialect is being taught, railways are spreading, and with modern methods and centralization of power, national spirit and confidence is growing. Thus