

**Henri Dunant.**

On the 30th of October, at Holden, in Switzerland, died Henri Dunant, the founder of the International Red Cross Society. Dunant's name ranks high amongst the world's philanthropists. It was fitting that his noble life should close in the land that gave him birth. At the battle of Solferino he was so deeply moved at the needless suffering and loss of life caused to soldiers by the neglect to care for the wounded that he conceived the idea of obtaining the consent of nations to a compact for the relief and protection of soldiers wounded in battle. Through his efforts the Swiss Federal Council took action, and an international conference was held at Geneva in October, 1863. Sixteen Governments were represented. Subsequently a convention was held at Geneva on 8th August, 1864, when articles of agreement were adopted "for the amelioration of the condition of wounded in armies in the field." Twelve Governments then assented to these articles. Since then the number has increased to forty. A flag was agreed upon, a red cross on a white ground. It was arranged that each country should have its own committee, and that there should also be an International Red Cross Society. Every reader of modern history is aware of the noble work done on the battlefield by the Red Cross Society, and of the suffering alleviated and life saved through its beneficent efforts. All honour to the memory of Henri Dunant, its illustrious founder!

**Chinese Progress.**

We have at different times urged on the Church the need of taking energetic steps to enable the missionary to avail himself of the rapid civilization of China. How rapid this process is may be appreciated by the reports of men qualified to speak from personal observation. Sir Robert Bredon, acting inspector-general of Chinese Customs, has recently said with regard to Pekin: "The old, unpaved, mephitic thoroughfares are giving way to spacious macadamized roads, lighted by electricity in place of the old-fashioned oil lamps. An adequate and pure water supply on European lines has replaced the old surface wells." Speaking of improvement in the postal service, Sir Robert says: "Foot and horse couriers now penetrate into extreme Western China 2,000 miles, and we have postal lines flung as far as Thibet. There is also a money-order system all over China, an express delivery service in every big city. There are 4,000 native post-offices, employing 15,000 persons, of whom not more than 200 are foreigners." He also says that "the sedan chair is being superseded among the wealthy Chinese by the use of broughams drawn by splendid horses of the Australian breed. The police force of Pekin is now organized on American lines and effectively controls traffic in the streets. As regards the educational movement, it is significant that many high officials are maintaining schools at their own expense. There is, for instance, the case of the wife of a Mongol prince, who has at least 50 Chinese girls in a private school, which she maintains." Surely these surprising changes, and the greater exertions in support of the mission service in China.

**A Suggestive Fact.**

Looking over a political notice of a candidate in New York State, one point of interest to us was mentioned in laudatory terms as showing the candidate's patriotic conduct. He is a very large paper maker, and has a partner, a scientific forester, who planted a new tree where he cut one down. "For years it has been the custom of the paper mills in New York State to shut down in the summer season for lack of raw material. The Albany Securities Company was formed to keep them supplied. By means of it, the partners built pulp mills in Canada, where the supply of wood

was greater. This summer, for the first time, their paper mills, as well as many belonging to others, kept open all summer and gave employment to thousands of men." It would have been more beneficial to Canada had the raw material been worked up and the thousands of men been employed where the pulp mills were built, and the scientific forester partner could have kept a small army busily employed in planting new trees, an industry which, we fear, is overlooked by him in Canada.

**Churches and Lodges.**

The other evening the writer listened to a high officer of one of our biggest fraternal societies, saying that in many respects, the fraternal society eclipsed the Church, for the society "did things," but that the Church talked a great deal without accomplishing much. The speaker was a visitor where he spoke, and it seemed ungracious to call him to account for his words, and this one fact that he was a guest of the evening probably saved him from receiving a lesson that he would not soon forget. The writer looked round the board and saw many prominent Christian workers there who were members also of this particular society, and who had to listen to this uncalled-for criticism. It is difficult to know how to deal with such ungrounded criticism. Not all have the power of repartee credited to a certain priest who heard a man flippantly remarking, "If Christians would stop building their fine churches and give the money to the poor, it would be greatly to their credit." The priest quietly rejoined, "That remark has been made before." "Indeed! and by whom?" asked the critic. "Judas Iscariot," was the crushing reply. Read John 12:1-8. But not every one can nail the criticism as this priest did, and yet it should be nailed, and, if possible, nailed on the spot.

**King James Version.**

Dr. Carey, of Albany, offered a resolution at the Cincinnati Convention, that the tri-centenary of what is popularly known as the "Authorized Version" of the Scriptures, be at the proper time appropriately celebrated. This resolution gave rise to a spirited debate. To this an amendment was proposed by Dr. Angus Crawford, of Virginia, to the effect that "other Christian bodies" be "invited to take part." The amendment and the resolution were ultimately adopted. The celebration of the tri-centenary of this famous translation of the Bible will be looked forward to with unusual interest. It is a remarkable fact that despite the "Revised Version," the "Authorized Version" still remains a popular favourite, and commands an enormous sale.

**Tag Day.**

We had an epidemic of tags some time ago, and few of us want a return of the affliction. Most plagues come from the mysterious East, but "Tag Day" originated in Sweden, and the disease very soon crossed the Atlantic. The custom of setting apart a time during which people might sell bits of paste-board on the street for charities was found a convenient means of aiding local charities. But the Germans are more polite and sell flowers instead of bits of paper on a string. In August last Cassel and Wiesbaden had their days. At the former about 100,000 marks were netted through the sale of blue flowers, which the Emperor assisted. At Wiesbaden 35,000 marks were made through the sale of daisies, the flowers of charity.

**Church and Negro.**

In Canada it is not our lot to bear a share in solving the serious problem created on this continent by slavery. But it is our privilege to extend our sympathy to our sister Church

in the United States, and commend the courage and determination with which she addresses herself to it. "The negro is forever with us," said Bishop Morrison, of Iowa, in his eloquent triennial convention sermon, and in moving terms he urged on his hearers his conviction that the negro of the Southern States offered the most important subject for missionary effort in the world to-day. There can be no doubt that the condition of the negro in the South, and his relation to the white man, calls for the exercise of the highest gifts of the statesman, and for apostolic charity, self-denial, and wisdom, patience, and perseverance, on the part of the Church. This sinister condition, so long and deeply rooted in the national life, demands extraordinary effort for its relief. Its remedy requires a faith like that called for by the Master, against which "nothing shall be impossible," and a faithful observance of His direction:—"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

**A NEGLECTED CLERICAL DUTY.**

The question of the Social Evil received a vigorous and outspoken handling at the late Congress. Regarding public discussions of this kind, there will always be considerable differences of opinion, some favouring their restriction to members of one sex, others advocating their being thrown open to both. At the Congress an open discussion was held which startled and probably shocked some of the audience by its plainness, a majority of those present being women and girls. Speaking for ourselves, we think that this is a question for women themselves to decide. If they feel that they can attend such gatherings without any deterioration of their modesty, and the breaking down of decent sex reserve, well and good. We have nothing to say, except this, that one drawback of these mixed discussions is that, while being apt to go too far in one direction, they fall short in another. As a rule, however, we think they would be more effective and practical if confined to men or women. It was pleasing to learn from Archdeacon Madden, of Liverpool, that after exhaustive enquiries, he had come to the conclusion that the "White Slave Trade" was practically non-existent in Canada, at all events, in any organized form. Great stress was laid by the Archdeacon and by Bishop Taylor-Smith, Chaplain-General of the British Army, on the importance of plain speaking on the part of parents, guardians, and those entrusted with the care and supervision of growing boys. This, in a certain sense, it was contended, was the crux of the whole question. Get the growing boys into a right mind on the subject of sexual purity, and the problem was practically solved. The arguments in favour of this course of procedure, on the part of parents and guardians, are, it cannot be denied, very strong, and as far as we can see, and in the absence of any arguments to the contrary, unanswerable. Why it was urged with force that comes home to every man who retains his recollections of early boyhood, allow a boy to acquire this knowledge at the expense, in the vast majority of cases, of having his morals corrupted, his purity sullied, and being subjected very often to vicious suggestions? In this way hundreds of thousands of boys have drifted, and are to-day drifting, into evil courses, that have brought incalculable suffering and misery upon the race, owing to the mistaken delicacy of their fathers. It is absolutely impossible to begin to calculate what might have been saved the nation had it been the uniform and recognized custom and duty of fathers to enlighten their sons at the age of adolescence. But fathers, as a rule, regard such an undertaking with an aversion which is natural, and perhaps not altogether blameworthy, though