

that correspondence is going on between the different Governments, with a view to decreasing their armies. This we take as a hopeful sign of the growing influence of the gospel of peace—another stage in the fulfilment of *Isaiah's glowing prophecy*, when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." The example of Great Britain, and the United States of America, settling grave international differences by arbitration, has been an object lesson to the nations, which is at last beginning to tell. The old inglorious motto—*Might is Right*—is now to be reversed, and *righteousness bear rule*. This is another sign of the widening empires of the Prince of Peace, who yet "shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth."

#### Sabbath Desecration.

We regret to observe that a second Sunday newspaper has made its appearance in Montreal. It was sad enough to know that one newspaper could be successfully launched in any Canadian city. But here are two in our city, both in English. It is gratifying, however, to be assured that none of the dailies in that city have shown any desire to publish an edition on Sunday, as is done in many American cities. It is to be hoped that both of these ventures will fail. They are not wanted. They are in the interests of neither morals nor religion. They are a sign of moral and spiritual declension not of progress. We earnestly hope that the good Christian people of Montreal will withhold their patronage from the papers, for the sake of God, of themselves and of their families.

#### Death of a Brilliant Scholar.

"Professor Robertson Smith" is dead. Scarcely more than these few words are to be found in the cablegram, yet what associations do they not call up. Professor Robertson Smith has passed away in the full prime of life so far as years and work go, yet he lived to write his name indelibly on the marble of Scottish Church History. A son of a Free Church manse one member of a family every member of which was distinguished for gifts of mind, he was reared in an atmosphere of learning. He may be said to have lisped in Hebrew. It has been stated that at the age of six he could read the Bible in the original tongue. His career as a student was most successful. Aberdeen was his Alma Mater, and that mother of distinguished sons could point to none more brilliant and to few more renowned. He became a professor in the Free Church College of Aberdeen and while hold that office his writings attracted attention for their advanced tendency and they ultimately furnished the material for one of the bitterest controversies that divided the Church. A majority of his brethren sympathized with his views on the Pentateuch and other Old Testament writings, but it was found expedient that he should be relieved of his chair, and it was so. He then went to Cambridge, oriental languages and latterly the librarianship occupy his attention there. The Free Church would have settled the differences of opinion without having recourse to the extreme step of dismissal. So much for the change of opinion and to attribute observable on every hand.

**What All Can Do.** Words of cheer are words of help. Words of gloom are words of harm. There is a bright side and a dark side to every phase of life, and to every hour of time. If we speak of the bright side, we bring the brightness into prominence; if we speak of the dark side we deepen its shadows. It is in our power to help or to hinder by a word any and every person whom we are with. If we see a look of health or of hope in the face of an acquaintance whom we casually meet, and we tell him so, he goes on his way with new life in his veins. If we see a look of failing strength and of heaviness of heart in one to whom we speak, and we emphasize the fact that he looks poorly, we give him a push downward as our contribution to the forces which affect his course. A look or a word can help or harm our fellows. It is for us to give cheer or gloom as we pass on our way in life; and we are responsible for the results of our influence accordingly.—*Ex.*

**Sound Advice:** Says an Exchange: "These words **Take it.** from the *Central Christian Advocate* should be read by all, here merely substituting Presbyterian for 'Methodist': Put the church paper at the head of your periodical list. It is surely unwise to cut off that paper and leave the family little chance to get in touch with the great enterprises and movements of the church to which they belong. How can they be intelligent church members under such circumstances? It is especially important that they should be informed about their own work. It marches in the van. It does not belong to the reserve corps. It is on the line of battle where that line has been pushed farthest toward the enemy. Its movements must be prompt and steady. Its companies must move together. If it were a body of skirmishers, there might be room for much independent action on the part of each soldier. But this is the van of the army itself, and its success depends upon its unity of action. Each soldier must know something of what his fellows are doing. You must keep posted if you would be a good Methodist in these days." To all of which we unreservedly subscribe.

**Rev. Dr. Middle-** Our readers will be pleased to know **miss.** that Rev. Dr. Middlemiss has arranged to sail from Liverpool by the *Etruria* on the 14th inst., and that he hopes to reach Guelph by the end of this month. The rev. doctor has been in Scotland for about one year, having gone as a deputy to the Free Church Jubilee celebration. On account of indisposition he remained in Scotland until now, when, on account of the general improvement in his health he has turned his face home wards. After a short stay in Guelph he will settle down in beautiful Elora, where for nearly forty years he was the honored pastor of a loving congregation.

**A Test of Faith.** Not when things look bright, but when all is gone except God and self, is the time to endure and be brave, and to evidence true manhood. Never to give up, but ever to keep up and to keep at it, is the duty and the test of heroism in times that are hard and in hours that are dark. When the battle is before and behind, when the enemy outnumber us overwhelmingly, when his stronghold stands impregnable across our path, when defeat or death seems our only choice, then let us, in God's strength, rise to the issue as it is, and let our inspiring call ring out in the gloom of night, for God's sake, for our fellows' sake, and for our own sake.