

THE PARLIAMENT to which the Chicago people seem to be looking forward with the most eagerness, is "the world's first Parliament of Religions." It is to be convened on the 11th of next September, and it will be a polyglot congress representative of "all the shades of Christianity, including the orthodox Greek and Russian Churches, Northern and Southern Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Mohammedanism, and the various forms of Hinduism." The historical ecumenical councils of Christendom were narrow and provincial affairs when compared with the coming Chicago novelty, as the *Tribune* of that town tells us—*New York Sun*.

"THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING." — I have learned to believe in the great mission of preaching, the effect it has on men's lives and thoughts, their need of it, their pain and loss when it does not help and reach them. I used to think that if it did men good they would speak more of it. But they pay no compliments to their daily bread, yet it is the staff of their life. If ministers knew the silent appreciation of helpful preaching, they would work, if not harder, at least more brightly and helpfully. Preachers should remember that the large silent part of their flock is only reached by preaching, and therefore they should give their strength to it, and not to little meetings.—*The Rev. James Stalker*.

SOME OF THE CRITICISMS made upon paid singers in churches are not always wise or just. If the object of the service is religious worship and the singer is a Christian and gives time and thought to the music, in other words, does special service, he is entitled to compensation. The objectionable feature about many churches is that the music is a kind of concert to entertain the congregation and help the people over the rough places in the sermon. This idea is contrary to the spirit of divine worship. But the Christian man or woman who devotes time and develops talent in song, and is engaged by the church for this part of the service is doing God's work the same as the minister.—*Religious Herald*.

LAMPS *versus* LIQUOR.—It must be a most intricate and confounding dilemma which defeats the wit and pluck of American women.

A Minnesota village recently voted for "no license." The liquor men pointed out that without the revenue from licenses there was no way of defraying the expense of lighting the streets. Forthwith the Y. W. C. T. U. steps to the front, secures subscriptions, buys oil and allots a lamp to each member, the responsibility of filling and lighting each lamp being assumed by the individual to whom it is assigned. The upper as well as the lower lights seem to be burning in that town.—*Congregationalist*.

THE "TELAUTOGRAPH."—Professor Elisha Gray's "telautograph" has been known to the public for some time, but was last week brought again to notice by its exhibition in Chicago in an improved form. If it does all that it seems to promise, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it will supersede in large measure both the telegraph and the telephone. In general terms, it is an invention for reproducing in exact *fac-simile* at one end of the telegraph wire what is written at the other. For short distances this writing by wire has actually been done, and there is no reason why it should not be perfected for long distances.—*Advance*.

HOW IS THE GOSPEL to be made known to and pressed upon all classes of the people? This great work will never be done aright until it is recognized as a responsibility resting on each believer, according to his or her opportunity and gifts. So long as it is largely left to the pastors, ministers and missionaries, as their official duty, it will, to a great extent remain undone. For these it is too vast. When "the disciples are scattered everywhere preaching the Word," when every Christian becomes a witness, then there is hope the work will be overtaken in some adequate measure.—*The Christian*.

FICTION.—But while we freely admit that there is nothing intrinsically wicked in writing or reading novels, we are fully convinced that fiction has become too largely the mental food of the people. A great many of the novels read are without inspiration or instruction, even when not hurtful. Novels should not form the great bulk of anyone's reading. Life is so short, and there is so much we need to learn, that we cannot afford to spend a large part of our time novel reading. Besides,