

SELECTIONS.

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

This convention was held last week in Kansas City, Mo. I had the pleasure of being present almost from the first to the last.

About six hundred delegates and visitors were present. These came from nearly all parts of the Union. Timothy Coop and his wife, and Joe Coop and Dr. McBride were there from England, and O'Shana Bar Jesus and Sergius Bar Moses were there all the way from far-off Persia. These two Persians are teachers in their own native land. One of them was a Catholic priest. They came to England to learn the gospel, and were immersed by C. H. Spurgeon. Then they fell into the company of disciples in England and came to this country to see us. In six months they have learned to speak the English language so well that their public addresses before the convention were well understood. They are men of good sense, and they have learned the great principles of the gospel. They will remain in this country in school long enough to learn more of the Bible, and then return to their own native Persia to re-open their school and to preach the gospel. They do not ask any support, only they want \$1,000 for a chapel in which to teach and to preach Jesus Christ. This \$1,000 was furnished by the convention. I regard the coming of these men as a providence of God. The way is now open to preach the gospel to Persia by native educated Persians.

I never saw a finer body of men and women than I beheld in this convention. I have been going to these conventions for more than twenty years, and I pronounce this one the best one I have ever attended. The harmony that prevailed throughout was beautiful to behold. There was no contention, no wrangling, no disputing. I have never before witnessed such benevolence and such bountiful giving. The giving was by hundreds of dollars. About \$20,000 were raised in that audience for missions.

The Foreign Society is about ten years old. It now has forty-three missionaries in foreign lands, and the missions are in a prosperous condition. God is opening to this society many doors of usefulness. The calls are constantly increasing, and the work of the society is constantly enlarging. It now costs over one hundred dollars a day to carry on the work of the society. This money comes from voluntary individual contributions from all parts of the country. One sister has given thirty thousand dollars to this society to have the gospel preached in foreign lands. It only costs about three per cent. to collect and send this money to the men in the field. About ninety-seven cents of every dollar sent in goes directly to the missionaries. It is an exhibition of great faith on the part of the missionaries to go to foreign lands and depend on the voluntary contributions of the friends of missions to support them. They will be supported. God will bless the people who are trying to send the gospel to every nation. And who shall say that individuals shall not co-operate in this way to send the gospel to the heathen? If the whole Church will not act in this matter, by all means let individuals thus co-operate. Let the gospel be preached to the heathen, and let good men rejoice in the work. I am a friend to this work, it is a good work, and I try to be ready for all good works. I want to bear my part in them.

The Foreign Society, the Woman's Board of Missions and the General Society were all represented in this convention. They are all doing a good work, and God is blessing their work, I can not give details here.

This was a convention for business, and not for pleasure. The convention was in session from 9 A.M. to 9 or 10 P.M., save a brief intermission for dinner and supper, which were served in the basement of the chapel. Two hundred and eighty persons sat down at a time to the hospitable table provided by the Kansas City Church. Everything was done decently and in order.

The spirit of the old convention was gone. The cranks and the hobbyists were conspicuously absent. There were no axes to grind. The spirit of love and harmony prevailed throughout. It seemed that everybody was on his best behavior and was trying to show the spirit of the Master, and trying to outvie his brother in advancing the Master's cause. It seems we are just beginning to learn to give. The giving was hearty, liberal, free and bountiful. It seemed blessed to give. It was joyful to see the rich giving by thousands. The Kansas City Church not only provided entertainment for the large convention, but it gave more than others. Quite a number of its members gave five hundred dollars each, and it seems to me that twenty-five or thirty of them

gave one hundred dollars each. It is now one of the richest churches among us, and one of the most bountiful givers.

The friends of Isaac Errett presented him with a purse of \$1,300 to enable him to take a much-needed vacation in Europe and in the Holy Land if he desires. B. J. Radford and A. M. Atkinson made very appropriate and beautiful presentation speeches, to which Bro. Errett responded in a happy and tender way. This was a most pleasing and tender episode. It moved many people to tears. Bro. Atkinson said that in this token of esteem they were moved by that good will toward men which the coming of Christ was to inaugurate in the world. Several persons gave one hundred dollars each to this fund, and they were happy in the giving.

Those who went up to this great gathering went home with their hearts fuller of the love of Christ, with holier desires, nobler purposes, and higher resolves to do more for the Master. For one I felt that it was good to be there. It has done me much good, and I am glad to say so.

Instead of finding fault with what others are doing, and saying ugly things about them, let us show a sweet spirit and go and do something for the Master ourselves. Christ wants workers and not complainers. To the work. Let us be up and doing. Time passes. The judgment hastens. Jesus will come. Let us be found working.

J. L. PARSONS.

TEMPERANCE.

THE SCOTT ACT.

The Canada Temperance Act was a compromise. The temperance people of the Dominion had poured into Parliament overwhelming petitions praying for total prohibition. The Scott Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament and accepted by temperance workers as a measure of temporary relief, to enable localities to stop the retail sale of liquor, and also as a means of expressing public sentiment on the question of prohibition. There are difficulties in the way of the enforcement of any local option law so well known that it is needless to recapitulate them and local option cannot become effective total prohibition. The practical working of the Scott Act in some localities has, however demonstrated the fact that honest officials can make prohibitory law successful. It has also demonstrated the other important fact that the people of Canada, as a whole, are in favour of the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating drink. The Scott Act has been voted upon in 93 contests in different parts of the Dominion. In 21 of these contests the liquor traffic has triumphed, and in the remaining 72 the sentiments of the people against strong drink have been unmistakably emphasized. Seven of the contests named have been on the question of repealing the Scott Act in places where it had been previously adopted, and, in every such case, the repeal movement was defeated. The electorate, so far polled, has given a net majority of about fifty thousand in favor of the law. Voters frequently declare that while they do not approve of the partial prohibition of the Scott Act, they would be ready to support a more thorough-going measure. It is fair to conclude that the sentiment in favor of total prohibition is, at least, as strong as that in favor of local option.—*Canada Citizen.*

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