

IV.—THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

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Evangelization of Cities. In addition to Dr. Sherwood's article, we give simply a few hints in the form of paragraphs and notes.

1. *The Modern Decadence.* "There is a picture in the Luxembourg Gallery at Paris, the 'Decadence of the Romans,' which made the fame and fortune of Couture, the painter. It represents an orgie in the court of a temple during the last days of Rome. A swarm of revelers occupy the middle of the picture, wreathed in elaborate intricacy of luxurious posture, men and women intermingled; their faces, in which the old Roman fire scarcely flickers, brutalized with excess of every kind; their heads of disheveled hair bound with coronals of leaves, while from goblets of an antique grace they drain the fiery torrent which is destroying them. Around the bacchanalian feast stand lofty upon pedestals the statues of old Rome, looking with marble calmness and the severity of a rebuke beyond words upon the revelers. A youth of boyish grace, a wreath woven in his tangled hair, and with red and drowsy eyes, sits listless from drunkenness and proffering a dripping goblet to the marble mouth of the statue. In the corner of the picture, as if just quitting the court—Rome finally departing—is a group of Romans with care-worn brows, and hands raised to their faces in melancholy meditation. In the very foreground of the picture, which is painted with all the sumptuous splendor of Venetian art, is a stately vase, around which hangs a festoon of gorgeous flowers, its end dragging upon the pavement. In the background, between the columns, smiles the blue sky of Italy, the only thing Italian not deteriorated by time. The careful student of this picture, if he has been long in Paris, is some day startled by detecting, especially in the faces of the women represent-

ed, a surprising likeness to the women of Paris, and perceives with a thrill of dismay that the models for this picture of decadent human nature are furnished by the very city in which he lives."—*Putnam's Monthly*, Feb., 1853.

Cities have always been the Citadels both of sin and of the Christian faith. "They were the first points of assault by primitive Christianity. They have ever determined, by their attitude toward religion, the position of nations and the destiny of men. It is therefore not strange that when Christ sent out His apostles to convert the world, He should have bidden them to begin their operations at the ecclesiastical capital of their native land. This law has never been changed. The spirit of our age, the trend of civilization, the pressing necessities of the world, the manifest exigencies and perils of the times, all combine to urge more and more faithful obedience to the Master's law and conformity to His method. Nothing has so marked the growth of America as the extraordinary development of our principal cities." They expand with marvelous rapidity. There is an unceasing activity in building operations all along the margins of their population. The drift is continually outward. In many the population doubles within a few decades, and the per cent. of increase is probably more rapid to-day than ever before. How shall we meet the obligations which these facts lay upon us?

Protection against Rum. Rockford, Ill., proposes a "Home Protection League," for the suppression of the dram-shop and the saloon; to pursue constantly, vigorously and persistently "the absolute overthrow of the dram-shop and beer-saloon." Entirely non-partisan, and free from alliances with any and every political party, it has but one