

license a mere man of straw, and the brewer all-in-all. A statutory declaration will have to be required of every licensee, that no other person has any pecuniary interest in the business or furnishings. Now that the Ontario Government know of this corrupt proceeding, we call upon them to make an end of it, and to make it impossible in the future. We want clean laws, and a clean administration of them.

REV. DR. BARNES, of Sherbrooke, writes in a recent issue of the *Boston Congregationalist*:

One of the two Protestants in the new Cabinet at Quebec is a Congregationalist, Hon. John McIntosh. Our cause, in many respects, is manfully sustained. Not strong or numerous, comparatively, still we command the favor and honor of the centralized bodies of Christian believers and workers. Staunch, fearless, true, are the Congregational few among the Catholic many.

Home missions here, as in the States, deeply feel the need of both men and money, but our pastors, our professors, and other teachers in our educational work, and our laymen on executive committees and directors' boards face difficulties most cheerfully and pluckily.

Our college at Montreal, with Dr. William Barbour president, draws some of Canada's very best young men, as is shown in the success they achieve in their friendly rivalry in studies at the great McGill University, where, in connection with their studies in theology in the college (called seminary in the States), they pursue a course that ends with a degree of Bachelor of Arts. At the closing exercises of the college last week, two young men of the graduating class, Messrs. Gunn and Read, standing very high in scholarship, were announced to have West Central Africa in view as their field of labor, and desire to be associated with Messrs. Currie and Lee, also Canadians, in that country, under the auspices of the American Board. The Montreal Congregational Club, Dr. Barbour president, held its winter meeting in February, and showed itself to be progressive and aggressive. Your correspondent had the favor of being a guest and reading a paper on the practical topic assigned by the Club: "Shall we use the stereopticon in our church services?" The essayist, and nearly all the speakers in the subsequent discussion, answered the question in the affirmative. The American Presbyterian Church in Montreal has a few original Americans in it, many of them formerly Congregationalist, and it belongs to the Presbytery of New York. Dr. Barbour has supplied the pulpit of this church since Dr. Wells went to Minneapolis last autumn. The new pastor comes May 1.

A PLEA FOR LIBERTY.—I am the very last who wish to see woman ape man, but I contend that to be well-developed, strong, and healthy, is her natural birthright as well as man's, and that she should claim and not dis-

own such a birthright. For it is in man's interest quite as much as woman's that she should be strong, well-built, athletic, and capable of plenty of exercise and endurance. Many a puny man owes his wretched constitution to his physically restricted mother. Let us recognise these evident facts, and act upon them, and those who have girls, determine to give those girls a fair chance, and bring them up to be lithe, active, well-developed, self-reliant, and strong. I urge this, because I know how much happiness there is to be got out of a really healthy and hardy body, and how much misery a weak woman endures. But if we are to ride really well, shoot, fish, play cricket, tennis, run, row, bicycle or tricycle, we must make up our minds to dress like rational beings. No body can develop which is bound in like a wasp by those terrible corsets, no limbs can be truly strong, which, enthralled in a multiplicity of skirts, have no chance of natural movement. The most becoming and graceful portion of present-day woman's life is her early girlhood, before she has parted with her short dresses, the long hair down her back, and the freedom and permission to use her legs. Why cannot this style be continued in some graceful and becoming form, instead of in a straight jacket? It is not the men, as a rule, who oppose rational dress for woman; woman is, I am sorry to say, too often her own gaoler. 'Tis a great pity; but patience!—From the new journal, *The Gentlewoman*.

## Editorial Articles.

### THE WEAK CHURCHES.



E trust some well-considered plan will be adopted at the approaching annual meetings, to assist and stimulate the weak churches. Like as with the country in general, where the population drifts toward the cities, or away from our country altogether, to where business and wages are better—so with the country churches. Their most active members leave them; they find increasing difficulty in "paying a