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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 1909.

A thoughtful article by Professor Adolph Harnack, the distinguished German theologian, upon "International and National Christian Literature," is the leading feature of THE LIVING AGE for September 25.

The vote last week in Montreal gave a great jolt to the grafters. We see that fears are expressed in some quarters that the citizens will not follow up their votes by a determined effort to have the right men on the board of Control. The fears, we believe, are groundless. The citizens, knowing the immense interests at stake, will not be satisfied with anything short of a complete change in their civic administration.

Among the evil habits of growing lads and young men seriously complained of must be reckoned gathering in groups at street corners, spending the evening in disgraceful talk and insulting the passers-by. When policemen are more than ordinarily watchful they disperse the young scamps. No sooner are they scattered than they reassemble elsewhere and continue their disgusting pastime. This evil is to be found in large cities, but is by no means confined to them. It is met with and deplored in towns and villages throughout the country. A more irrational method of spending the evening hours can scarcely be thought of. Healthful and innocent recreation, a quiet walk into the country, reading, and such like, would be much more preferable and certainly more profitable. One thing is clear, that young people who mispend their leisure time in loafing about street corners are on the down-track. For their own safety they cannot too soon bethink themselves, and abandon a course that leads to disaster and covers them and their friends with shame. Parents, guardians and all who have the care of youth ought to use their influence to put down one of our disgraceful Canadian institutions, street-corner rowdism.

DIVORCE TRIALS.

Six or seven divorce cases are already entered for trial by the Canadian House of Lords at the next session of Parliament. It is more than time that provision was made for trying such cases by another and more efficient tribunal. We intend no disrespect to the Senate when we say that that august body does not discharge the functions of a court of law very well. But even if the tribunal were perfect the present system of trying divorce cases is highly objectionable. It is class legislation of the most odious kind. The law provides a remedy for the rich but none for the poor. To tell a poor man to go to Ottawa and get an Act of Parliament drawn up, to bring his witnesses there and perhaps keep them there for weeks, to pay enormously high fees to counsel for attending to his case before a committee of the Senate—to tell a man to do this who has no money is to add insult to injury. No poor man can do it. No man of moderate means can do it without running the risk of ruining himself financially. To tell a poor woman to do all this is to mock her misery. A rich man or woman can get rid of a partner that has violated the marriage vow; but a poor person must suffer without any remedy.

The most galling thing about it is that the injured party may have to support the profligate. Cases are continually occurring in which men have to support their wives living in open sin, and injured wives have to help to maintain debauchees who do nothing for the home but pollute it and take their meals in it.

We are no advocates of "divorce made easy," but we do contend for a proper court to grant swift divorces at a reasonable cost for Scriptural reasons. The absurdity of the present system is further seen from the fact that after the evidence has all been put in and the bill giving relief has passed the Senate and two readings in the Commons, it is certain to be thrown out on the third reading if a majority of the House happens to be composed of Roman Catholics. What a cruel farce!

The Montreal Standard's Special Number has come to hand, and is a most creditable production. It has a magnificent cover in colors, painted by one of America's best known artists. The Number contains nearly 150 half-tone plates devoted to subjects of general interest, and has two superb panoramic views of Montreal suitable for framing. The printing is first class, and we understand that many thousands of the issue have been sent to friends abroad. In looking over the numerous illustrations given of five commercial and public buildings, one could not help noticing the entire absence of Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, while Anglican and Roman Catholic Church edifices are given a prominent place.

The congregation of St. Paul's, Ottawa, has decided not to hear candidates in the vacant pulpit. A committee, with Mr. John McKinley as chairman, has been appointed, with instructions to look out a suitable successor to Dr. Armstrong, and report to the congregation.

ONE FEATURE OF REVIVALISM.

We approve of revivals when they grow up spontaneously and not when they are gotten up artificially. In the former case, results promise to be permanently good; in the latter, a number of persons are suddenly precipitated upon the religious life with no security of permanence. This must certainly be accounted an evil. In the Methodist system, the minister is bound to hold revival services once a year on his circuit, and he does it as a matter of routine, without any reference to whether the conditions are such as to render the work permanently useful. Thus, annually, special services are held, and numbers of people under excitement are precipitated upon the religious life, the great majority of which sink back in a little while into their old ways. We do not favor revivals by almanac dates; but wherever there seems a prospect of permanent good being done, we would be only too glad to see the attempt made.

But there is one feature in the revivalism of the present to which we take exception, and we think on good grounds. A revivalist visits a place, and either before he begins his work he stipulates for absolute control of the arrangements, or without any stipulation he assumes all control, and next to ignores the pastor and church officials altogether. Everybody is to give way for the visitor; all other plans are to be subordinated to his. And the coolness with which this is frequently done goes to show that this is considered the right thing.

Now, we do not account it either right or prudent that the regular servants of a church should be bowed out, or left to the minor task of "pronouncing the benediction," that a man who is here to-day and gone to-morrow, and who is responsible to nobody, may follow his sweet will. And this view is not based upon any fear that church officers will suffer from loss of dignity. For we do not care about hurting dignity, as it is only a very artificial thing at best. But we base it on prudence, on a desire that the good done may be permanently done. From this standpoint we judge that instead of a revivalist assuming to control a church he should help the church, being more of a servant than a dictator. Sometimes a church may be warranted in handing over the management to men of much experience and much honored by God in the work; but such cases must be deemed exceptional. Generally, the minister of the church should be at the head of revival efforts, backed up by the more earnest and godly members of his flock. Then the many unpleasantnesses and dissensions which revivals sometimes leave in churches might be avoided. And, also, the revival itself would not be so likely to depart with the revivalist as it so frequently does.

At the meeting of The British Association in Dublin last September Sir James Grant gave to the scientific world the results of almost a lifetime of research on the Blood Making Machinery of the System. As years pass on, the blood centres are liable to become defective in power, and as blood is the very basis of life, a lessening of vitality is certain to follow. Sir James Grant defined how massage and electricity combined add greatly to blood formation, giving new life and increased vitality to the system. This advance in science is attracting wide attention.