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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20th, 1888.

THE *Interior* has the following timely words on membership in the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church is a noble institution, and membership in it assures one an abundant supply of spiritual privileges. We believe it is not equalled—certainly it is not excelled—in this by any other branch of the Church universal. But woe to the man who mistakes the privileges of membership for perquisites; who regards his Church as a splendidly appointed club-house, with all modern improvements; who uses it as a loafing-place and finds it simply comfortable and congenial. The Presbyterian Church is a happy home for workers. Its privileges are convertible into opportunities and there is a way set down for their right enjoyment and improvement.

The trouble is that too many people are not particularly anxious to turn the privileges into opportunities. It is easy to sit down in a beautiful church, listen to good music and hear a good sermon. It is not so easy to go out into the highways and compel others to come in.

THE Home Mission and Augmentation Funds, Western Section, turn out fairly well after all. Eighty-one thousand, five hundred and sixty-five dollars is not bad, all things considered. The amount might have been larger, but it might easily have been smaller. The Augmentation fund is holding its own and a little more. In a year or two when the Scheme is better understood some of the large western congregations alluded to in the Assembly may see it to be their duty to give the fund a more liberal support. Every fund has to fight its way through difficulties at the beginning. It so happened that the difficulties attending the early days of Augmentation were greater than those that attended the inception of some other funds. Everybody believes in Home Missions. Nearly everybody now recognizes the duty of sending the Gospel to the heathen. The number of Presbyterians who do not believe in theological education might be counted on one's fingers. But everybody is not yet convinced that Augmentation is a good thing. For various reasons some who support the other Schemes well do not support Augmentation heartily. Their difficulties will perhaps be removed in due time.

SURELY there is some way of keeping order in the city of Toronto without arresting a member of the Methodist Conference on his way to deliver a lecture and hurrying him away to a police station. Had the arrest not been witnessed by a number of the reverend gentleman's friends it is highly probable that he would have been forced to spend the night in the cells. We can quite easily understand the indignation with which the Conference and, in fact, all Methodists, regarded this high-handed proceeding. If a well-known minister cannot stand on the corner of Yonge and Queen Streets and wait for a car without being arrested, one may well ask who is safe. What guarantee has any citizen that he may not at any time be hustled into the patrol wagon and hurried off to a police station? It is quite easy to say that the whole affair was a mistake. Such mistakes should not be possible. Calling the outrage a mistake does not lessen the indignity done to the insulted and injured man. Even admitting that Mr. Wilson technically violated the law by standing on the street and declining to move on until his car came, should he have been arrested and imprisoned for doing what everybody does with impunity every hour of the day? There is probably not a judge at Osgoode Hall who does not wait on the street corners for a car

ONE event that will make the Assembly meeting at Halifax memorable to all who were privileged to be present was the celebration of the Lord's supper on the afternoon of Sabbath last. This is doubtless the first of a long and uninterrupted series of such celebrations in the years to come. That other branches of the Christian Church observe the sacrament of the Lord's supper at their yearly gatherings is no reason in itself why the Presbyterian Church should follow suit. Neither does the action of other Churches offer any ground for its non-observance by the Presbyterian Assembly. When most of the Churches adopt the same practice, it is one more visible evidence of the essential unity of the Church, despite minor shades of difference that only keen and critical eyes can discern. The restful observance of the Lord's supper during the meeting of the Assembly cannot fail to exercise a blessed influence on the minds and hearts of all who have the opportunity to participate. It tends to elevate the tone of spirituality, which the ordinary procedure of the weak sometimes fails to effect. It cements the bonds of holy fellowship binding the brotherhood whose labours cover the breadth of a continent, and is a devout and reverent act of worship in the spirit of consecration to Him whose atoning work is commemorated, and who is Head over all things to His Church.

A PLEASANT variety was given to the ecclesiastical proceedings of this month by the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, which took place in Toronto last week. The doctors met and discussed a great variety of topics. The one drawback, so far as the public are concerned, was the technical terms used. Each paper read was on some subject which may have been comprehensible to the average reader, but the title of the paper was beyond the grasp of ordinary mortals. Ecclesiastical parliaments have their technical terms. There are words and phrases used at Osgoode Hall every day that none but a lawyer can understand. But for unpronounceable jawbreakers, the doctors take the palm. From the parts of the report given in plain English, we learn that great progress has of late years been made in medical education, and that more is likely to be made in coming years. This is as it should be. Tremendous responsibilities rest upon the medical practitioner and he should be thoroughly equipped. Probably no class of the community do as much work for which they receive neither pay nor thanks as the doctors. The readiness with which most practitioners attend patients that they know can never pay fees is admirable. Every good citizen will be pleased to learn that our medical advisers are well pleased with the progress that is being made by their noble profession.

ANOTHER IMPERIAL DEATH.

AFTER a brief interval of about three months the German nation, hoping against hope, are again plunged into profound grief for the loss of their ruler. Again death has invaded the innermost recesses of the Imperial palace, and Frederick I. has, with rare fortitude and submission, obeyed the summons. For about two years he was as one sentenced to death, but he calmly worked and waited till his task was done. What brief respites of returning strength were granted him he employed as only an industrious and highly conscientious man could, to round off the work allotted him. The death of his illustrious father found him an invalid at San Remo. At once he assumed the dignity and responsibility of the Imperial throne, and strove with all the resolve and intelligence that he possessed to faithfully discharge the duties that his high position imposed upon him. Despite the antagonisms with which he was beset, he endeared himself more and more to the German people. The incurable disease with which he was so manfully struggling, in itself elicited their profound sympathy, but his personal character and unwavering desire to exercise a just rule touched their hearts, as no mere warlike qualities and brilliant feats of war could possibly do. Frederick to-day is mourned with a tenderness of sympathy that falls to the lot of few monarchs.

It is rare that so many regal qualities distinguish one individual as were to be found in the deceased Emperor. The arts of war and of peace had in him a remarkable exponent. He was no mere fierce warrior delighting in the pomp, circumstance and carnage of war, but when the inevitable occasion came, he was to

be found at his post, rendering such services as only a brave and skillful leader of men could accomplish. His rapid advance, opportune intervention, mastery and decisive action retrieved threatened disaster at Konigsgratz and achieved a victory that crushed the hopes of Austria and gave Prussia undisputed ascendancy in the affairs of Germany. In the more severe and protracted struggle with France which culminated in the overthrow of the Napoleonic dynasty, Frederick played a conspicuous and heroic part. He made no blunders in strategy, was always ready to seize every opportunity, and though having to encounter terrible fighting, his onward progress to Versailles was a grand triumphal march. With the downfall of Paris, his fighting days ended. His sympathies and desires were pacific. He was not one of those that longed for the outbreak of hostilities. As far as in him lay his counsels were for peace. He was permitted to leave this world before Europe was plunged in war.

Frederick I. was a constitutional monarch. He desired to promote the happiness of his people and to leave them as far as possible in the enjoyment of their liberties. Events indicate that this was his settled purpose. A man conscious of the near approach of death is not likely to be swayed in his actions by mere notions of expediency. His desires to secure for the people perfect freedom in the election of their representatives brought about the last of the conflicts with the man of blood and iron, which disturbed the harmony of his short reign. The Chancellor, autocratic in all his ideas and ways, had no scruples in using Governmental means for the control of elections. To abandon this questionable method of retaining power was something he would not willingly forego, and offered all the resistance he could to the Emperor's endeavour to free the electors from all bureaucratic interference. If the Emperor failed to accomplish his purpose, the people know that it was his wish to act justly, and this will deepen the respect with which his memory is cherished.

In excellence of personal character the deceased Emperor was one of the best that ever sat upon a throne. Those who have read Carlyle's "Frederick the Great" will understand what this implies. His fiery passionateness which some of the Hohenzollerns displayed found no resting place in his finely poised nature. What was primarily said of his illustrious kinsman, can without the slightest exaggeration be fittingly applied to him.

He bore the white flower of a blameless life.

He lived a noble and stainless life, he died calmly and peacefully as only a Christian can die, his faithful wife, with a devotion and self-sacrifice equal to his own, keeping affectionate vigil till the end came.

And now the eldest son of Frederick is Emperor William II. What he will make of his opportunities remains to be seen. That he is the fire-eating warrior correspondents' gossip picture him is fairly open to doubt. We have, however, his own words for that that his tastes and sympathies are warlike. "We Brandenburgers are soldiers." There is no doubt that his political sympathies are fully in accord with Bismarck and the Junker party. The lull in German affairs due to the declining days of the late Emperor William and the uncertainty of his son's life now ended will not long continue. Stirring times are probably at hand.

CIVILIZATION AND ITS SHADOW.

AN advanced civilization is not a pure and unmixed good all round. It is pleasing in the extreme to see the indications of advancement. The eye dwells with satisfaction on the rise of palatial residences, with all the equipments and adornments that science and art can suggest. The handsome equipages, some of them models of good taste and others examples of ostentatious display, speak in a general way of abundant material prosperity. Costly living, lavish entertainments, and the vast sums expended on pleasure and luxury are phenomena of the time. This sunshine is, however, attended by shadows of ever-increasing density, suggesting to the observant that if existing prosperity is all right, it is not in every case following the right direction. It is far from apparent that in every instance it is an unmitigated blessing. In the vast populations of our great cities, especially the great centres of the world's commerce, why are the extremes of poverty and wealth so great? Is it to be taken for granted that ever-increasing areas of such cities as London and New York are to be left to extremes