

SMOKING.—Bismarck, after spending half his waking hours, for fifty years, in drinking beer and smoking tobacco, now says:—

"Cigar smoking I have given up altogether, of course under advice. It is debilitating and bad for the nerves. An inveterate smoker, such as I used to be, gets through 100,000 cigars in his life, if he reaches a fair average age. But he would live longer and feel better all the time if he did without them."

THE LATE EMPEROR FREDERICK, in his diary, under date of 1869, thus writes:—

"I shall never forget the first evening spent in Jerusalem, when I saw the sun go down from Mount Olivet, while that deep stillness spread over nature which is elsewhere so gay. Here the spirit can turn away from earth and give itself up to those thoughts which move the heart of every Christian to its depths, when he thinks of the great work of redemption which was here fulfilled. To read a few favorite passages from the Gospels in such a place is a religious service unique in its way."

A WRITER in *The Nonconformist and Independent*, who damages his testimony by the admission that he occasionally smokes himself, thus warns young ministers against the habit:

"The pipe obtains a power over you as a chain of iron. It keeps a smoker indoors when he ought to be out. He will come to imagine that he cannot think, or compose a sermon without it, and so the pipe becomes everything to him, and with the result—a clouded mind, a drowsy spirit, inevitable nervousness, and a thousand hypochondriacal fancies. The beginning of trouble in the matter of health lies here."

The beginning of trouble also, in the quenching of influence, very often lies here.—*Christian*.

FROM the publishers in Boston we have the American Congregational Year-Book. A large volume, and full of figures. The churches are set down as 4,689; or 120 more than last year. The reported membership is 491,985; increase, 16,377. The churches there have not taken in many new members on "confession of faith." Their churches, like ours, need more hard work being done, and more spiritual life in those trying to do it. Number of ministers, 4,640. The *Chicago Advance*, speaking of the Year-Book, says: "On the whole, this last array of figures produces the impression that the denomination is a body zealous for good works, watching for opportunities, and quick to improve them; but in need of greater spiritual power."

LONDON FIRST CHURCH.—We fear there is trouble in this church. We have received much more than we have published, on the

subject. If ever there was a case in which a "Council" was wise and necessary, it is in such a case as this. A minister is invited who is, we trust, all right; but he is unknown; and, unfortunately for him and the church, does not command the sympathy and confidence of a portion of the church. A number of these have left; others are leaving. Why does not the church call neighboring churches to send some of their wisest men, and then spread out before them the credentials of the minister-elect; and ask their advice in the matter—and do it at once?

AN OLD-TIMER.—The Secretary of Zion church, Toronto, some time ago, showed us a ticket of some ancient tea-spread in Toronto. We took a careful copy of it; and here it is:

CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

Tea in the Basement Story of the
Congregl. Chapel

Friday Ev'g 11 Sept. 1840

6—o'clock=

J. E. [L.S.]

We have no doubt the tea was good. And we have no doubt that "J.E." (whoever the fogleman of the feast might be,) got "1s. 3d." for each of the tickets upon which he had indicated the "place of his seat." From the Biography of Dr. Wilkes, by Rev. John Wood, it would seem that Dr. (then Mr.) Wilkes, attended the meeting of the Congregational Union of Upper Canada, in September: place not mentioned, but very probably Toronto; so that this tea would be a gathering of the *Union*, and its friends. Rev. John Roaf was then pastor in Toronto.

MOORE.—About the year 1844, Mr. John Cunningham Geikie, now the renowned author and commentator, wended his way from the Congregational Church in Moore, on the St. Clair River, to Toronto, to begin his studies for the ministry under Rev. Dr. Lillie. The old church-building in Moore remains; but the members are dead or scattered. Dr. W. B. Geikie, Professor in Trinity Medical School, Toronto, a brother of the commentator, has