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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, 1910

The "insolence of the liquor traffic" is matter for constant surprise. While demanding protection from the law, it is perpetually evading and breaking the law. It bands itself together to dispute the execution and constitutionality of offensive legislation, and shrinks its share of the burdens which fall on legitimate traffic. No evidence can convince its agents of the social evils of which it is the parent, or raise them to the comprehension of what society would be if the traffic were stamped out. It is manifest that society endures more from the liquor domination than from any other tyranny.

Fifty years ago the Congregational Union of South Africa was formed. Its jubilee anniversary was celebrated at Johannesburg last October. The heroes of its early years were duly honored. The names of some of them, such as Robert Moffat, David Livingstone and Van der Kemp, are known throughout the Christian world. The son of Rev. J. S. Moffat spoke earnestly in behalf of the native and colored people. One of the latter, Dr. Rubusana, a physician, said that his people acknowledged the superiority of the white man. They did not clamor for social equality, but did ask for fair play and the open door of opportunity.

The sudden death of Mrs. D. M. Gordon has cast a deep shadow over Queen's University and throughout the city. By the students she was universally beloved, and throughout this community she was held in high esteem by all who knew her. As has been well said, Mrs. Gordon's great influence lay in her beauty of character, so altogether unostentatious, so beautifully unselfish and loving, which seemed to bespeak a spirit of total sacrifice to a cause which formed, as it were, a part of her very being. Principal Gordon and other members of the family have the heartfelt sympathy of friends in all parts of the country in their bereavement.

## ACTIVITY NOT ENERGY.

There are some men whose failure to succeed in life is a problem to others, as well as to themselves. They are industrious, prudent and economical; yet, after a long life of striving, old age finds them still poor. They complain of ill luck. They say that fate is always against them. But the fact is that they miscarry, because they have mistaken mere activity for energy. Confounding two things essentially different, they have supposed that, if they were always busy, they would be certain to be advancing their fortunes. They have forgotten that misdirected labor is but waste of activity. The person who would succeed is like a marksman firing at a target; if his shots miss the mark, they are a waste of powder.

So in the great game of life, what a man does must be made to count, or might almost as well have been left undone. Everybody knows some one in his circle of friends who, though always active, has this want of energy. The distemper, if we may call it such, exhibits itself in various ways. In some cases the man has merely an executive capacity, when he should have a directive one. In other words he makes a capital clerk of himself when he ought to do the thinking of the business. In other cases what is done is not done either at the right time or in the right way. Energy, correctly understood, is activity proportioned to the end.

## A HINT FOR THE CARETAKER.

We commend the following recipe, taken from an exchange, to the earnest attention of all who have anything to do with heating and airing of churches:

The present is just the time of the year for propagating pneumonia. The best way to do this is to keep the church temperature down to 55 and 60 degrees, keeping the church closed all the week so as to secure dampness. Avoid building any fire in the church furnaces or stoves, and so save trouble in making fires, removing ashes, etc.; besides, fires always add to the dust supply. Then let the members walk to church with heavy coats and wraps on, and warmed by the walking, take them off on entering the church. An attack of pneumonia will thus be invited, and in many instances the invitation will be accepted, and the disease will take up a residence in the believer's body. If the invalid's constitution is not an iron-clad one, the probability is that disease will make its way and death ensue. Then if the sexton is an undertaker, as so many are, he will be well rewarded for his painstaking care in having adopted conditions calculated to secure a visit from pneumonia. This method instituted in the church, and in that peculiarly ordered home where early fires are avoided as much as the smallpox, has resulted in premature funerals and the sending of saints into glory before their life work was fairly begun.

Another speedy way for accomplishing the same object is to heat the church up until the thermometer, if there is one, marks about ninety; then have a large number of the people cool off suddenly as they drive home, and this condition of things is usually followed by the serious illness of not a few.

## RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

"Religious statistics are frightfully abused." Scientific methods have leavened all departments of thought. The age is one which delights in definitely tabulated laws, which establish all conclusions as to principles, save those which can be based on concrete instances in point. But the old adage that "figures cannot lie" is but the expression of a half truth at best, if indeed there be any special truth in the saying whatsoever; for statistics, even when authentic, depend for their significance so largely on grouping, on the clear apprehension of all modifying circumstances of time and place, that they are often used quite as forcible in the cause of error as of truth.

Moreover, we cannot overestimate the harm which may accrue to the Church when the thought of her members is habitually directed to the accomplishing of a large and evident success in the way of numbers. The moral aspect of the Gospel is thus obscured,—truth would seem to be accredited by numerical majorities, which is counter not only to biblical teaching but to reason. In the more specialized work of the Church, it thus comes that the parish is "ruin" simply on business principles, and its work estimated by business standards. And many a minister is condemned as a failure from lack of popularity, when according to the same argument, the work of the majority of the saints, eye of the Master Himself, must be adjudged as anything but a success.

It becomes every Christian who would keep himself pure and true to the Gospel, to guard carefully against any such intrusion of alien and worldly elements, both in estimating his own work and his brother's. Holiness cannot be expressed in figures; the risen life with Christ is not always evidenced in statistics. In general, quality cannot be converted into terms of quantity, and the Church's mission is to work a qualitative change in the world through the power of the Christ.

## SCHEMES OF THE CHURCHES.

Dr. Somervell, Treasurer of the Church, sends us the following:

The attention of ministers and congregations is called to the comparative statement of receipts for the schemes of the Church to December 31st, 1909. As will be seen the amount of unapportioned money received is considerably larger than the amount reported last year; but the expenditure in Home and Foreign Missions to December 31st is largely in excess of last year. The debt of the Home Mission Fund was \$14,500.00, and that of the Foreign Mission Fund was \$34,000.00 greater than at December 31st last year. Treasurers are requested to forward their Mission Fund allocated to the several schemes as soon as possible after the annual meetings of congregations.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEC. 31.

	1908.	1909.
Home .....	\$38,010	\$37,216
Augmentation .....	4,271	3,557
Foreign .....	27,296	32,059
Widows' and Orphans' ..	3,849	1,439
Aged & Infirm Min's'trs	6,302	1,658
Assembly .....	978	763
French Evangelization ..	4,293	3,082
Pointe-Aux-Trembles ..	2,844	2,685
Moral & Social Reform ..	1,141	1,373
Knox College .....	629	706
Queen's College .....	254	279
Montreal .....	174	185
Manitoba .....	451	318
Westminster .....	162	62
Unapportioned .....	66,649	96,159

\$157,333 \$181,577