

fessing Christian, and had been for about two years. The mother kneeled and prayed; while uttering her petitions, Tilla interrupted her saying, "Stop mother; I am healed!" She at once sat up in the bed, and asked for her clothes that she might dress herself. But an urgent need of food at once asserted itself. Four times the mother went downstairs for supplies for her hungry daughter, before her cravings were satisfied. And what is very remarkable, this first meal was comfortably digested, and the functions of the body at once seemed renewed to their normal condition.

This occurred last October. I visited the family about a fortnight since, spending parts of two days with them, conversing freely with Tilla and her parents, and assuring myself of these facts, to which many additional particulars might be given, no less impressively confirming the assertion that she has been completely cured, without second causes, in direct answer to prayer. The parents are very sober-minded, intelligent Bible students, diligent and exemplary in all duties of domestic piety, and emphatically repudiate any fanatical inferences favouring the idea that faith in God supersedes the use of means; or that in all cases faith has warrant for the confidence which the Lord enabled them to exercise in this case. They and the whole family regard it as a special interposition of the Lord.

The young lady has resumed her studies at an institution seven miles from home, going on Monday and returning on Friday. Her enthusiasm in study is only second to her fervent home affections. Her fondness for her parents is remarkable. She is very gleeful, and grateful for this great mercy. That family has had indeed a merry Christmas and bright New Year. "The oil of joy is exchanged for mourning, and the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness!"

*Aurora, Ill., 6th Jan., 1880.*

#### MISSION NOTES.

THE need of a wider diffusion of missionary intelligence is more and more felt by those engaged in this work. Men cannot be expected to give to or pay for a work of which they are ignorant. As the Rev. Dr. Noble, of Chicago, well said at the recent meeting at Syracuse: "It is for pastors and deacons and all good men and women who love missions and who appreciate the vital relations between missionary knowledge and missionary interest, to enter upon systematic and determined efforts to instruct, and to supply the means of instruction in missionary methods and movements. This point is fundamental and vital. We shall limp by the way; we shall lag in our giving; and we shall make but a sorry exhibition of missionary zeal, if the interest of our people is not inspired and kept alive by regular and reliable information." And Dr. Bacon, speaking to the ministers, said:—"Whatever else you neglect, do not neglect to keep yourselves and your people informed about the progress of the Kingdom of God." The setting apart of one Wednesday evening in each month for prayer and contributions for missions, when missionary information is given, will be a blessing to the Church and a great help to the cause at large. By this means the missionary spirit will be kept alive and active. They who remain at home should be interested in the labours of those who have gone to the uttermost parts, and we should follow them with our sympathies and prayers, and support them with our wealth.

A MISSIONARY making a tour among the Circassians of Western Turkey found this people "hungry for books," so that he could hardly satisfy them with Bibles, Testaments and hymn-books. Calling on a sick man, he was handed a Bible which he had sold there eighteen years before, when there was no recognized Protestant in the place. The whole household is now evangelical, and the testimony of the present was that this single Bible had been the means of bringing many to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

THE American Board is quietly pushing on towards Central Africa. They have an offer of a capital leader in the ministry, and a medical associate, to lead

the expedition when matured. New men are offering. The Secretaries have just replied to another physician offering for Central Africa, also to another applicant from the Presbyterian Church of Canada. There is a decided missionary movement at Hartford; and two seniors from Andover Theological Seminary, have made application to be sent. An expedition is now organizing to enter from the western coast for the region of Bihé and the Coanzo River.

It is a fact that is every day becoming more patent that the most bitter foe to the progress of the New Testament teachings is the Roman Catholic Church. It is in Papal lands that the Christian missionary suffers the severest persecution. Austria, Spain, and Mexico bear witness to this fact. Ireland is not far behind in its opposition to the Gospel. The School of the Irish Protestant Church Mission at Belleek, in the west of Ireland, was recently broken up and the building burned. Those in charge of the mission were so cursed and threatened by the priests that a special police had to be sent to protect them.

WOMAN'S work in the mission field is illustrated by the following extract from a letter of a lady missionary in Central Turkey: "It is astonishing what a fear these old church priests have of us women. As long as we keep out of a place they are on reasonably good terms with the native preachers and pastors, and even friendly with our missionaries. They have worldly wisdom enough to understand that as long as they can have the control of the women their 'craft' is in no danger. Experience has taught them that few of the women are reached by the best of male teachers, or by preachers unaccompanied by female helpers." The women of those eastern countries can be reached only by women missionaries.

THE Congregationalists of the United States have recently organized another missionary organization, called the "New West Education Commission." Its object is "The promotion of Christian civilization in Utah and adjacent States and territories, by the education of the children and youth under Christian teachers, and also by the use of such kindred agencies as may be at any time deemed desirable." They ask the co-operation of all "who appreciate the necessity of doing what in us lies to help these neglected children and youth into intelligence and morality. This Society is beginning at the right end and they deserve to succeed. The Christian school is the weapon that is to strike down Mormonism, Romanism, and kindred evils.

THE following facts in connection with the American Board will be of interest to all our readers. The Board occupied 673 stations, having 141 ordained missionaries, with 227 assistants. These with their native force make a total of 1,171 pastors, preachers and catechists. In their thirty training and theological schools are over 900 young men, many of whom are fitting for the Christian ministry. In their thirty-four girls' schools of the higher order are enrolled over 1,200 pupils, many of whom will be Christian teachers, others Christian wives and workers, constituting the educational power of Christian homes for the next generation. In their common schools are over 24,000 pupils under Christian instruction. This Society is able to make the statement that, as far as is known, not a dollar has ever been lost of the benefaction of the churches by the maladministration of funds.

#### THE DRINKING CUSTOMS OF CANADA.

There is still far too much drunkenness in Canada, but there is one comfort, it is sensibly and surely abating. In city, town and country the same story is to be told. People don't drink so much as they did. The young don't, neither do the old. The poor don't, neither do the rich. Of course, we have still plenty of sots, and too many are still always passing over the dividing line which separates the sober from the intemperate. Homes are being laid waste and lives are being blasted by this abomination which makes desolate. Businesses are being ruined, and gaols are being supplied with occupants, through strong drink; but things are not hardly as bad as they were. Let any one who knew what rural Ontario was

some twenty years ago, go through it now, and he will notice that the change is as marked as it is gratifying. Where the father was little better than a drunken sot, the sons are strictly temperate, and in many cases, zealous prohibitionists. Where whiskey was used on all occasions and was thought to be the indispensable proof of hospitality and good fellowship, it is seldom, if ever, produced. Where people were pressed to drink, they are not now even asked. Where merry-makings and business-bees could not get along without the "cratur," there is not a hint even of its necessity, and the entertainer does not think it necessary to apologize for its absence. In villages there is still a good deal of drinking about the taverns, and in towns and cities drunken sprees and broken heads are not yet unknown. But public opinion is against them, and even those who follow such courses cannot glory in them as they used to do in other days. No respectable man now confesses to having been tight! and to be seen staggering on the streets almost necessarily involves a loss of caste. We make bold to affirm that on this last New Year's day there was not one offer of wine to visitors, where ten years or five years ago there were ten. It is well to bear this in mind when there is any tendency to despond or to imagine that in the matter of society, Canadians shew no change for the better. There may be lulls in the agitation against these drinking customs. The Dunkin Act may be set aside in this municipality or in that. Very great scandals from drunkenness may sometimes crop out. But it would be far contrary to truth to suppose that all the labour of other years was lost, and that things were going from bad to worse. The whole tone of public sentiment and feeling is becoming more and more what it ought to be. There is scarcely a young minister of any denomination who is not a total abstainer. It is taken as a matter of course that he both is and ought to be. There may still be some aged toppers who write Rev. before their names, but as a class, they are dying out. Even those persons who "drink" themselves don't like to see their minister taking a horn. And, as a consequence of this, the drunken clergyman has become a rare and curious phenomenon. Let any one gather up the statistics and say how many ministers of the Gospel have been deposed for drunkenness, during the last ten years, in the whole of our Dominion, or let him try to estimate how many, or rather how few, get even the credit of being able to take a "pretty stiff tumbler." A poor wretch may still occasionally be found who has dishonoured himself and cast reproach upon the cloth by having looked on the wine when it was red, but the cases are very rare, and every year increasingly so. Public opinion gets too strong for old use and wont. Intoxicating liquors at ordination dinners, or where professedly religious people do congregate, are almost things of the past; and the old brag of the clerical worshipper of toddy has all but entirely disappeared. At Presbytery, Synod and Assembly meetings the contrast between the past and present is very marked. It used to be that total abstainers had to stand upon the defensive and give reasons why they were what they were. It is all changed now. Those who still drink, feel constrained to "rise and explain," even when none may be inquiring about their faith or finding fault with their practice.

The future, in short, is full of hopefulness. We confidently anticipate that at no distant day intoxicating drinks will neither be made nor sold throughout our wide, fair land, and that not by a mere catch vote either of the Parliament or the people, but by public opinion having come round to the right side with such overwhelming force that the liquor traffic, with all its abominations, have to disappear like snow before a summer's sun.

#### RELIGION AND BUSINESS.

In the course of a recent address to business men at Devonshire House, Bishopgate, the Rev. Dr. Oswald Dykes remarked:

In the heart of busy London stands the Londoner's cathedral church. It stands, like many an old minister in France, Germany, and Italy, just in the town market place, where traffic used to gather densest,