

opposed cannot both be right, and if we believe that the bulk of those who adhere to the Church of Rome are deceived and misled, then every consideration of Christian fidelity and love for the souls of men demands that we "preach the Gospel" unto them. By this means alone can we solve the great problem that confronts us in Canada to-day. By this means alone can we spread the kingdom of Jesus Christ among our French fellow-citizens.

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"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."—MATT. vi. 6.

"Ask and it shall be given you."—MATT. vii. 7.

"Every one that asketh receiveth."—MATT. vii. 8.

ONE of the most interesting signs of the times is found in the fact that a General Conference of all Evangelical Christians is called to meet in Florence, Italy, in 1891, after Easter. We once heard a speaker say, he hoped to see the day when a Conference would assemble at Rome, and its delegates be billeted in the Vatican. This seemed at the time an idle dream, but, in view of the above fact, it does not look like an impossibility. Thirty places of Protestant worship live and flourish in the old city of the Popes!

A WRITER in *Missionary Review*, speaking of a Conference of Believers at which he attended, says, "During the seven days we heard only the Word of God expanded, expounded and applied. No *ad captandam* speeches, no essays, no orations. No attempt at drawing a crowd, not a hint of the new theology," etc. All this is indeed refreshing, and we are wondering if the churches might not take a hint. To read the church advertisements in some of our newspapers, in our most enlightened centres, one would think that

the Bible no longer furnished themes for the pulpit; that, in fact, the Gospel well had been drained dry. Sad indeed is it that professed ministers of Christ, should deem it proper or necessary to prop up their preaching with strategic, catch-penny advertisements. Faithful exposition of God's word, so full, so rich, so plenteous in meaning, aimed at the heart, not at the pocket, will, with God's blessing, fill any church with worshippers. And the food of the word, abundant nourishing food, supplied to the hungry souls, will build up spiritual men and women whose gifts will be gladly laid on God's altar. What a mockery to call people to the house of God with the crack of a magician's wand, the vision of a dusky fortune-teller, or the intricacy of a catch question! And all this when hearts are crushed under the world's heavy burdens, and need a tender uplift; when men and women are standing on the verge of unlighted graves; and the strifes and struggles of earth have well nigh smothered every heaven-born hope. O believe it, you who fill Christian pulpits, Christ in all the marvellous beauty and perfection of His character, Christ in all the simplicity of His teaching, in all the tenderness of His love, Christ all-sufficient to save, is all-sufficient to attract. Do not dishonor the pulpit with the catch-penny tricks of a variety theatre, or a circus side show. Lift up Jesus! "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me."

SOME writers are deploring the present tendency in missionary effort to work on independent lines, *i.e.*, we suppose, outside of regular constituted societies. In the rush of the new movements it appears that the older methods are considered slow, and perhaps they are, at any rate the fact is suggestive. No doubt these independent tendencies are the result of cast-iron rules and regulations, which left no room for the Spirit of God to work, unless He worked on their plan and according to their constitution.

THE remarkable movement of modern missions is, no doubt, owing entirely to the prayers of God's people. How the church, the great body of believers, has cried to God to "send forth more laborers!" And to-day, with every country open to the Gospel, we may well say, "the fields are white unto the harvest." God's mighty Spirit has wonderfully moved upon human hearts. In no previous age have there been so many and so varied movements for the evangelization of the world. The literature of missions, now in circulation, furnishes some of the most interesting, and we may say, exciting reading of the day. Bold indeed are some of the schemes of missionary effort. But this is the age of giant undertakings in all temporal and secular interests. Why should not the