

We have enough and more than enough to supply all the wants of man and beast until another harvest shall come round, while the world's markets are in such a state that we can dispose of our surplus to good advantage. Not for many years has there been such a hopeful tone in trade, and not a few are finding large prosperity flow in upon them. The forest and the mine have been yielding of their treasures, and all our natural resources are being rapidly developed. Those portions of our territory that seemed even the least promising have revealed unsuspected wealth, and our Arctic gold fields have attracted the notice of the whole world.

Quite as truly as for these material blessings we have reason to give thanks for the peace and goodwill that have continued within our borders, for the general observance of law, for the faithful and orderly administration of justice, for the stability of our political institutions, and the loyalty of all classes of our population to the Empire, as well as to the person of our Gracious Sovereign, still spared to us. We may say that sentimentally we have had some share in the glorious victories won by the Imperial forces and yet we have been wholly free from the anxieties of war. No serious pestilence has approached our shores or threatened our people. Our sympathies have hardly even been drawn on for the plague-stricken elsewhere. Our relations with our nearest national neighbors have been more cordial than for many years and there is a reasonable prospect that all questions involving dispute or creating irritation may soon be amicably settled.

As a Church we have made progress in all parts of the Dominion, our finances are for the most part in a satisfactory position and on a sound basis, our missions have enjoyed a large degree of blessing. None of our foreign fields have been seriously disturbed in their work by political complications or by warlike commotions. The hand of death has taken away some that were eminent in the councils of both Church and State, but has spared a yet larger number of those who may be trusted to carry on the work without serious interruption. There have been no burning questions, few troublesome disputes, no heresy trials. The Gospel has been quietly, steadily and earnestly preached from nearly 3000 pulpits and many hearts have owned the power of the truth.

Yes, truly we have reason to be thankful! Let our songs of praise therefore be heard afar and let our charities abound.

#### PREACHERS AND POLITICIANS.

THE *Hamilton Times* criticizes a recent article in our columns on "Inattentive Hearing," and is disposed to think that it is "the preacher's own fault if he does not compel the people in the pews to listen to him and become interested in the subject of his discourse. He has the choice of his own subjects as well as liberty with regard to the method of delivery, and if the people sleep or let their minds wander there is always reason to fear that the preacher has mistaken his calling. A good political speaker will get the attention of an audience that is not merely indifferent, but positively hostile."

Well we are quite willing that the preacher should be made to bear some part of the blame for inattentive hearing, and we said so. But the comparison made between the preacher and the political speaker is by no means a fair one. There are over 3000 Protestant ministers in Canada who are supposed to be qualified to preach. They are perhaps not all interest-

ing preachers. But we venture to say there are not five hundred political speakers who can hold an audience interested for half an hour on any one theme except in the heat of a political contest, when almost anybody can get a hearing who is solid with either party. The political speaker moreover does not have to face the same audience once or twice every week throughout the year. A fairer comparison would have been with the political leader writer in the weekly or daily papers. Every newspaper man is painfully aware of the frequency with which the ablest editorials are skipped by the average reader, especially if they are solid matter, and over a single column long. Perhaps this thought may enable the experienced editor of the *Times* to sympathize more with the preacher and put the bulk of the blame where it belongs. Scare headings in the pulpit might do something to provoke interest; but people soon tire even of these, if they are used too freely. The best thing after all is for the people to do something to get up a spiritual appetite, and then they will relish wholesome food, even though it be not highly spiced.

#### THE PSALMS OF DAVID.

COMPLAINT has been heard rather often of late that in the services of the sanctuary the Psalms are rapidly giving way to hymns, so that in many congregations it is as rare a thing to sing a Psalm now as it was to sing a hymn in bygone days. Even to the casual observer it is apparent that the Psalms occupy a much less prominent and important a position in the church service of praise than they ought to occupy, and their gradual disuse is matter for sincere regret to many. It was hoped that the Psalm selections included in the Book of Praise would tend to more frequent use of the Psalms, and there were ministers and people who accepted a selection instead of the whole psalter, in the belief that a selected collection would meet with general approval and use, but evidently this was a mistaken view and the practice of passing by the grand old Psalms, instead of receding is growing at a rate which if maintained will soon result in the singing of Psalms being only a tradition in the Presbyterian Church. It is high time the question received the attention, at the hands of Sessions and Presbyteries, which it deserves.

In issuing the Church Hymnary of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain and Ireland, the Convener of the Church of Scotland, Rev. Dr. John Alison, says: "With regard to the use to be made of it (The Church Hymnary), we may first express a hope that it will not be misused by displacing the Metrical Psalms and Paraphrases. If our Scottish piety is to retain its depth and robustness, these must continue to have the foremost place." "Dr. Alison continues: "To this we say 'Amen,' and all the more that the Scottish Hymnal has in many cases been so misused to the ousting of the Psalms. With all the excellence of that hymn-book, it has nothing to equal in depth and majesty many of the old Psalms."

It will be remembered that Fifth Avenue church, New York, extended a call to Rev. Alexander Connell, London, England, as successor to their late pastor, Rev. Dr. John Hall. In view of the approach made to Mr. Connell, on behalf of St. Andrew's church, Toronto, it will be gratifying to learn from a London contemporary that Mr. Connell has declined the New York offer.