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Against many generations of conviction and practice a large Jewish Congregation in Boston began the observance of their Sabbath on Sunday instead of the historical Saturday, "as its business life and laws will not let us worship on Saturday (without loss of wages) nor work on Sunday."

Recently, in a public address, in England, Rev. Dr. Horton made protest against the demoralization of the ministry by the Press. "The continual paraphrasing of popular preachers is not only bad for them personally, but does great damage to the church by fostering among the younger and less known men a lust for publicity fatal to good work."

The awful perils of municipal ownership do not appear to dismay Vienna. The city operates its gas and electric lighting plants, and the electric street car service, owns the water works, has just established a big brewery and now has paid \$500,000 to the two big undertaking companies for their rights and privileges, and will henceforth control the burial business.

A writer in the Christian Register declares he has heard one of the older ministers of the Unitarian denomination tell of having "assisted four ministers to bed on the night after an ordination supper." The incident is mentioned as showing the change which has taken place between present day usages and those of quite recent times in the use of wine or other intoxicants. Even within the memory of many men still living it was not unusual at Presbytery dinners in Scotland for ministers as well as elders to take too much punch; and during the writer's first visit to that country, say forty years ago, it was a very rare thing indeed to visit a manse without being offered wine or spirits. Such a custom is now happily "more honored in the breach than the observance."

MEN AND MISSIONS.

That is a spirited undertaking on the part of the laymen of the various Protestant churches of Toronto to increase the givings of the city for missions from \$140,000 a year to \$500,000 a year. The undertaking will have a wide influence on givings elsewhere. It is remarkable, and as satisfactory as remarkable, the recent increase of interest in missions. For many years the men of the congregations have been out of it; the congregational missionary organizations have been mainly conducted by women; while the actual givings of men for missions have been on the average ludicrously meagre. If it turns out that men mean to throw their energies, their organizing abilities, and their money, into the work of carrying the Gospel into every part of the world, the result may be beyond calculation.

REFORM IT!

And now comes the suggestion that wedding presents be abolished. It does seem ridiculous that people should send out in some cases hundreds of invitations, and that usage should expect every person so invited to send a wedding present! These presents are often a burden to those who give, and often not less a burden to those who receive, for the reason that it is not possible to make a large collection of incongruous things either lie down or stand up in harmony together. Many an unfortunate young bride has been forced through fear of giving offence to give promise of place to some article that will not "go" with the rest of the room. The system of compulsory present-giving at weddings is absurd and vulgarizing, and should be abrogated by public opinion.

THE SOLOS I HAVE ENDURED.

Bishop Dumoulin at Toronto recently unburdened his soul over the solos and anthems he has had from time to time to endure. The choir would rise and some man or woman, turning round in a theatrical attitude, would begin a wearisome and interminable solo, during which he had suffered untold agony, while the congregation sat in a drowsy, listless way, with the sidesmen and wardens waiting patiently at the door and the clergymen at the altar until it should please the individual to bring his solo to an end. All that, in the Bishop's judgment, was a great and wide abuse of the Church's design. What they wanted throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion was the great voice of the congregation in unison singing the grand old hymns and simple chants of the Church.

The Annual Convention of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance has been postponed until Thursday, 28th November, and the Triennial Convention of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada is to be held on Friday, 29th November. The two Conventions, thus coming on successive days, will enable many to attend both. The place of meeting is Toronto, in St. James' Cathedral, Parish Hall. The Triennial Convention will be presided over by his Grace, Archbishop Sweetman, D.D., D.C.L., the Honorary president. It is especially desirable that the friends of this movement should take careful note of these dates and arrange to attend. We understand that Mr. J. K. Macdonald finds it necessary to withdraw from the Presidency of the Provincial Alliance, and the death of the late lamented Rev. Dr. Potts will necessitate the appointment of a President for each of these important organizations.

BRITISH MARRIAGE ACT.

It will be remembered that when the amendment to the British Marriage Act was adopted by parliament—legalizing marriage with the deceased wife's sister—some very serious talk was indulged in by many of the clergy that those who contracted marriage under the new law might be visited with pains and penalties of various kinds by the Anglican Church authorities. The Archbishop of Canterbury, however, has published a letter to the clergy and laity of his diocese in which he instructs the clergy that they will act wisely and rightly in saying that marriages with a deceased wife's sister ought to take place elsewhere than in church but he wishes it to be understood that his advice is advice only, and not a formal direction or injunction. The most important sentence in his letter is the statement that he will "in no way regard as disloyal, or disrespectful, any incumbent who, after carefully weighing the whole circumstances, comes to a different decision" from his own. On the question of admitting the parties to such marriages to the Holy Communion, the Archbishop quotes the Prayer Book expression, "open and notorious evil liver," and gives it as his opinion that such words cannot rightly be applied, on account of their marriage, to a man and wife who have contracted as a civil contract, a marriage expressly sanctioned by English law. Two months ago, says the British Weekly, "it seemed as if the Church of England were preparing, through its responsible leaders, for a fierce conflict, not with the present Government, but with the nation. Now that the Archbishop has spoken, we are likely to hear little more, even from the extreme section, of the prejudiced and violent language which has so intensely embittered the controversy." The Bishop of Hereford, speaking recently at a diocesan conference, said there was no Scriptural prohibition which could fairly be quoted as a law of God on this subject, and warned those who hold that canons must override Statute law that such a policy was heading straight for Disestablishment.

We are credibly informed that the Mount Forest hotel keepers have agreed to close up their hotels should the Local Option by-law be passed. They would probably not be closed till May first, when the by-law would come into force. Unless adequate provision be made to meet such a contingency there would be an intolerable state of affairs. Temperance people must be prepared to meet the emergency—sentiment must crystallize into dollars. Such provision must be made as will ensure plenty of good stabling accommodation and the running of at least one first class hotel in Mount Forest. Steps should be taken to that end at once.

Herald and Presbyter:—Winter is steadily approaching. The days are shortening, the darkness and cold are increasing, the frosts have stripped the trees of their foliage, and each stormy period is a little more biting than its predecessor. But there is no real reason for regret. Each season has its peculiar compensations and advantages. The abundant harvest that has been gathered in amply provides us against the vicissitudes of the winter. So is life passing swiftly for each of us. There need be no sense of regret. If we have accepted the rich and abundant grace of God offered us in the gospel, we are amply provided for against all the possibilities of the present or the future. All is well if we are in Christ.