

THE POST OFFICE. — Correspondents will notice that "printer's copy" sent to the Editor, must now be paid at the rate of 1c. for every 2oz. So with everything that is not book, magazine or newspaper. And even these, if sent to the United States, are now rated at 1c. for every 2oz. These, and the charge of 2c. instead of one, for drop-letters, where free delivery exists—a 5c. registration-fee—and the with-difficulty-averted impost on monthly publications, exasperate the public. But no doubt the P. M. General thought it was necessary to do something, to signalize his term of office. So did we once, when nine years old. We were installed for six months, in a school of 300 boys, as "Yard Monitor." There was a perfectly good axe in the wood-shed, used only for splitting kindling; but, we must signalize our term of office, and so we reported at the end of the quarter, "A new axe wanted": which was furnished in a few days, at the expense of the city of New York. The incident has often furnished us with a text; the latest application being that of the "new boy," in Miss Canada's School at Ottawa.

MISS STIRLING, of the Salvation Army, was imprisoned in Switzerland, for singing and praying on the streets. The case was appealed; and during the progress of the appeal she was allowed her liberty, on condition that if the appeal went against her, she would return for the rest of her sentence. It did go against her; and she did return from London to her prison! The English Congregational Union passed a resolution of sympathy with Miss Stirling. General Booth thus writes to Dr. Hannay, the Secretary:—

I congratulate you upon the brotherly and patriotic stand taken by your Union with regard to a matter which, not only the Government but the Christian and philanthropic bodies of this country have let pass without notice. Your action will not fade away from the memory of our people anywhere, and will be all the more noticed, if, as there seems every reason to fear, Miss Stirling's renewed imprisonment results in the complete wreck of her health, even her death. At the same time I rejoice with you in the certainty that this persecution like all the rest, will eventually result only in the furtherance of the Gospel. Your resolution is one of the latest signs we have had of the marvellous manner in which God is using the example of our humble men and women in every land to stir up the hearts, not only of their own comrades, but of every religious community, to greater boldness in the avowal of their convictions and sympathies, according to the will of Him who endured the Cross, despising the shame, for our sakes.

CHURCH-BUILDING. — A large amount of time is gratuitously given by the Board and

its Committees every month to the most careful consideration of all matters touching this work. In no spirit of dictation, but with courteous urgency, the Board spends not a little time in leading applicants for aid in building to start right. Have you a lot on which to build? Is the title to it clear and absolute? Is it paid for? Is the deed for it duly recorded? are among the questions that have to be asked in far too many cases. The Board takes the ground that it is always better for the church proposing to build a house of worship, or parsonage, to own the land, rather than that the Union or any other outside party should own it. It urges its churches in buying or accepting the gift of land for church uses to allow no conditional clause in the deed; not even the gift of land "for a Congregational Church." It takes the ground that such deeds do, not convey the land, but only the use of the land; that if left, it is lost; that it was not given to be left or sold, but only to be used; that when left it reverts to its former owners or their heirs. Hence it refuses aid where there is not an absolute title.—*From the Church-Building Quarterly, the organ of the American Congregational Union.*

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## Editorial Articles.

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### PROVISION FOR AGED MINISTERS.

When, in 1873, the idea of making some provision for aged ministers was brought into a practical form by the Provident Fund Society, it did not seem impossible or unlikely that a suitable provision would really be made, to meet this urgent and increasing want. But the endowment grew very slowly; the Churches took the flower of a man's life for their service, and then let him go, to get "a younger man," and did not even contribute to the Fund that proposed to aid him in his declining years. Rich men died, and did not even seek to make up for their lack of generosity by leaving (what they could not take with them) to this Fund. And when a generous friend of another denomination, like Senator Macdonald, lamented the poor provision for "your worn-out ministers," as he expressed it, his offered gift of a hundred dollars found its way to the equally-