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THE HERALD.
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CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

A question which is being discussed in the press with some vigor is: "Why don't men go to church?" Those who are familiar with church work in Fredericton, are aware that the proportion of women to men in attendance at our churches is not less than three to one. The same rule seems to hold elsewhere. In France and Italy, in Germany and England, the churches are almost wholly filled by women; in America the anomaly is almost as great. It has been remarked by one observer that in the Presbyterian church this tendency is not so marked. This coincides with our own experience, but why it is so we can tell? Perhaps the fact that the Presbyterian church the world over is composed almost wholly of Scotchmen (or their descendants) who have always been a conservative, methodical people and very proud of their national church, is a partial explanation.

No doubt the chief reason why women predominate in our churches, is that they are morally superior to men and more devoted. Man is conscious of his physical strength and energy in many cases, the need of help either material or spiritual. He is a rough, rugged being, not over inclined to be sympathetic, and of dim of hard knocks in life has had the fine feelings which he possessed in youth more or less started or impaired. He is enterprising and daring, by reason of his strength and apt to contrive a creed for himself or dispense with one altogether. Women, on the other hand, are with few exceptions, conscious of their weakness. They are sympathetic and emotional. They feel the sympathy of the world cannot give. They retain, for the most part, the morality and purity of sentiment of their youth.

Women are fond of display of any kind. The more impressive a church service is the more they enjoy it, as a rule. They are fond of music and one can hardly doubt there are a few women in the world who are fond of dress. The forces which will keep a woman, who has just got a new dress, out of church on the ensuing Sunday, has not yet been discovered. These influences have very little effect on the masculine mind. Few men care anything about their own clothes and very little about anybody else's. They are not particularly fond of church music.

Church-going to women who have been busy with the cares of the house all the week, is a recreation. It is not to the same extent a recreation to the man of business who has spent the major part of the week in the office and on the street.

Perhaps the absence of men at church service is to some extent owing to the inattention of the pastors. As a rule, it is a rule their visiting is done during the day when the menfolk are at business and thus they seldom meet them. But undoubtedly the chief reason why many men absent themselves from church service, is that it has little interest for them, and probably if it were not that they are urged to go by their wives, or attracted thither by their lady friends, the contingent of male devotees would be very small indeed.

A RITUALISTIC ROW.

One of those interesting ritualistic rows, by which from time to time the public mind is edified, is taking place in the church of the Ascension at Hamilton, Ont. The pastor of the church is Rev. E. P. Crawford and he appears to have taken it upon himself to invite a suppliant choir to sing in the church. This a part of the congregation was strongly opposed to. Mr. Crawford, however, persisted and when the service began the gas was suddenly turned off by the opposition and the church left in darkness. The choir being unable to read their hymn books, the processional came to an abrupt termination. Then the water-spy which worked the organ was turned off and, throughout the service, the instrument was silent. Finally, two oil lamps and four candles were procured and with the aid of the "dim religious light" the service was resumed. There appeared to be plenty of devotion in the congregation—in fact more than plenty, for when the unimpaired choir was singing "Crown Him Lord of all" the opposition was singing "Nearer my God to Thee" with equal fervor. So strong was the religious feeling of some people present that they greeted Mr. Crawford with hisses and groans. Then Mr. Crawford announced that he had sent for the police to eject the disturbers. Strange to say this made the opposition noisier than ever, and when the policemen appeared the church was a howling bedlam and the Rev. Mr. Crawford showed his Christ-like spirit by ordering them to withdraw. At the close of the service the opposition—rendered hungry no doubt by their exertions—rushed into the school-room down stairs and ate up the cake and sandwiches that had been prepared for the choir boys.

All this is very pitiable and one does not know whom to pity the most, the people who could so desecrate the Sabbath day, or the pastor who could permit in making of himself such an unadvised ass. These ritualistic troubles are a disgrace to the church in which they originate. Why a pastor should be willing to break up his congregation for the sake of carrying out some paltry point in ritualism is more than the ordinary mind can comprehend. Why he should seek to introduce that which he knows will destroy the unity of his flock is inconceivable. Is it possible that the salvation of men can depend upon the length or color of a man's gown or whether he faces Jerusalem instead of the north pole? Can it be material to the cause of Christ that there should be candles on the altar, or that the pastor should pray in one special spot or position and no other? Surely of all the troubles which have afflicted the Christian church from the earliest ages, these are the most utterly frivolous and meaningless. At this age of the world when the church is being assailed at all points by powerful, and determined enemies, when her very existence is threatened by the onward march of unbelief, how contemptible such a strife among her defenders appears! It is as though the officers in command of a fortress, which was being stormed at every angle, set down to dispute about their pedigrees or to argue out the latest novelties in hair-dyes, while the enemy was swarming over the walls. Nay worse, it is as though in the face of the advancing foe they sought to engender petty disputes and quarrels among their own troops which would make them powerless to defend themselves against the common adversary.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The tobacco-growers in Lower Canada are asking for protection. Why, they ask, should not American and other foreign leaf tobacco be excluded by a prohibitory duty and Canadian smokers compelled to patronize the home-grown article? As a rule French-Canadian tobacco is unripe and acrid as compared with the best foreign, but surely no loyal man would refuse to burn his tongue off if necessary in order to build up a magnificent Canadian industry, and cement the bonds that bind us to the mother country.

Women came out and voted in full force in Kansas cities the other day, in spite of the old question which the opponents of woman suffrage always consider a clincher—"Who will take care of the babies while the women go to the polls?" It is found in practice that this matter is easily settled. The women engage the same persons to take care of the babies when they go to the polls that they previously engaged when they went to pay their taxes.—Boston Globe.

The St. John Globe thinks there is a good chance of Judge Fraser being appointed to the governorship of this province. Judge Fraser's appointment would undoubtedly be the most popular one. It would remove the doubt which has for some years, seemingly, existed in the minds of the dominion government as to whether a dissenter could safely be appointed to that position. THE HERALD thinks the Presbyterian friends are entitled to their turn as much as those who are more apostolic.

SALARIES INCREASED.

The legislature of Nova Scotia has passed a bill increasing the salaries of the members of the government. The effect of the bill is to increase the amounts received by the three departmental officers—the premier's present salary being \$2,400, and those of the attorney general and commissioner of public works, \$2,000 each—by \$700 in each case. The allowance paid to members of the government without portfolio in Nova Scotia while on public duty has been advanced from \$4 to \$5 a day. Mr. Bromick now pays his executive less than any of the seven provinces in Canada except that of Prince Edward Island. In Nova Scotia the change was supported by three-fourths of the members of the legislature and appears to be generally approved of by the press. Mr. Blair's policy in reducing the departmental salaries in this province appeared at the time to be a popular one.

The latter, a man of 35, who was known as James Moran, was employed on a canal boat, unloading coal at the Orange street bridge in Rosville and directly adjoining the Sadie, owned by McClave and named after his daughter. McClave did not relish the idea of his bright-eyed child deserting the old canal boat to fill the cabin of another; and when Moran began to pay marked attention to the girl he was unconsciously ordered to give up his suit.

LOVE WILL FIND A WAY.

A Girl Sets Fire to Her Father's Bed and in the Excitement Elopes.
 Sadie McClave, 14 years old, is the spirited daughter of John McClave, a New York canal boatman. She adopted a novel and startling method on Saturday morning to escape the vigilance of her father and flee with the man of her choice.

Notwithstanding every precaution on the part of McClave, the pair met frequently, and finally Moran induced his child sweetheart to elope with him. A plan of action was arranged which was worthy of a farce comedy. The girl slept in the cabin. Above Sadie's bunk was a small window, and when she climbed into the bunk on Friday night without removing her clothes one end of a string was fastened to her little finger and the other end hung out the window.

Shortly after 12 o'clock a sharp pull on the cord aroused the young woman from a fitful slumber. This was a signal from her sweetheart, who was on the outside awaiting her appearance. Stealthily entering the kitchen she drew a shovel of live coals from the stove and placed them under her father's bunk. A scream aroused Captain McClave, and when his daughter cried to him that the boat was on fire he sprang out of the bunk and breaking open the cabin door, which he had locked to keep his daughter captive, shouted for help. A dozen boatmen responded to his cries and just in time, for the coverings round the berth, which had been cast off when the captain sprang out, had taken fire from contact with the coals.

Within ten minutes, however, the fire had been extinguished, and after the excitement had subsided the father bethought himself of his daughter. A thorough search for her on the pier and in the neighboring canal boats proved fruitless, and upon returning to his own boat the captain came upon a note which his daughter had left, informing him that she had eloped with "Jimmy."

ABOLISHED.

Imprisonment for debt in Nova Scotia is abolished by a law which went into force on May 1st. The creditor, however, may obtain an order for the examination of a debtor who fails to pay a judgment; the debtor's circumstances will be inquired into, and he will be required to pay the amount either in a lump sum or instalments, in default of which he will be imprisoned, not for debt, but it is presumed, but for disobeying the order of the court. The relief of the debtor, says an exchange, would be somewhat illusory were it not for a further provision that if the creditor shall leave the debtor in jail for a period of ten days without seeking to have the matter settled, the debtor will be discharged from custody and will be able to hold the creditor liable for the amount of money paid for his maintenance in jail.

DEMOCRACY AND CHRISTIAN UNION.

A Taylor Innes, in an article in the Contemporary Review, contends that the tendency of churches in the English world is—making that phrase include the British Empire and the United States—is to become more and more democratic. That tendency he discerns even in the church of England. The most illustrious lay member of that communion, Mr. Gladstone, said 40 years ago—"I am deeply convinced that among all systems, whether religious or political, which rest on a principle of abolitionism must of necessity be, not indeed tyrannical, but feeble and ineffective systems; and that methodically to enlist the members of a community with due regard to their capacities in the performance of its public duties in the way to make that community powerful and healthy, to give a firm seat to its rulers, and to engender a warm and intelligent devotion to its beneath their sway. Can it be thought that this being true of civil life is false in regard to ecclesiastical affairs?" Mr. Innes, however, rests his case mainly on the growth of the Christian church outside of Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism. Even in England, with its 35,000 churches, the Non-conformist places of worship largely outnumber those of the Anglican church and the Catholics taken together. The only colony in which these two bodies, taken together, make even a half of the population is Canada. This state of things is of course due in the main to the great preponderance of Roman Catholics in Quebec. The adherents of the church of England in Cape Colony are not one-tenth of the population. There are 6,000 congregations in Australia, and the Roman Catholic and Anglican congregations taken together amount to only about one-third of the whole. Of the United States Mr. Innes says:—"That vast vanguard of the race clusters in and around 92,000 places of worship, not one-tenth of which belong to the Roman and Anglican tradition. By far the largest number belong to two-fold body which popular instinct, neglecting differences both doctrinal and ecclesiastical, masses under the name of Methodist. The rest is numerical importance is the Baptist body, and Congregationalists and Presbyterians follow after a rather long interval. But in truth there is no contrast between any of these last four bodies. Some of them are children of the reforming and Puritan impulses, while others only draw back to the revival of last century. But all alike represent that supremacy of the individual excepts to and reconciliation with the Divine which have formed the backbone of Protestantism." Mr. Innes seems to prove his proposition that in the English-speaking world democracy reigns in the churches; and there is little doubt that it is growing stronger and not weaker. When he discusses the question of a world-wide union of these churches he is, as he admits, on more debatable ground. For here we have to deal not merely with church governments but with creeds. Several advocates of union have suggested that the protestant churches, including even the church of England, might unite upon a short creed. Before we can have a common creed, however, it will probably be admitted that they must definitely settle what is or should be the creed of each; and upon this point, judging by the talk of revision of creeds and such incidents as the trial of Robert Bridges of the Union Theological Seminary for the use of his own difference of opinion. The common creed must be not only short but flexible enough to admit of considerable diversity of opinion, and elastic enough for the progress of thought in the Christian world. And in trying to make creeds which will please everybody there is the danger of making it utterly colorless. A more workable union would be a unity of action in foreign missions and in work among the people, which would prevent the waste of money and energy. A unity of action, though not the result of any definite plan, in fact exists in many branches of Christian work and is growing; and there is ground for believing that the Christian union of the future will be a development of this movement.

WIFE-MURDERER HANGED.

Execution of James Kane at Belleville, BELLEVILLE, Ont., May 21.
 James Kane was this morning executed here for the murder of his wife. The prisoner took breakfast, eating a good meal, and engaged in his last preparations for his life. At 7:45 the executioner entered the prison and within a few minutes completed his preparations. It was not until 8:16, however, that the procession for the scaffold left the condemned man's cell. Two minutes later the rope was adjusted across Kane's neck and at 8:19 the drop fell. The prisoner died without speaking. He was pale and composed, but seemed to die hard, his groans being painful to hear. The prisoner's last night was spent quietly as usual. At midnight he laid down and slept quietly until four o'clock a.m. Half an hour later his daughter arrived and at 7:15 bade her father farewell. At five o'clock the prisoner's spiritual advisers, Mr. Farrelly and Father O'Brien, arrived and engaged in devotional exercises.

The story of the murder thus explained is as follows: Six years ago James Kane, formerly a soldier in the British army, took as his second wife a widow named Elizabeth Skinner. Kane was an Irishman 46 years old, and a Roman Catholic. The woman was English, 49 years of age, and a Protestant. Both had families, but while Kane's children had left home his wife's family were with her, or at all events in Belleville. For a week prior to the murder Kane and his wife had not been living together in the same house. Alfred and James Skinner, children by her first husband. On the afternoon of Monday, March 23 last, Kane went to the shop of James Skinner and asked his step-son where his mother was, which would prevent the waste of money and energy. A unity of action, though not the result of any definite plan, in fact exists in many branches of Christian work and is growing; and there is ground for believing that the Christian union of the future will be a development of this movement.

As a meeting of Italians in Boston a movement was started to erect and present to the city of Boston a statue of Christopher Columbus, to cost \$10,000 or \$12,000.

Extensive additions are to be made to the batteries at Inch Keith for the protection of Edinburgh and something will soon be done to improve the defenses of Portsmouth.

Prof. Wiggins predicts a dry summer this year, and attributes it to the increased use of electricity in towns and the use of wire fences in the country, thus keeping away the storms.

In Winnipeg they ask \$20 a foot less for a corner lot than for an inside one, because it costs so much to clear off the snow in winter around corner lots that people don't prefer them.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times says a marriage has been arranged between the Carwiche and the Princess Helen, fourth daughter of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro.

Several boys who were candidates for a naval cadetship from the Eighth Michigan district, were rejected because the examining physician found that their hearts had been weakened by smoking cigars.

The skin of Henry Welch, a patient at the Presbyterian hospital, Montreal, who died recently, turned in six months from white to a color as dark as that of a mulatto. The case attracted great interest among physicians.

Swarms of young locusts are appearing in Upper Egypt. The Egyptian government is issuing instructions on the best means of coping with the plague and preventing the utter destruction of the cotton and maize crops.

A despatch from Berlin says: A horrible tale comes from Mannheim. The wife of Felix Heiler of that place killed her child, cut its body to pieces and pickled the fragments with a batch of sauerkraut, of which Heiler unsuspectingly partook.

Rats attacked two children, twins, who were sleeping in their mother's bedroom in a house in Halifax, Tuesday, and large numbers were bitten from both. Poisoning set in and it was with difficulty that the danger of fatal results was avoided.

A Paris despatch says the press announces that a contract has been signed between Russia and the Chatterlain-Herz of that place which killed her child, cut its body to pieces and pickled the fragments with a batch of sauerkraut, of which Heiler unsuspectingly partook.

Mr. Parnell is now free by law to marry Mrs. Kittie O'Shea. Whether or not he will do so as soon as possible, remains to be seen. It seems to be conceded on all hands that if he shall take this step his act would strongly hasten the movement to reunite the warring factions of his countrymen.

ROUND THE WORLD.

The Week's Events in Brief—The Crown of our Exchanges.
 Many destitute Russian Jews are arriving in England.

A daughter has been born to the duke and Duchess of Fife.

Socialists made a demonstration against Henry M. Stanley at Sheffield, Eng.

The Rome Reformers report that the Baron of Dongola has given his consent to the re-occupation of that province by England.

The London Times expects the Russian government to withdraw \$15,000,000 in gold from London during the next month or two.

The Austrian government has deputed an ironclad to Corfu to protect the rights of Austrian subjects residing on the island.

The Prince of Wales is said to be suffering from muscular rheumatism in the legs which prevents him from standing for any length of time.

Since the opening of the railway from Mexico to Vera Cruz, raw sugar has begun to be exported to Liverpool from the ancient land of the Aztecs.

Mayor Shakespeare, of New Orleans, has requested Governor Nichols to give Italian consuls Corti his passports, as his presence is dangerous to the peace of the city.

It is now rumored that the carwiche and his companions got into trouble in Japan while out larking, having behaved in an unruly manner at a place of amusement.

At a mass meeting of Italians in Boston a movement was started to erect and present to the city of Boston a statue of Christopher Columbus, to cost \$10,000 or \$12,000.

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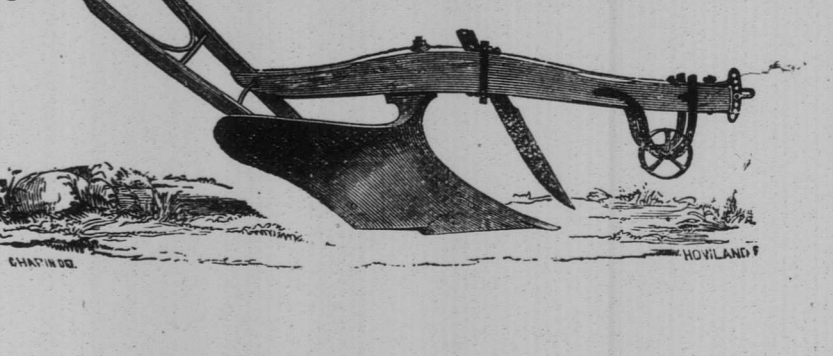
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