

with their thoroughly active and practical pastor, may find a great blessing out of it. A Parliament with nobody to "disallow" its acts: a conclave with no secrets; a court with no culprits; a council where all are equal; a conference with no "legal hundred"; a symposium where all may put in good advice, and all carry away comfort—the Union may be made year by year a great blessing.

"THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS."—With many others, the INDEPENDENT fought shy of this "Parliament" And a bad use was sought to be made of it in heathen lands afterwards. But a re-action has set in. The *Congregationalist* says, respecting Japan: "The boastful rantings of returned prelates are already ceasing to echo, and even Buddhist papers, while asserting that the parliament took away from proud Christianity her previous sovereignty, compelling her to share it with other religions, are complaining bitterly that the prestige gained last summer is working no results, priests are no more faithful than before, and the moral tone of Buddhist society is despairingly low."

WHATEVER leads to a better and more general understanding of the Scriptures will have a good effect on the spiritual life of the Church. It is surprising how comparatively little the vast bulk of professing Christians know about many parts of the Bible. Amid the thousands of volumes that annually come from the press, the Book itself is too frequently buried and forgotten. We should endeavor largely to obtain a first-hand knowledge, by going directly to the Book ourselves; and it is because we believe that expository preaching will help to lead us to do so, that we are thankful this method of preaching is becoming increasingly popular.—*Primitive Methodist*.

KOSSUTH.—It may be doubted if any orator of the nineteenth century surpassed Louis Kossuth, who was alike eloquent in five languages—English, French, German, Hungarian and Italian. The first named, he informed me, he mastered while in prison. He obtained a grammar, dictionary and Shakespeare, and without knowing a single word, he began to read "The Tempest." Two weeks were spent in mastering a single page, as he made a rule never to go on reading anything without perfectly understanding every word. "See," he

said, afterward, "what an instrument in the hand of Providence became my little knowledge of the English language, which I learned because I was forbidden as a prisoner to meddle with politics."—*N. Y. Independent*.

SIGN YOUR ARTICLES!—We were reminded of this excellent rule when sending off some extra copies last month. Several friends who had sent us interesting items of church news were passed by in the distribution, just because their contributions to our columns were not "signed," and we could not profess to remember who sent them. "Served them right!" we hear some reader say, and then next month the same reader will send us a nice account of how their church is getting on, and add privately at the bottom, "Don't put my name in!" Our readers know now that everything goes into the waste-basket that is unaccompanied with a name; but we could not make the same rule for articles without a name for publication. The penalty is, in this case, no "free copies."

"WHY ISN'T a minister as interesting as a lawyer? We could sit three hours, and hear a lawyer pleading before a jury; but we tire of a sermon more than half-an-hour long. How is it?" And the assumption is that the "minister does not—as the lawyer does—make his address interesting." It is all wrong: *and the wrong is with the listener!* Seven or eight people out of every ten would rather hear the details of a murder, or the evidence in a suit for slander, than hear of a ransom being found for their souls. It is not the minister and the lawyer to be contrasted; it is the sensationalism and the spiritual truth! As Dr. Grant ("Knoxonian") pointed out in *Canada Presbyterian* lately, Mr. Osler or any other great lawyer, if he were lecturing on Criminal Jurisprudence, would be as little sought after as the poor messenger of the Cross. It is not the lawyer, it is the murder or the scandal! "Itching ears" have the peculiarity of not itching for "the Truth!"

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.—Christ used the word "church" (ecclesia) but twice in His whole ministry; once when He said to Simon, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," and again in His directions for dealing with an offending brother,