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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26, 1910

The Congregationalist states that Protestant Churches of the United States provide sittings for 58,282,742 persons, while the members of the churches amount to but 20,237,742. The statistics are given in connection with a plea for strengthening existing churches rather than establishing new ones.

"Ministers are not good business men." Are they not? We think, says an exchange, they are the best financiers we know. They bring up good families on small means, and give them better education than is given in any other class of families. In addition they generally are forced to "finance" their churches out of debt, or keep them out.

The best acquisition in life is a contented spirit. With it, no troubles appeal, no difficulties discourage, no disasters overwhelm, no deferred hope sickens the soul, but without it, no blessing is complete, every cup of pleasure has its bitter dregs, every song of joy has its discordant strain and every image of hope has its black shadowy dread. Paul said "I have learned . . . to be content." How few of us have learned even the alphabet of that gracious Christian culture, Christian contentment.

As in Quebec, so in Western Ontario, the Roman Catholic Church is opposing the "bar." In Essex County the priests are commencing to wage a strong campaign for the abolition of hotels in the immediate vicinity of churches in the county. A petition drawn up, signed by the Rev. Father Meunier, administrator of the London diocese, and all priests in Essex county, has been forwarded to the Hon. Dr. J. O. Reaume, Minister of Public Works, who will turn it over to Sir James P. Whitney. Besides asking for strict enforcement of the liquor law it asks that the license fee be raised to \$500 and the licenses be issued in accordance with the population.

## THE REVIVAL THAT IS NEEDED.

What the church needs is a deep and genuine revival of religion; not the presence of special religious interests in many localities, nor even in great commercial centres, as have caused devout thanksgiving in years past; but, more than these the church needs a revival epoch, a spiritual awakening, that like a tide-wave, shall roll over all church life, so broad, so powerful, as to form an era in church history. This alone can bring new life to a dead and formal churchism, and quicken it with a power that will save it from reproach. This alone can stem the tide of worldliness and skepticism spreading over the land.

And in this view of the case the outlook is, after all, not so discouraging. God is neither reluctant nor powerless to bless His church. That it is a time of serious moral defection and of great wickedness is not a hindrance. A revival is not a human agency. It is not stopped, therefore, by the barriers which would interpose successful obstacles in the path of merely human wisdom or power. It is not a question of reform dependent on human methods. A revival is the work of God.

And as to the church itself. Neither its weakness as to numbers or influence is a hindrance to revival. It is a difficult thing to make spiritual work a matter of faith in God and not of confidence in human resources. Here again the history of God's dealings teaches us the lesson of Scripture "When ye are weak then are ye strong." The little gathering in the upper room at Jerusalem was a poor basis for calculation of probabilities as to success from an earthly point of view; and yet they turned the world upside down, and by the spiritual power granted to them planted the Christian church throughout the borders of the then known world.

One of the worst railway accidents in the history of Canada occurred on the Canadian Pacific line at Spanish River last Friday. Already the toll of deaths number 48, but it is feared there are many more. One of the victims of the terrible tragedy was Rev. S. Childerhose, B.A., superintendent of Presbyterian missions in Northern Ontario, and one of the best known and most beloved ministers in our Church. He was for many years minister at Parry Sound, where he did most important work, especially among the young men. This pastorate he resigned in 1908, when appointed superintendent of missions, in succession to the late Rev. Dr. Findley.

Dr. F. E. Clarke has recently written:—The schools of France leave much to be desired, for they are for the most part not only godless, but positively skeptical, if not atheistic in their teaching. Abraham is treated as a myth, as are all the rest of the patriarchs. Miracles are denied, and the Bible disputed, when not ignored. Of course the morality and spirituality founded upon Bible teaching have little influence in the schools, and the churches, Sunday schools, Christian Endeavor Societies, and missions have the double task of counteracting the skeptical teaching of the public schools and instilling the principles of pure religion and morality in all those whom they can reach. In this respect the McAll Mission is doing an invaluable work just at this time, wherever its activities reach. Never was there a more important or critical time in the spiritual history of a great and brave people than the present. Never was there a time when the comparatively small Protestant force more needed the sympathy, prayer and material aid of the Christians of other land. May it be granted in full measure.

## SCHEMES OF THE CHURCHES.

The following comparative statement of the receipts for the schemes of the Church, sent us by Dr. Somerville, the general treasurer, is much more encouraging than that of December 31st. At this date, however, it is impossible to make an estimate of what money is expected from the congregations for the year ending February 28th. Very many congregations close their year with December 31st for all purposes, and if these would remit promptly the amount of money on hand allocated to the several schemes it would be possible during February to issue statements that from week to week might keep the Church informed with reasonable accuracy, as to what the prospects would be for closing the year free from debt. In a number of cases the statement below is explained by increased giving to the schemes and in a number of others it simply means more prompt remittance of money by the mission treasurers. The increased expenditure in connection with Home and Foreign Missions and Social and Moral Reform calls for largely increased liberality if the work is to be maintained. The colleges are not included, as a report of the amount received at this office for all except Knox would be wholly misleading, seeing that they have their own treasurers, who receive most of the contributions. Will treasurers kindly forward mission funds allocated to the several schemes as soon as possible? Contributions to January 22nd:

	1909.	1910.
Home Missions.. . . .	\$46,571	\$60,623
Augmentation.. . . .	5,631	8,275
Foreign Missions.. . . .	32,814	51,804
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.. . . .	4,391	3,325
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.. . . .	7,140	3,721
Assembly Fund.. . . .	2,442	1,427
French Evangelization.. . . .	5,451	6,012
Pointe-aux-Trembles.. . . .	4,089	4,871
Moral and Social Reform.. . . .	1,603	2,391
Unapportioned.. . . .	82,642	106,076

## SEATS IN THE AISLES.

An unpleasant incident in a Toronto church last week leads the Toronto News to remark:

A minor dispute over the seating of a congregation in one of the churches raises the general question again: Are the civic by-laws at all times observed in the churches? There is reason to believe that occasionally, when the normal seating capacity is nearly exhausted, chairs are placed in the aisles. And, if this is not done, people are allowed to seat themselves on the gallery steps, thus blocking the way of egress. The by-law is a wise one. If observed it is a protection against the dangers of fire or panic. The authorities have been active lately in preventing persons standing at the rear of the theatres. Let them investigate the churches on Sunday evenings. At any rate an official warning to the boards of management might do no harm, for the offence is generally the result of carelessness or a lack of appreciation of the importance of the by-law.

The work of the Church Commission, Scotland, is completed, says the Presbyterian Witness. The legal costs claimed by the Free Church were £35,000 and the Commissioners allowed £43,000. In their closing remarks they urge all parties to strive for peace. The small churches in Scotland stand thus. Free Presbyterians, 12 congregations with ministers; the Free Church numbers 72 ministers. Increase last year, 4. Vacant churches over 100.