

conclusions to which they point. It is particularly gratifying to note a substantial decrease in crime of almost all classes for the year 1892, the year up to which the figures are furnished. The report shows that drunkenness has not increased, that law and order are respected, and that the native-born population is much less criminal in its tendencies than the foreign born. Summing up the educational and religious influences, we have it stated that the benefit of education as repressive of crime is seen in the fact that in 1892 more than one fifth of the criminals were unable to read and write as against one sixth in the previous eight years. The illiterates are gradually increasing their proportion while criminals with elementary education are decreasing their proportion. As regards religious beliefs, Roman Catholics, Church of England and Baptists show a tendency to go beyond their proportion, while Methodists and Presbyterians have not contributed their proportionate number. Thus the Roman Catholics, in 1892, formed 48.8 per cent. of the total convicted criminals, and in the previous eight years they averaged 48.1 per cent. The proportion of Roman Catholics to the whole population of the Dominion, in 1891, was 41.21 per cent. They have therefore somewhat more of the crime charged to them than their relative numbers in the Canadian community warrant. The adherents of the Church of England have increased their proportion of convicted criminals from 16.2 per cent, in the 1884-91 period, to 18.3 per cent. in 1892, while by the census returns the proportion of the Church of England in the whole population was 13.37 per cent. On the other hand Methodists decreased their proportion of convicted criminals from 10.5 per cent. in 1884-91, to 9.8 per cent. in 1892, and Presbyterian criminals decreased from 7.3 to 7.1 per cent. The proportion of Methodists in the whole population, according to the census, is 17.41 per cent. and of Presbyterians 15.62 per cent. Thus each was considerably below the proportion of criminals that would fall to it from its relative position in the constituent elements of the population. The Presbyterians furnish a smaller quota to the criminal class than any other denomination. It is a matter of thankfulness, not of boast, that our denomination shows up so well in an official comparison, as is here given.

Sunday School Convention THE World's Sabbath School Convention held last week in St. Louis ought to be productive of much good. The Sabbath school is becoming more and more a necessary branch of Church work and its importance merits greater consideration than it has hitherto received. The gathering at St. Louis attracted leading men from abroad, among the London delegation being Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, Hon. Mr. Towers and Mr. Charles Waters. Canada sent a strong contingent whose reports ought to stimulate interest in the work of the Sabbath school. Among the subjects of more pressing importance discussed by the Convention were the International Lessons, Organization in the Church and Christian Literature.

The Opium Traffic. The recently issued regulations under which the opium traffic is conducted in Lower Burmah are giving satisfaction. The regulations limit the issues of opium to the quantity considered to be required for the use of registered habitual consumers above twenty-five years of age. By this restriction it is believed that in the course of a reasonable time the habit will die out. In

Upper Burmah the traffic is altogether prohibited and the results have so far been good. The Indian Finance Minister estimates that the loss of revenue through these regulations will be one and a half millions of rupees, but the arrestment of a destructive traffic and the deliverance of the community from its blighting influence will naturally increase the prosperity of the people, and so recoup the exchequer by the increase of its more legitimate revenue.

The Spread of Ritualism. ARCHDEACON FARRAR's trenchant article in the *Contemporary Review*, on the growth of ritualism in the Church of England, to which we recently drew attention, has been reprinted in Toronto by Mr. S. H. Blake, President of the Protestant Churchmen's Union, for distribution in Canada. It can be had from J. B. Ryan, 58 Bay Street, Toronto. * * * A reply to Dr. Farrar has come from Canon Knox-Little, in the course of whose defence of ritualism is the following definition: "Priests on earth, ordained according to his will, in succession from his apostles, have a ministerial but real priesthood, not vicarious. They present our sacrifice (once for all offered on the cross as a sacrifice of blood and sorrow) before God the Father 'as a perpetual memorial of his passion,' sacramentally on every altar of the Church."

Foreign Mission Reports. IN the office of the secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee (Rev. R. P. Mackay, Confederation Life Building, Toronto) are a number of copies of the report presented to the last General Assembly by the Foreign Mission Committee. These are designed for distribution among ministers and office-bearers of the Church, and will be gladly sent free of charge to applicants. The Church members ought to be well informed on our great Mission Field and for facts on the subject no better source is available than this report. Communications should be addressed as above.

Christian Literature. WHAT is being done by the Presbyterian Church in the United States to place good literature within reach of its people is shown in a brief statement just issued by the Board of Publication and Sabbath school work of Philadelphia. The Publication House dates from the year 1854, when a number of loyal Presbyterians who had been impressed by the necessity of having a permanent place for the home of the "Publication Committee," purchased premises by means of contributions of Philadelphia Presbyterians. The activities of the Board are under the supervision of three general supervisory committees, the Sabbath school and Missionary Committee, the Editorial Committee, and the Business Committee, the names indicating the nature of the work undertaken by the Board. Among the publications issued are *The Westminster Teacher*, *The Westminster Question Book* and five or ten others, whose chief aim is to reach the young. The scope of the Board's publications is thus well defined. Its list of books specially designed for Sabbath school libraries comprises more than 600 volumes, many of which have been widely circulated and are to be found in the Sabbath school libraries of almost all denominations. It publishes a large number of volumes of a practical character, designed to inculcate true piety and to lead to devotional exercises and habits. Its hymn-books, which were prepared under the directions of the General Assembly, have had an aggregate sale of more than 450,000 copies.