

large city congregations, where music has in many ways been improved, the congregation do not join in the singing. They prefer to listen admiringly to the finely trained voices of the choir, and the organ accompaniment. They seem to be afraid to swell the volume of praise lest they mar a fine performance. This has an injurious effect. Spiritually minded worshippers feel as if this was a perversion of public worship. To them it appears to be the substitution of an artistic performance for the heart-felt and solemn out-pouring of the soul in sacred song as an act of sacred worship. The expectation seems reasonable that such a state of things is transition. The more general diffusion of musical culture will make it for the body of worshippers "a pleasant thing to sing praises to our God."

PREPARING FOR CAMPAIGN.

Messrs. A. E. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and R. W. Allin, Secretary of the Laymen's Movement in the Anglican Church, left last week for the west on a preliminary visit to the points suggested as possible centres for the meetings to be held throughout the Dominion during the season of 1909-10. The campaign is to begin the last week in this month, and is to take the form of district conferences in central cities and towns. A group of laymen, board secretaries, returned missionaries and others from Toronto and elsewhere will undertake a tour of the western points, starting from Winnipeg on the 22nd of October. The work is interdenominational. Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Allin will be together for a good part of the preliminary trip, and will be assisted by Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, the Baptist Laymen's Movement Secretary, who is already in Manitoba. Mr. Allin will return about the end of October, and Rev. Canon L. N. Tucker, General Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada, will represent the Anglican Board on the delegation in the campaign. Mr. Armstrong will remain and take part in the campaign, and will not be back till the end of November.

About fifteen men are going on the delegation, representing the boards and the different Laymen's Movements. Probably one layman will go from Ottawa, one from Montreal, and two or three from Winnipeg, the rest being from Toronto. It is expected that Dr. J. M. Waters of the Presbyterian Movement will accompany the party to take charge of the literature which is to be used on the campaign explaining the Laymen's Movement.

On Saturday last death suddenly removed Mr. Peter Larmonth, a greatly respected citizen, and for 28 years a faithful elder of St. Andrew's Church. At the morning service Rev. Dr. Herridge made feeling reference to his demise, and at the close the Kirk session met and passed the following resolution: "The Kirk session of St. Andrew's church desires to record its deep sense of the loss sustained by the whole church through the death of one of its members, Mr. Peter Larmonth. For more than 28 years he was an elder, and the session has the most sincere appreciation of the services he rendered with so much zeal and conscientiousness. For some time he was the faithful superintendent of the branch Sunday school in Lower Town, and in various other ways he has cheerfully given to the church his earnest thought and care, enriching its spirit and leaving behind him many grateful and affectionate memories. The session would convey to the bereaved widow and sons its profound sympathy and would earnestly pray that in this sudden shock of grief they may be graciously strengthened and consoled by God."

INDIA'S DEGRADATION.

Rev. D. F. Smith is one of the most recent appointments to India. His letter reads like first impressions of a new country:

Dear Dr. Mackay: Allow me to report my movements. The Council sent me to Neemuch in order to acquire the language, and I could not have been sent to a better place than the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mackay.

The next Council sent me to Ujjain on the 9th Nov., in company with Dr. and Mrs. Nugent and a band of Christian workers. We went into camp and remained until March. When we returned the great "Mela" was on, which you have heard about. It is an important event, occurring once in twelve years. Many thousands of weary pilgrims came to bathe in the holy river and wash away the twelve year old accumulation of sin in the life-giving stream. I have no pleasure in describing it. It is a horrid nightmare. Pictures that might be sent would be considered indecent and are prohibited.

We sold 411 Scripture portions and 1,000 other Christian books, but it was on the whole rather a hindrance than a help. The last was the great day of the feast. The Maharajah of Gwalior was to take part in the proceedings, and a gorgeous pavilion was erected on the river front. The seething, swaying multitudes! Every tower and roof and window was freighted with a human cargo.

Then the procession of 40,000 Gurnas, or holy men, led by flags and insignia of the different orders on elephants. As one of their doctrines is that clothes are a mark of sin, and the wearing of clothes the greatest sin, the rest can be imagined. A procession of 40,000 in the midst of hundreds of thousands of interested believers interested and hungering for something they do not find. The police had a hard time, but did, on the whole, very well. When the Gurnas reached the river they immersed themselves and then passed away from the crowd to their solitary meditations.

When some of the people are asked what they got at the "Mela," the answer is, "We saw a vision—men wholly given up to the service of God." One poor old hungry man said, "Can you tell why I get nothing? I have visited all the sacred places. Others say they get visions, I get nothing. If I could get just one vision I would be satisfied."

These holy men live on the villagers. But not to teach or help, simply to beg, to be supported, whilst they seek their own salvation through emotional excitement—ecstasy. They have no thought for the people's good, who are sheep without a shepherd.

Health continues perfect. The work and the people are full of interest to me. May the Lord of the harvest send us more laborers and more power. Yours with best wishes,

D. F. SMITH.

Ujjain, June 23, 1909.

The Ottawa Presbytery has passed the following motion, nominating Principal Brandt, of the Pointe aux Trembles mission school, for the vacancy on the staff of the Montreal Presbyterian College: "Inasmuch as there is at present a vacancy on the staff of the Montreal College, this presbytery respectfully suggests for the consideration of the college board the question whether in view of the position which the college holds to the Church at large, and especially in relation to the interests of French evangelization, it would be wise to add to the staff of the college Principal Brandt, of the Pointe-aux-Trembles mission school." Principal Brandt would be an acquisition to the teaching staff of Montreal College, and it is to be hoped the college board may see its way to an early appointment.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

The Interior: No one can get much from the Lord's day who does not shut out a thousand things, innocent in themselves, but just now intrusive, because he would talk with God.

New York Observer: Our theology must be true to all the attributes of God, and we have no right to erect one quality; such as love, into a position of entire separateness from the other and qualifying attributes of the divine nature.

Herald and Presbyter: Though life lead us through some dreary desert, we must not make our abode there. A goodly, fruitful land lies beyond. Pitch your tent in the desert only so long as the passage through it may require, and remember that your residence is in a land of eternal glories.

Cumberland Presbyterian: If cleanliness is next to godliness, then the cleanest place in the world ought to be the church house. But is it always so? Men and women who would not be willing to receive company in a dirty home sometimes gather for worship in a building which deserves to be called filthy.

Christian Standard: Any student of the world's history knows that the Bible is the palladium of liberty and good Government. When our fundamental moral ideas are removed, the whole fabric of human society will be destroyed. Not only the Church, but the family and State, become as broken idols of the market-place under the new teaching, and religious, political and social anarchy results.

Presbyterian Standard:—The wiser ones, off guard, and the less intelligent, are heard betimes to say that to be a Christian is an easy task. But not so. Doing no good thing is easy, it may be said, in this life. Evil is ever present and readily done. Good is difficult of performance. Holiness is what we want, but it comes high. Character has a costly price. Our thanks go up to God for all needed wisdom and strength in our struggles for a better life and the assurance of grace sufficient for victory at last.

Lutheran Observer: On the supposition that this life is the only one we are ever to have, it seems impossible to vindicate the justice of the administration of the world. But if death closes only one chapter of our existence the chapters that follow may bring the solution of what now appears so tangled and confused. That such will actually be the case we are assured in Scripture. What is crooked here will be made straight yonder. The wicked shall not go unpunished and innocent suffering shall have its compensation in a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Dr. Andrew Murray returned to his home at Wellington at the close of July, after visiting many of the Dutch Reformed churches in South Africa in the interests of foreign missions. He expressed himself to me (writes a correspondent of the British Weekly) as profoundly grateful for the response, made in a time of financial depression, to his appeals. About £9,000 has been promised, nearly twice the sum aimed at. He presided, on August 3, at a farewell meeting in Cape Town to three volunteers for the Sudan Mission, and gave a most impressive charge, based on our Lord's commission, speaking with fine spiritual insight on its fourfold dimensions: "All power" (the height of His glory), "All the world" (the depth of His sacrificial love), "All things" (the breadth of His claim for universal obedience), "Always" (the length of His energizing power in His witnesses). It was an inspiration to find this veteran prophet so full of strength and fire, with such keen interest in great world movements.