

Sept '92

Sabbath at the World's Fair. The efforts of the Christian people of the United States to have their historic World's Fair, and their country in connection with that fair, freed from the disgrace of Sabbath desecration and rumselling, have been partly successful. The government has made its vote of ten million of dollars, conditional on the fair being closed on Sabbath, but liquor is not excluded from the grounds. There will be a fierce struggle on the part of the liquor men to defeat any attempt to exclude it, but it is hoped that right may yet triumph over greed. It would be a sorry picture for America to present to the world, on the four hundredth anniversary of its discovery, as a sample of four centuries of moral progress, a torn and tattered Sabbath and a bestialized, drunken humanity.

Prohibition in Manitoba. There is something refreshing as the prairie breeze, in the straightforward common sense way in which they do things out there. In responsible government the people are supposed to rule, and the representatives are chosen to do their will. In accordance therewith, as was natural, these people were asked what their will was, and, as is usual when a free people are left to their own judgment, unbiassed by fear or bribe, they indicated very decidedly by their recent vote, that they *will* what is for their good. And now, is our age and country to exhibit such an example of tyranny, that a free people will not have what laws they want? Let us hope for better things. Why should they not get Prohibition if they want it? Who has a right to inflict the liquor traffic upon them if they do not want it?

And why should not the people of the whole Dominion have an opportunity of saying whether they wish Prohibition? If the people are the rulers, why should they be hindered from expressing their will? "We fear that Prohibition cannot be enforced," say the wise men who have been chosen to make our laws. "The country is not ready for it." But why not give the country an opportunity of saying whether it is ready for it. The country is of age and able to think and judge for itself. If the sovereign people say "we want that traffic prohibited," the work of those whom they choose to carry out their will is simply to act accordingly, and to provide machinery for carrying it out. The trouble is that the people are not sovereign. Cherishing that fond conceit, they allow themselves to be quietly and blindly led, while, to a great extent, instead of the people, liquor is king. The result of the elections in Manitoba should stimulate every true lover of his country, his fellow man, and his God, to watch, work and pray until this evil traffic, only evil continually, is abolished from our land.

The world's progress. A simple item of news in one of the daily papers contains a most suggestive thought. It is to the effect that a descendant of Columbus is to start the machinery at the World's Fair. The aged man cannot undertake so long a journey, but, touching an electric button, which connects with one of the ocean cables, and that again with the immense machinery in the fair buildings at Chicago, the machinery will be set in motion. The first message that Cyrus Field cabled across the ocean was "What hath God wrought." And as we think of the long and trying voyage of Columbus to the wilds of the Western world, and now of one of his descendants from that same old land, with a touch of his finger, setting in motion such vast machinery far West in that New World, we may well echo "What hath God wrought."

Education in Manitoba. A great principle has been emphatically pronounced upon by the people of Manitoba in their recent election, viz.—that they want their future citizens educated together in the common school, and not trained in sectarian schools, surrounded by denominational walls. The duty of the state, which is merely men and women banded together in organized society for mutual advantage, is to perpetuate itself by fitting its future citizens for the duties that man owes to his fellow man in organized society. That fitness is two fold, first, they should have the knowledge that will enable them to take their part as members of that society, and secondly, they should have the moral training which will lead them to act justly and righteously towards all its other members. Then let the more specific religious education be given by each denomination to its own young people, through the agency of the family, the Sabbath School, and the Church.

A nation will always lack one strongest bond of unity that does not educate together in its one common school, its young people of all classes and creeds. Let them there learn their common life lessons, to love their common country, to know and love and trust each other, and a bond is formed that no other time or condition of life can form, and that no after surroundings can effectually destroy. It is to be hoped that the very clearly expressed will of a free people will not be thwarted by sectarian devices, but will become that people's law; and God speed the day when throughout Canada, the common school bell shall summon the children to their work.

Since the above was written, the Privy Council has sustained Manitoba's appeal, and declared that she has the power to control her own educational matters. And now the provinces on the extreme east and west of the Dominion, the Maritime Provinces, both by the Atlantic and the Pacific seas, and the central Province, that of the Prairie sea, rejoice in free public schools.