

## SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

The interior: The only way to beat a fog is to rise above it. You cannot blow it to pieces with artillery. You cannot dissipate it by searchlights. But you can leave it below you. Get into the higher regions; for there it never comes. From some lofty height in the great mountains of the world we have looked down one vast sea of fog which filled all the procumbent valleys; but where we stood the sun was shining in his strength, and for leagues and leagues around us glittered a world of beauty as untouched of shadow as the walls of the New Jerusalem. He who dwells upon the heights dwells in safety, because there alone he dwells in light.

Presbyterian Witness: Scotland is a country that ought to set an example of sobriety before the world. Unfortunately she has not done so. She is not doing so now. On the contrary, her exhibitions of intemperate habits are a scandal and a shame. There is improvement, but its coming is slow and uncertain. The Churches are stepping to the front with courage and firmness.

Southwestern Presbyterian: Those pastors who fear to press the benevolent causes of the church at large, lest it interfere with the support of themselves, usually find that this support will very soon leave them; whereas, the pastor who is faithful to urge his people to generous giving to benevolence is himself better cared for, as a direct result.

Herald and Presbyterian: God sometimes takes severe measures to fit his children for his service. Bereavements, pains, and losses oftentimes prove to be God's messengers to do a work in the hearts of those whom he loves and whom he would fit for usefulness in his kingdom.

United Presbyterian: An unworthy son may prove recreant to his mother's love and to the early teaching of the fireside. But someday the memory of that sainted mother will rise before him and stand there until the tears come to his eyes and prayers to his lips. At such a time he would give all that he has gained through disobedience to be just like her. There is no faith like the faith of a Christian mother and there are few influences that will arrest the waywardness of men like the remembrance of her.

Christian Observer: As the eldership is the pastor's right arm, so the Ladies' Society might be made his left arm, for efficient pastoral work. Doubtless the church societies generally would be glad to open wide their doors, and give a cordial welcome to the outsiders who are slow to push themselves forward, and new residents who are not yet affiliated with any church. The members of these societies are thrown into social relations with many whom the minister does not know. They would render valuable service in drawing them to the church, as well as in finding work for them to do when in the church. The church societies in many churches would enlarge their usefulness, if the invitation were made general, and not limited to those who are already members of the society.

An exchange says that "salvation is the cheapest thing on earth." A mistake. Salvation is not cheap. It cost Christ his life, and no man gets it but by giving himself. It is free, but not cheap.

Cumberland Presbyterian—To those who advance in the Christian life, however, there comes a time when they are swayed not by impulse nor by feeling, but by principle, founded upon broad conceptions of truth and right which themselves grow and broaden and develop with the passing years.

## ORANGEVILLE PRESBYTERY.

This presbytery met on September 12th in Orangeville. Call from Mono Mills to Kingston Davey of Sunbury was sustained. Kingston presbytery meets to consider same Sept. 28th. Hildburg has agreed to call R. S. Scott of Metz. Question by J. A. Matheson as to ministers performing immersion was referred to committee for report. In future the preacher at inductions will not be last man inducted, but one chosen for suitability. Presbytery arranged for Y. P. S. convention to be held in Caledon Nov. 13th. Mr. Robertson, secretary of Sabbath schools, will address the convention, and on 14th presbytery, on Sabbath school topics.

Mr. Edmison reported that the allocation for the augmentation fund would be raised, as most of the congregations had arranged to this end. Each minister in turn reported methods of finance used in his field. Mr. Buchanan was instructed to revise and print a schedule of instructions as to the best methods to develop Christian liberality. Special meetings are to be held, beginning Oct. 1st, at Levendale, the new mission station in presbytery. Some time was spent considering several matters as directed by General Assembly. Next meeting of presbytery November 11th, at 10.30 a.m., in Knox church, Caledon.

## TORONTO.

At Westminster church on Sunday evening Rev. Mr. Neil, who returned recently from a tour of Europe, spoke on his impressions of the religious life in the old land. No one, he said, could see the magnificent structures, such as the Cologne Cathedral and many others, without being impressed with the powerful hold religion had upon the people of the past. Likewise in the art galleries and in the homes of the people. The amount of drinking in Europe and London was great, but it was decreasing rapidly, through the efforts of temperance workers. In England the life in the slums was appalling, but the work of the medical and other missionaries was bringing about a revolution. The observance of the Sabbath was more respected in England than on the continent. In London and Edinburgh he had seen more people going to church than in any city with the exception of Toronto. The effect of the Welsh revival was being felt upon the preaching of the ministry, literary sermons giving place to evangelical discourses. He predicted that the whole of Great Britain would be influenced. Church life had grown greatly, and religious life in the home was warm. Never had greater efforts been on foot to reclaim the masses.

Rev. John B. Pyke's article in the Dominion Presbyterian of two weeks ago on "The Modern Boarding House" is sufficiently suggestive and practical to entitle it to serious attention at the hands of Christian ministers and religious organizations of city churches. It is much to be feared that there is wide-spread neglect of young men and young women who have come in from the country and are compelled to live in boarding houses. It is true that these young people should be wise enough in their own interests to seek association with city churches of the same denomination they attended in the country. Some do this, but the majority do not, and they go a-drifting, very often with unfortunate results. If these young people will not take the course suggested—if they do not seek out the pastors of the churches to which they nominally belong, there does not seem to be any way of dealing with the problem, except by the city ministers and their helpers seeking them out and inviting them to the churches of which they are pastors. We are persuaded there is great need for such work being done in Ottawa, as well as in other cities, and the necessity is every year becoming more pressing. The longer it is neglected the greater becomes the difficulty of dealing with the problem. We hope the article to which we refer will receive the earnest attention it deserves.

Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Three Rivers, Clerk of Presbytery, Quebec, has returned to his home and his work after a brief holiday trip to the mother land.

## EMACIATED CHRISTIANS

Church-going is not merely a habit, it is a duty and a very profitable and pleasant one. When the house of God is neglected it is both a sign of coldness and a producer of indifference. No one ought ever wilfully to neglect the courts of God. He thereby shows dishonor to God and indifference to his people. But the greatest loss is to himself. The soul starves for want of spiritual nourishment when our Father's house is forsaken. Some may indeed go to the church services, and still famish, but those who neglect them will certainly become emaciated Christians, if they be Christians at all.—Christian Instructor.

What does Malachi mean when he asks: "Will a man rob God?" He gives the answer: "In tithes and offerings." This is the trenchant fashion in which a writer in the Christian Observer emphasizes the prophet's answer: "The command from God, the plain and unequivocal command to lay aside one tenth of our income for him, is openly and flagrantly disobeyed by the vast majority of his followers. God says that only nine tenths of what we have and make belongs to us. If we keep the other tenth we are robbers, and whom are we robbing? Not our fellow-men, that is bad enough; but robbing our Maker, the good Lord who has filled our lives with blessing! A little reflection will convince any one that the pilfering or wilful diversion of such a large part of the money that belongs to the Lord, is the direct cause of the empty church treasury today, rendering it financially unable to properly carry on its work. That it is in a crippled condition in this respect, no one will deny, and that too, at a time of unprecedented opportunity." "There is food for thought in this presentation of the case. But why should redeemed sinners be content with giving back merely the tenth to God?"

Sir James Crichton Browne, in an address delivered recently at the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Great Britain, said that the environmental condition of the people most urgently in need of consideration was their housing. From all parts of the country came complaints of overcrowding in wretched dwellings. In London, 500,000 persons were living in one-room tenements, in which privacy and decency were impossible. That the townman was short-sighted than the countryman was incontrovertible. Real relief of the present state of affairs was to be obtained only by establishing an outflow from the centre to the circumference. In all civilized countries of the world—and the larger and more populous their cities are the more marked is the overcrowding—there is a continuous drift of people from the rural districts to the cities and towns, generally with unhappy results in the majority of cases. As a remedy for this condition of things philanthropists and the managers of public charities are raising the cry "back to the land." The problem is: how to make effectual and successful application of such a remedy. It may be that the colonizing plan of the Salvation Army is in some degree what is wanted, and a movement in the right direction. At any rate the practical results of their plan will be watched with interest.

Rev. Guthrie Perry, B.A., recently appointed professor in Manitoba College, has received the degree Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig in Germany.

A son of the Rev. Dr. Scott, editor of the Presbyterian Record, is to proceed to China as a medical missionary. He is spending some months in charge of a hospital at St. John, N.B.