

States, and numbered among them men of distinction and intellectual eminence.

One thing we rejoice for, is the attention given to the Conference by the city press. The proceedings were reported at great length, not more so than they merited, but with sufficient fulness to give the country the benefit of the ideas expressed, and in striking contrast to the neglect sometimes meted out to the Conference by the press of the United States. In this instance we have shown the cosmopolitan view of the Canadian press and the delegates no doubt fully appreciated the fact.

OUR SUMMER INFLUENCE.

Under this caption the *Christian Observer* tells of two church members, young ladies of education and culture, who stopped at a summer resting place on the way home from a convention of christian workers. They remained for a few days. With them they had a pack of cards, and they spent much time in playing games—inviting others to join them. When Sunday morning came, they entered the train and started for home.

Because they were professed Christians, their example in these matters did great harm. Hundreds of miles distant from the place where these things occurred, we heard them spoken of, and their evil influence commented on.

At the same summer resort, there were other young ladies. Of them we heard a different report. One illustration may serve. It was Sunday afternoon, the children were growing restless, and were disposed to get up a set of games for their diversion. With a woman's tact, one of them recalled to mind incidents in her experience, and stories from the Bible, then she moved into the group of rollicking youngsters, and soon had them eagerly interested in that which befitted the Sabbath.

Many of us will go from home this summer. In which class of travellers would we be found? Shall it be with those who encourage worldliness, or with those who promote true religion? How would Christ have us act?

The Nation and the Sabbath. Among the useful books recently issued on the Sabbath, is one by Rev. Dr. Jamieson, Blenheim, Ont., entitled "The Nation and the Sabbath." The subject commands attention at the present time and those who have a message will be heard. Dr. Jamieson writes well and he shows clearly the influence of the Sabbath on national life and the right attitude that ought to be maintained towards the Lord's Day. Briggs is the publisher.

Record of a Noble Work. The British and Foreign Bible Society, at its recent annual meeting, reported its receipts as nearly \$11,000 in excess of those of the present year, amounting to \$642,000. The total issues of the society since its organization in 1804 amount to 151,142,802. The committee report that they have "thus far taken up with glad alacrity every item of translation and revision work that has been brought before them with sufficient evidence as to its excellence and missionary usefulness."

Work and Pay. According to the newspaper reports, Rev. Morgan Wood had some plain words to say to the Bond St. Congregationalists on assuming the pastorate last Sabbath day. The new pastor means "business." The members are not to sleep in Zion, satisfied because they have built a beautiful church, and secured an "up-to-date" minister. It is all right to have a handsome structure and a clever preacher, but Mr. Wood reminded his alarmed flock that these things were not the only duties of Christians. They should go out among the sinners

who most needed the faith and bring them in. Every vacant seat in the church showed that some one had shirked his responsibility, and he added that if the congregation thought there was to be a rest from the stimulus in building up the finances of the church they were mistaken. Only those churches which were successful financially were spiritually successful, and if they hoped to do their work properly they must contribute liberally. A self-supporting, liberal, missionary church is what Dr. Wild's successor wants, and the congregation at Bond street will probably find it a more stable foundation to build upon than "The Lost Ten Tribes."

Sir Wilfrid's English. The "*British Weekly*" says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier speaks English perfectly but his French origin has left a few peculiarities in his pronunciation. For instance, he pronounces "grandeur" as if it were French, and the word "desolate" with an emphasis on all the syllables, as a Frenchman would. The word "sublime" he pronounces as if it were French. His most curious pronunciation of all is of the word "melancholy," to which he gives a strong accent on the second syllable.

The Best Holiday Book. The book to read during the holidays is often hard to choose. Let us put in a word for the Book of Books. Why not take up the systematic study of one of the books of the Bible, during the holiday season! To the Christian, young or old, it would surely prove interesting as well as profitable, and if pursued carefully would furnish a much needed knowledge of the sacred Word. There are good books and good and bad reading of books. Read the Bible intelligently, critically and comprehensively and you will find it vastly more absorbing than any work of fancy or philosophy.

South American Mission. As showing the interest taken in the South American Evangelical Mission, whose headquarters are in Toronto, it may be cited that an application has been read from a corporal in the First Seaforth Highlanders, now stationed at Crete, for an appointment to mission work. His name is John M. McDonald and he has still two and a half years service in the Army. He now wishes to begin the study of the native language and a course of preparation for the mission field providing the mission make use of his services when he is free of the Army. It is a cry from afar which should prove encouraging to those who are working against severe odds.

Church Union in New Zealand. The union of the two Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand seems now to be within measurable distance. The Northern Church takes in from the extreme north to the southern boundary of Canterbury province. The Southern Church takes in the province of Otago and Southland. For many years negotiations have been conducted with the view of making these two Churches one. Often the prospects looked encouraging and then something intervened to regard the movement. Geographical difficulties were urged by some, the endowments of the Southern Church by others, while by others, still, some points of divergence between the two Churches were regarded as blocking the way. A conference of representatives from the North and from the South was held lately, and it seems they have seen eye to eye. This union of Presbyterians will be the last in Australasia, all the others having previously become one. "The consummation of the New Zealand union should" says the *Presbyterian*, "give an impetus to a federation of Presbyterian Churches in Australia and Tasmania. If union on a smaller scale has been a great benefit, what may not be expected in the way of good from the larger union?"