

ter whether it can be enforced or not. The following is an editorial article in last week's issue:—"A certain class of so called temperance men have a marked weakness for temperance laws. Their remedy for all the ills of the liquor traffic is legislation. They seem to think that men can be legislated out of vice and into virtue. Now the fact is that Ontario has temperance laws quite abreast with the sentiment of the people of it. The amendments made to the Crooks Act last session puts Prohibition within the reach of every polling division in a town or city. Sub-section 16 of section 4 provides that:—

No license shall be granted to any applicant for premises then under license, or shall be transferred to such premises if a majority of the persons duly qualified to vote as electors in the sub-division at an election for a member of the Legislative Assembly petition against it on the grounds hereinafter set forth, or any such grounds.

Now observe that the electors of any sub-division can, by petition, absolutely prevent the granting or transfer of a license. When that petition is signed, attested and presented to the license commissioners the work is done. No license can then be issued. The commissioners have no discretionary power in the matter. Now what more do people want in the way of law?

The *Presbyterian* apparently overlooks the fact that the amended law applies to new licenses, and not to those already in existence. So far as the present licenses are concerned they are not at all interfered with by the change. It is important, however, to use vigilance in preventing any increase in the present number.

The writer has been looking in other parts of the same paper in hope of seeing the ministers and members of the church urged to avail themselves of the new law to keep within the present limits at least the license liquor traffic, but he has looked in vain. Surely such an able journal ought not to be without practical suggestions on this matter. Nor should any of the other religious papers be silent on such a question.

Disastrous Storms

The disastrous cyclones and tornadoes which of late have spread such devastation throughout the Southern and South-western States furnish cause for considerable alarm. Scarcely a day passes but we learn of the passage of one of them followed by great loss of life, by immense destruction of valuable property, and, in many instances, by the wiping out of whole towns and settlements.

The occurrence of hurricanes and storms is a matter of historical record since history was first written, but storms have never been so frequent, nor have they ever contained such destructive forces as those which during the past few years, have continued regularly to sweep across this continent. Various theories are advanced as to their origin and violence, such as the meeting of high and low atmospheric areas, electric currents, and so on; but no very satisfactory conclusion has been arrived at, other than that the same forces which cause the gentle summer breeze to blow, in an intensified form let loose the devastating cyclone. How-

ever, as we cannot hope to control it, the cause of storms cannot be a matter of grave import to us, except perhaps in the interest of speculative science. How to avoid the effect is what we have directly to deal with.

It will be remembered that not long ago Prof. Wiggins, of Ottawa, advised those who lived in exposed localities to excavate storm caves for the preservation of their lives. The weather prophet got laughed at for his pains, and, so far, in Canada the precaution has been unnecessary, but in the Southern States things are different, and either following the advice of the weather wise Wiggins or acting from necessity, the people of the stricken localities are constructing what they call tornado cellars in connection with their dwellings. The general adoption of such precautions would consign the whole human race to a state of rabbit-hood, if we may coin such an expression. We could never go very far from our burrow with a sense of perfect security. Along with the very great inconveniences such contrivances would entail upon us, they would at times result in most ridiculous situations. Just fancy some of our three hundred pounders with aldermanic stomachs, pursued by a raging cyclone, ambling for his tornado cellar. But if the present intense atmospheric disturbances continue they will undoubtedly in due course reach us, and we must then choose between Prof. Wiggins' patent cave and the Southern tornado cellars. To those of our readers who will not trust such matters to the Providence of the Universe we recommend the cellar. During spells of calm weather it will at least have practical uses, but the cave is a barbaric luxury which, in the present elevated state of the real estate market, few of us could afford to indulge in.

"The Macedonian Cry."

A valuable contribution to the Christian Mission literature has just been made in the publication of a very well written book of nearly 300 pages from the pen of Rev. John Latern, of Nova Scotia, and published by Rev. W. Briggs at the Methodist Book-room, Toronto. Like nearly every thing coming from the "Book-room" there the printers and binders have both done good work. The author is one of the best known of the literary men among the Ministers in the Methodist Church in Canada. His style of writing is easy and graceful, and in this instance at least, he is so thoroughly in sympathy with his subject as to write with much earnestness and force. The object of the work is to create more interest in and practical sympathy with Christian missions. A large amount of information is given in regard to the errors of heathenism, and there are interesting chapters on Hinduism and Hindus, Buddhism and Buddhists, Africa and Isles of the sea. There is also a large fund of useful information regarding Modern Missions, their progress and results, all of which is full of interest to those in deep sympathy with such work.

The following facts in regard to the world's population, according to religions, indicate more plainly than anything else can the vast amount of work yet needed before the world can be Christianized.—

The total population is estimated at 1,453,000,000, and more than one half of the whole or 865 millions, are yet heathen. There are 170 millions of Mohammedans, and eight million Jews. The balance may be classified under the general term of Christians, and divided as follows:—Protestants, 116 millions; Roman Catholics, 190 millions; Greek Church, 84 millions. The writer says: "To give one missionary to every 50,000 of the population would require 20 to each million of people. Brahmins, Buddhists and heathens of yet uncivilized lands—without including Moslems—aggregate at least 810 millions; and to meet the demands of such an enterprise, up to the proportion specified, would require 16,200 missionaries—13,000 in addition to the 2,400 already in the field."

Any one interested in the work of missions will do well to send 75 cts. to the Publisher and obtain a copy of this able essay on missions.

The Late Session.

Parliament closed its protracted session of three months on Saturday afternoon last. There does not appear to have been an amount of business done requiring anything like the amount of time that was spent. The members—the leading ones especially—on both sides, spent much more time talking at and about each other than about the actual work of the country they were sent there to deliberate upon. This, however, appears to be the inevitable evil of all legislative bodies, divided into rival parties. As usual, the first weeks of the session were squandered, there being few measures of any consequence submitted, and few debates of any importance; and as usual, in the last weeks business was rushed through, few members caring to allow the necessary time to be spent in debating measures or giving such attention to details as was necessary to understand them properly. The chances are that by the next session it will be found some measures were so hurried through that they are imperfect and need amending. That is nearly always the case. Other important measures, like the Factory Bill and the Franchise Bill, were laid over to another year "for want of time." That is a much better course toward the end of a long session, when members all want to get away than to rush the measure through, while many busy themselves in desk scrapings, whistling, cheers or hisses, in order to keep others from speaking. When the business is conducted in that style and people get to despise the House of Commons it is simply because so many members so conduct themselves that the people can't help it.

The great measure of the session was the Canadian Pacific relief measure. The other important financial measures appeared to come out of this, principally. So much has already been written on that and on the Provincial subsidies, that nothing more need be said now. The sums have been voted and whether the whole, or a part merely, or any of the great thirty million loan ever comes back again to the people, time only will tell. At any rate, the people must

pay it, for their Representatives have committed them to that part of the bargain, and they must take their chances of what is to come. Let us hope, however, that the railway will be now speedily completed, and that no other calls will be asked, either towards construction, or towards after maintenance. Let us hope, too, that the smaller railways so liberally aided, to the tune of nine millions more, will be speedily completed and will not come back for more grants. These are nervous times to the taxpayers and property holders of the country where the practice prevails so generally of making fresh and united demands every year on the public treasury for millions and millions of money, and when the Representatives of the people appear so willing to vote any sums the Government may see fit to recommend with little or no hesitation.

The measures of any importance to the country adopted during the late session outside of railway aids, were few and unimportant. Fortunately, however, there are not now any great measures pressing-ly needed; and the habit of filling up our statute books with new laws for which there does not exist a pressing necessity had better fall into disuse. As a matter of fact each Parliament has been in the habit of indulging in too much legislation instead of too little.

Work for Women.

EDITOR OF TRUTH:—Much has been written regarding proper and remunerative employment for women. Silk culture, poultry raising, and many other themes have been thoroughly ventilated, and the result has no doubt, been very beneficial; but there are many ladies who have no opportunity to raise silk worms, or to follow any employment of that kind. To this class I wish to open what to me was entirely a new field. Some three months ago an uncle of mine from Albany, N. Y., was visiting at our house. We were talking of plated ware which he was engaged in manufacturing. To satisfy my curiosity he made a plating machine and replated our knives, forks, spoons and castor. It only cost \$4 and it did the work perfectly. Some of our neighbors saw what we had plated and wanted me to do some plating for them. I have since then worked 22 days and have cleared during that time \$94.34. At almost every house I got from \$2 to \$3 worth of plating to do, and such work is mostly all profit. Just for replating one dozen tea spoons I got \$1.75. This business is as nice for ladies as for gentlemen as it is all indoor work, and any one can do it. My brother, although he worked two days longer than I did, cleared only \$91.50. I am getting up a collection of curiosities and to any of your readers that will send me a specimen I will send full directions for making and using a plating machine like mine that will plate gold, silver and nickel. Send small pieces, stones, ores, shells old coins etc. Any kind of geological specimen will do. What I want is to get as many specimens from as many places all over the country as I can. Please address

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