

tual work on hand to go in for land speculation and colonization projects. It "has a great work to do, and it cannot come down." Yes, and we believe it "be in no sense a loser by keeping to its own proper sphere, and refusing to subordinate the preaching of the Gospel to colonizing schemes and land speculation.

OLD COUNTRY IGNORANCE OF CANADA.

THE "Christian Monthly," of Edinburgh, says:

"It is rather a striking circumstance that in at least one colonial town the proportion of those who attended public worship on a particular Sunday was found to be greater than that of those who were present on the census Sunday in the churches of the old country. The town referred to was Toronto, in Upper Canada. Perhaps it is a favourable specimen of a colonial city; but certainly the impression exists that when people emigrate and go beyond the influences of home and the established order of things which exists here, they tend to throw off the restraints of religion. Canada is to be congratulated on being able to show so favourably in the comparison."

The above is simply one of many illustrations of the curious patronizing ignorance displayed about any and everything Canadian, by many in Britain from whom better things might have been expected. We do not expect even journalists in the old country to be minutely acquainted either with our country or with the character and civilization of its inhabitants. But surely they might by this time know as much as to prevent their talking of Torontonians being away from "home influences" and the "established order of things," to say nothing of the "restraints of religion," and all such matters for congratulatory surprise. We suppose our worthy Edinburgh brother is as much astonished at our being even presentable in decent society as was the gruff human bear who laid down the law about the four-footed dancing Bruin, that the "great wonder was, not that the creature danced well, but that it danced at all."

It is not so very long since a prominent London newspaper told its readers that the Victoria Bridge extended from Montreal to Sarnia; and we have known cases of persons who claimed not to be stupidly ignorant asking Canadian visitors if they came overland or by sea! We shall hope to be better known by-and-by, and in the meantime we can only feel amused at the kindly, pitying thankfulness of our old country friends upon their making the most unexpected discovery that we are fairly civilized—all things considered—and that we have even an amount of religious and church-going proclivities about us which they could scarcely have believed to be possible. We are glad to see that the Rev. Dr. McGregor, of West Church, Edinburgh, is doing his best to diffuse among the people of Scotland more correct ideas of what Canada is, and of what it may very easily become. As our readers know, the doctor accompanied the Governor-General in his last year's trip to the North-West, and has been doing most efficiently the work of a first-class emigration agent ever since. Dr. McGregor has a facile pen, an eloquent tongue, a sound judgment, and a kindly heart; and he has been and is giving all these full exercise in praise of Canada in general and the North-West in particular.

LICENSING TAVERNS AND SALOONS.

NO reasonable person can, we should think, have any doubt about there being absurdly too many places licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. Even granting that there ought to be some such places—which, however, we are very far indeed from doing—yet to say that the needs of the travelling public require that there should be as many of them, aye, or half as many, is so manifestly out of all accordance with fact that we stand aghast at people having the courage to advance the plea. It is a matter of notoriety that the large majority of these taverns have not a *bona fide* traveller "within their gates" from one year's end to the other. We shall not say that the following plan is pursued in the present day, but of this we are perfectly certain, that it is not many years since it was not an uncommon practice in Toronto for candidates for license to divide by temporary partitions a comparatively small apartment into two or three, and sometimes even into four, of what were called, by a great stretch of imagination, bedrooms; to hire some wretched pieces of furniture from a second-hand broker, so as to pass muster when the license inspector came his rounds; and thereafter, when the whole thing was safe for another year, to clear off all

such encumbrances and return to the *status in quo ante*. Nor do we think that Toronto was at all singular in having such dodges resorted to with officials who could conveniently be near-sighted. Perhaps all that sort of work is changed now. We hope it is. But will any one have the courage to say that the great majority of licensed taverns still are anything else or anything better than mere grogeries, kept up exclusively by encouraging and ministering to the drunkenness and improvidence of the neighbourhood? There are places of this kind not only in Toronto, but in every city and town in the province—we had almost said in every village—where the wants of the public, even in the common conventional sense of that phrase, no more require such arrangements than a horse requires six legs, or a donkey stands in need of a couple of heads. What then are they there for? Simply to act as traps to the young, the thoughtless, and the dissipated of the locality, and to swell the number of *losers* that in due time gravitate through the police court to the gaol. We don't wonder at the inhabitants of quiet neighbourhoods getting up petitions and protests, as they have lately been doing in this city, against such corner grogeries being established in places where there is not even the pretence of any need for what at best many regard as perhaps necessary evils. We remember well, when a most abominable outrage of this kind was perpetrated some years ago in a district of Toronto where there were nothing but private houses, that one of the officials who helped to secure the establishment of the nuisance said to one who had made himself active in opposition, "Do you think that you and your boys are to be protected against the dangers attendant upon the establishment of such places, and that the fathers and sons of other localities are to run all the risk and incur all the contamination? Not if I know it. You must take your share of the danger, as other citizens have to do." Yes, and that man thought that this was rather a clever way of putting it. Perhaps, after all, he was right. If so, then an ever-increasing number will get converted to the doctrine of "No license." What is the result whenever one of such grogeries is established "in a quiet neighbourhood?" The "quiet" soon takes its departure. Loafing, idle blackguards, both old and young—but especially the latter—get to loiter about the corner with their rude horseplay, their insolent leer, their foul talk, and their clothes as if thrown on with a pitchfork. That one plague-spot makes the whole locality less respectable. Decent people are fain to move, and as they do so they hope and pray that the License Commissioners may give them some rest for the sole of their foot in the place to which they remove, and some protection from this the abomination which maketh desolate. "Refreshment!" "Necessary accommodation!" "The public convenience!" Heaven help us! It is "the public convenience" that is leading down an ever-increasing number of the men and youths, aye, and of the women also, of our country to dissipation and ruin. It is the "necessary accommodation" which is making so many do worse even than live from hand to mouth, for it is forcing them to work for less than they think they ought to receive, simply because they have put their all into these "losings banks," and must, will they or will they not, either work or starve. It is the "refreshment" by which nobody is refreshed, but which is making only too many weary and jaded for ever ore. And yet too many, who ought to know better, will continue to babble as of green fields about "good creatures of God," "innocent enjoyments," modest and moderate "exhilaration," and all the rest of it, as if they did not know that by these things unnumbered thousands were being led down to death, and their steps were continually being made to take hold on hell. No doubt we are assured that nobody is forced to drink. Neither is anybody forced to gambol, nor to frequent the house of the "strange woman," nor fifty other things successful resistance to which may possibly harden the moral fibre of our young men and maidens. And yet society, when in anything like a healthy moral condition, does not take kindly to such plans for hardening and strengthening the moral muscles either of old or young. It is only when intoxicating drinks come to be considered and dealt with that the beauties of temptation as a means for the development of moral and spiritual manhood are dwelt upon with uncloyed, and commended with becoming urgency and innocence!

Such paltering with and apologizing for the abomination which, more than anything else that could be mentioned, is making desolate both churches and homes, might be regarded as a poor and pitiful jest were it not that this is a matter too sad and too serious to admit of a jest of any kind from even the most frivolous and unthinking. Rachel is weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because so many of them are worse than dead; and yet men are maundering about the "liberty of the subject," are producing the testimony of doctors and chemists to the effect that by very careful, though very risky navigation, alcohol may, in exceedingly small and well-regulated quantities, be taken into the human system without appreciable damage—nay, in cases of disease with positive advantage. Yes; and, wonder of wonders, they are even telling us, with an air of the most helpless, patronizing, quasi scientific condescension, that there is alcohol in everything—in sugar, in water, in wheat, and lollypops—and that therefore, we suppose, if the statement is worth a straw, we ought to be silent and acquiescent when our youth are being demoralized by that which, in another shape, and with perfect safety, they drink with Adam's wine and eat with earth's best nourishment.

Irrelevant statements and foolish inconsequential arguments may occasionally perhaps be matters of necessity, but it is just as well when they are not too foolish, and when they are as rare and as modest as circumstances will possibly permit. In the meantime this will practically test how far a recent statement of a License Commissioner holds good—to the effect, namely, that no license is given in opposition to the expressed wishes of the majority of the people in the neighbourhood, and that if in any case there is such a place established, it must be because the people of the locality had petitioned to that effect. The misery is, that too often the mischief is done before the great mass of the householders are even aware that such a thing is contemplated.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—A meeting of this Presbytery was held in the usual place on the 13th inst. Rev. Dr. King received the congratulations of his brethren anent the honour conferred upon him recently by the Senate of Knox College. The Presbytery recorded its deep sympathy with the Rev. H. M. Parsons in the sad bereavement he has recently sustained, together with an earnest hope and prayer that the Giver of all comfort may abundantly minister to his needs. The reports of neighbouring Sessions anent the memorial of persons worshipping in Temperance Hall, Toronto, were taken up anew. It was moved by Rev. J. Carmichael, of Markham, seconded by the Rev. W. Meikle, "That the prayer of the memorialists be granted." In amendment, it was moved by the Hon. A. Morris, seconded by the Clerk, "That a committee of five, to be nominated by the Moderator, be appointed by the Presbytery to confer with the petitioners, and report to next ordinary meeting." The amendment carried, and a committee was appointed. A protest and appeal against the action of West Church Session, Toronto, in removing Mr. Tilley from the office of precentor, occupied a good deal of time. The appeal was dismissed, and the parties acquiesced. Another appeal from the same Session was brought up by Mr. Tilley against the finding of said Session anent certain mutual charges between Mr. Tilley and Mr. L. J. Taylor. A motion and an amendment were again moved and seconded, the amendment carrying, which remitted the case to the Session, instructing them to take more complete evidence in the case, and report to the Presbytery. After requisite preliminaries, it was agreed to ask leave of the Synod to take on public trials for license Messrs. D. Bickell, S. Carruthers, John Currie, John Gibson, B.A., John Jamieson, D. B. McDonald, D. McLaren, B.A., and John Neil, B.A., as also to ask leave of the General Assembly to receive as a probationer of the Church Mr. G. A. McLachlin, a licentiate of the American Presbyterian Church. Application of Deer Park congregation for leave to mortgage their property to the extent of \$1,000, was granted. Reports were read on Sabbath School Work and Temperance, which were adopted, with thanks therefor to Revs. W. Amos and John Pringle, and ordered to be transmitted to the proper parties for the Synod. Several matters were postponed to next meeting, which was appointed to be held at Peterborough, and within St. Paul's Church there, on the 2nd of May, at 2.30 p.m.—R. MONTEATH, Clerk.