

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

"WHERE ARE THE NINE."

Of ten lepers healed on one occasion by our Lord, one only returned to thank Him and "to give glory to God," and that one was a stranger, a Samaritan! The disease of which they had been cured was at once incurable by human skill, and fatal; and yet nine out of ten show no gratitude to the great Healer, and acknowledge no obligation for the blessing bestowed. What heart does not wonder at, and recoil from, the unparalleled baseness and ingratitude involved in such a course!

But is it unparalleled? For several years in succession the churches of Christ of nearly all evangelical communions have been largely reinforced as to numbers by accessions from the world. The Lord has given testimony to the word of His grace. The careless have been aroused, and the anxious have been directed and persuaded to enter the kingdom, and many a Christian pastor's heart has been gladdened by seeing the membership of His church increased and even doubled by young converts who have been brought in during these times of revival. Zion has exclaimed, "Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?" But where are they?

Every Christian ought to be a worker. Every saved soul ought to be a messenger to carry the glad tidings of salvation to other souls. And not only ought to, but will, in proportion as they understand what they have been saved from, and feel the constraint of Divine love shed abroad within them.

No doubt in many cases this expectation has been realized. Indeed, we know that the spiritual force of many of our churches has been greatly augmented by these additions to their membership. The Sabbath School has felt the impetus. The prayer meeting has been better sustained. The hands of the pastor have been held up as never before, and the battle is waged with more hopefulness and success. But who are these "true yoke fellows" that so assist and cheer their pastors, and what proportion do they bear to the number of young converts received? How many of them have returned to give thanks to the Divine Healer, asking with the penitent Saul, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" "Where are the nine?"

The failure to enlist young Christians in church work is a great calamity to the churches and a grievous injury to the young converts themselves. Exercise of our gifts and graces is essential to health and growth. Only as we improve what God has bestowed may we look for more. Where not so enlisted, the failure usually results chiefly from one of two causes; either the young people have never been taught their duty, or they do not know how to go about fulfilling it.

To both these points we would earnestly call the attention of the pastors and officers of all our churches. Let every member on being received be faithfully instructed as to the claims of Christ upon him, and directed to some part of the great harvest field where he can begin to work for Him. No true Christian can ever taste the joy of saving a soul from death without desiring to renew the effort. The laborers in the vineyard are few, often, only because "no man hath hired them," and an earnest attempt to engage them in the service of the great Householder would not infrequently surprise the minister who makes it by the readiness of the response, "Here am I; send me!"

SUNDAY CLOSING IN QUEBEC.

Quebec city is following the example of Ontario and western cities. The new Sunday law in Quebec reads:

1st. All theatres, playhouses or halls used for theatrical performances or moving picture shows, and amusements, where the public are admitted on payment of an entrance fee, in the city of Quebec, must be closed and kept closed during the whole day Sundays. In such a manner that entrance thereto be closed to the public.

2nd. In the city of Quebec, during the whole day Sundays, it is forbidden to give or open theatrical performances, or moving picture shows, scenic exhibitions, shows or amusements, wherein the public is admitted on payment of an entrance fee, and, it is also forbidden to take part in or to attend such plays, shows, theatrical performances, or moving picture shows.

3rd. Whoever having possession, or shall take part therein or attend the same, or shall infringe any of the dispositions of the by-law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding forty dollars and costs for each offence, and in default of payment of the charge, direction, or keeping of any such playhouse or halls used for theatrical shows or plays, shall neglect to close them or shall give such theatrical plays, or shows, or the said fine and costs thereon, shall suffer an imprisonment for a space of time not exceeding two months.

The Contemporary for December contains several articles of more than passing interest, among which may be noted The Lords and the Constitution, by Prof. Hobhouse; Belgium and the Reforms on the Congo, by Emile Vanderveide; Milton, by W. F. Alexander, and Some Elements in the Sacrifice of Christ, by W. A. Gris. Dr E. J. Dillon deals with Foreign Affairs in his usual able manner, and there is a comprehensive and useful review of new books, in which our readers will find a very readable article on Principal Rainy and Scottish Ecclesiastical History. New York: Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 789 Warren street.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

Editor Dominion Presbyterian:—While most members of the Protestant churches in Canada will condemn Sunday concerts in the parks or playhouses, they appear to be drifting into substantially the same thing, though under the name of public worship. In an Ontario village newspaper this week I read that the choir of a certain church "gave a very enjoyable musical service on Sunday evening. Mrs. B. sang with pleasing effect, The Star of Bethlehem. Mrs. S. gave The Song the Angels Sang," which was well received. The Misses S., T., L., and B. (the Ladies' Quartette) sang very sweetly. 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.' The choruses by the choir were all rendered in good style and reflected credit upon the choir leader, R.J., Esq. Miss A., the accomplished organist, delighted the large congregations with her organ numbers. The pastor's theme in the morning (illustrated) was, 'The Promised Christ.' In the evening the subject was, 'His Star.'"

One cannot but wonder what sort of pictures could be used to "illustrate" a discourse on "The Promised Christ," and whether this Protestant preacher ever heard of the 2nd commandment. It might be some comfort to know that this wasn't a Presbyterian service, but lest any should be high minded, I read in the same paper that "The choir will provide suitable music" at the forthcoming anniversary services on the Lord's Day of an erstwhile staunchly old-fashioned congregation of that name. And all the while one who has ears might hear the risen Saviour cry, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself." Oh that His ministers would take the Saviour at His Word, and try His plan of attracting the people.

ULSTER PAT.

NOTES ON Y.P. SOCIETIES.

Will those whom it concerns kindly note that the Rev. W. A. McKay, B.D., Wick, Ont., has been appointed Convener of Committee on Young People's Societies in the Presbytery of Lindsay, instead of Rev. Mr. Findlay; Rev. A. Henderson, M.A., Sinaluta, Sask., instead of Rev. D. Oliver, in the Presbytery of Qu'Appelle, and Rev. T. M. Murray, Coleman, Alta., in the Presbytery of Macleod, instead of Rev. Andrew Walker? I was not apprised of these changes till after the schedules from reports from societies had been sent out.

Although no effort has been put forth to ascertain what effect the recent evangelistic services have had upon the formation of new societies it is known that some pastors have organized societies as a result of the campaign, and that others are planning to do so in the near future. This is what was to be expected. Twenty-nine years ago, Williston church, Portland, Maine, enjoyed a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Rev. F. E. Clark, then pastor, anxious to conserve the results, organized his young people into a society. He invited them to his parsonage on the evening of February 2nd, 1881, and that night the Christian Endeavor took its rise. I believe the first Presbyterian congregation in Ontario to form a C. E. society was led to take this step because there had been a revival in it, and a large number of young people had been converted. In view of these facts it is surely natural that the present evangelistic campaign should result in the formation of a considerable number of new societies. Pastors who are anxious to conserve results of special services will probably find a society a most helpful agency.

Young People's Day will be observed on February 6th. This is Christian Endeavor Day throughout the world. A beautiful service entitled "The King's Business" has been prepared for the guilds and societies belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Forty thousand copies have been printed and most of these are now in the hands of societies. Pastors who have no societies, but who desire to observe the day, may procure, free of charge, as many copies as they desire. Why should not the observance of the day be made general? The General Assembly has sanctioned it. Pastors know that the young people are the best asset in the congregation, and they know, moreover, that if the young people are to come to their own they must have good spiritual food, wholesome religious atmosphere, and a sphere for the exercise of Christian gifts and graces. A good, live society would furnish all these. Why should there not be a movement to organize societies in those congregations where they do not exist?

At one of the services on Young People's Day the ministers of Sydney Presbytery will call the attention of the young people to the claims of the ministry and the mission field. Might not the same plan be adopted throughout all the Presbyteries? The Church is in urgent need of more laborers both at home and abroad, and if she is to secure them she must look for them, not only in the centres of population, but in the rural districts also. Ministers everywhere should call for recruits. The topic for the day readily lends itself to the presentation of the claims of the ministry and mission field—W. S. MacFavish, Convener of Assembly's Committee.

Canadian Baptist:—The man who is plainly called to bear responsibility is often quite ready to leave the whole burden entirely upon those who are less able to bear it than he is. And the man who is well able to give often shows a strong tendency to let others do all the giving. And there is a great need for each one to fulfll his course aright by showing careful consideration for the rights of others and supreme regard for the will of Him who judgeth according to each man's own work.