

the leaders in the English movement could be invited to visit Canada and make a tour through the provinces in its advocacy we believe it would be taken up with enthusiasm. Corporate union is apparently a long way off and may never come, but Federal union would be possible without any delay and gain the chief ends that the most ardent friends of corporate union could ever hope to attain. Let Dr. Gibson come and bring some prominent Methodist with him to speak on its behalf and the thing could be done in three months.

SUNDAY BASEBALL.

WHILE there are many interests in common between Canada and the United States which would benefit by a better understanding between these countries, there are common dangers to which Canadians should not be blinded by the tide of good feeling at present in full flow. We refer to the Sabbath desecration prevailing in the United States. If a closer relationship will suggest the introduction to Canada of Sunday sports and pastimes, then trade advantages will have been bought at a ruinous price. That the thin end of the wedge has been inserted already would appear from the matter-of-course way in which the baseball match played between the Toronto and Montreal clubs last Sabbath has been regarded. The Montreal press and public have raised not a single objection to the match, although played before their very eyes on the Lord's Day. The *Witness* ignores it altogether, the *Star* gives a report but does not say that the game was played on Sabbath. The *Herald* is more candid and comes out with the truth. We observe in our exchanges a protest from neither priest nor parson although columns of sermons were devoted to Gladstone and Anglo-Saxon Unity. The public conscience has been dulled by frequent tampering with duty and that being the case, evil will grow and spread unchecked.

But Toronto is by no means free from blame in this matter. The Quebec law does not forbid such games. The Ontario law does, and public opinion in Toronto does, and the Toronto club, if not bound by moral and religious considerations, as a body, ought to respect the good name of Toronto, and the feelings of the citizens, its patrons here. We hope those in authority will have this breach of good taste and of propriety made clear to them so that wherever the combination named after Toronto may sojourn on Sundays for the future, the sacred day may be observed and the opinion of Toronto respected.

These friendly games on Sunday are not to be excused nor tolerated on any plea whatsoever, and in these times of changing views, and dangerous innovations, it behoves all interested to be vigilant against the insidious encroachments of the enemy.

THE AUGMENTATION COMMITTEE.

IN his able paper before the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, the Rev. S. Houston gave a graphic and instructive account of the Augmentation Fund of the church. Two principles he lays down as underlying the Fund viz the unity of the church, and the duty of the strong to help the weak. From these principles as a starting point Mr. Houston develops the working of the fund, showing its relation to the Home Mission Committee and the important part it plays in assisting congregations up to the self supporting stage. On the administration of the Fund he makes some sensible observations that will be appreciated by other committees as well as by that on Augmentation of stipends, and all who know the labours of committees will appreciate the remark that reasonable people on

examination would find ample evidence to convince them that there is thoroughly conscientious work done in disposing of the details of business such as making or withholding grants, and many acts of omission or commission that seem wrong admit of a perfectly satisfactory explanation. Conveners and clerks will agree with Mr. Houston in his word of remonstrance.

1. He appeals to all who take part in the business done in Presbytery to make themselves fully conversant with the rules laid down by the General Assembly for the administration of the Fund. He finds his experience to coincide with that of others, that in many cases there is shown a woful ignorance for which there is not a particle of excuse. The result of such ignorance is serious when the correct application of an unknown or unstudied rule evokes rebellion against the rule itself.

2. Brethren who receive grants ought to reply promptly to enquiries made by Presbytery clerks and conveners. It is too true that there is cause for complaint on this score and Mr. Houston touches a serious grievance when he refers to the dilatoriness of many ministers in replying to such enquiries. The paper as has been said is one worth perusal.

THE PLEBISCITE.

THROUGHOUT Ontario active steps are being taken in advance of the Plebiscite vote. Prohibitionists are being organized in the ridings and there seems to be no lack of enthusiasm or of funds. Thus far there seems to be unanimity among the various denominations i.e., the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists and there is reason to think many Anglicans and Roman Catholics will throw much influence and good work on the side of prohibition. The Young People's Societies are looked upon as important agencies in the struggle and special appeals are being issued to them, to organize and furnish volunteer workers. Among the steps taken at County Conventions is the appointment of press reporters who will furnish newspapers with news as to the progress of the campaign, and workers in each allotted line are rapidly coming forward. Whatever the result may be, the prohibitionists have not been taken unawares nor will they be unprepared.

THE GOSPEL IN HEATHEN LANDS.

THE power of the Gospel in heathen lands was once more borne testimony to by distinguished laymen at a great missionary meeting held recently in London. Professor Bryce, the publicist and traveller made some interesting statements. He knew the temptations traders had to resist among savage people. Only by the influence and practice of Christianity by the grace of God he held, could the temptations be resisted. The influence of the old religion was vanishing and if Christian missionaries did not step in to the waste places the vast populations would get into the dangerous habit of living without a religion at all. We are bound to give them new and better lights in return. Mr. Fraser the Commissioner of Nagpore commended the native ministry. He sat under a native pastor and enjoyed the services. A serious prejudice existed against native Christian servant, which he attributed to the fact that many native Roman Catholics, who had been baptized and were nominal Christians but had not been converted, entered service and brought their heathenish habits with them. From long and intimate knowledge of native Protestant Christians he believed in the genuineness of their conversion, in the reformation of their character and of the higher tone they had attained to. All of which confirms to the world what the Church knows, that Foreign Mission work is very real and that the good seed sown bears fruit.