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"HARD TIMES" test relative values. Church contributions and religious newspapers feel the pressure of a financial stress. Whisky and tobacco keep well up to the normal level. Only the luxuries of life suffer; the necessities must be had. In connection with the notice of the failure of a prominent tobacconist and cigarette maker, it was mentioned that he was involved in outside enterprises, and therefore broke down, there being no falling off in his regular business. Men cling to that which they love best.—*S. S. Times*.

"THE Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but He thrusteth away the desire of the wicked." (Prov. x: 3). The desire to maintain and extend slavery was opposed to the principles of Christ's kingdom. God thrust it away. The nation has been prospered thereby, and new enterprise marks the "New South." Slaves were emancipated, and so were the inventive and industrial forces of the South. The recent invention of the "cotton harvester," which does the work of thirty men, is destined to help to revolutionize its labor problem. The Lord will not permit a nation to suffer for its righteousness.—*Ex.*

THE New York *Christian Advocate* tells of a Christian Chinaman who faithfully served a family that professed religion. His mistress gave a "progressive euchre" party, and had wines on the table. John was called upon to serve the party and did so with great acceptability. The next morning however, he waited upon the lady and said he wished to quit work. Astonished, she asked the reason. John answered: "I Christian man. Tole you so before; no heathen. No workee for Melican heathen." He insisted on leaving, and sought a place where Jesus was not thus stabbed in the house of his professed friends.

BEHIND all the clamor for pulpit oratory there lies the notion that somehow the preacher is to do it all. There is a Protestant sacerdotalism only less injurious than the Roman

Catholic type. The preacher is not to do it all. If Christianity is to prevail in any community, it must be by each Christian's exercising his gifts for the cause of Christ. The people who long for an "eloquent" preacher could probably make their minister, if he is a good man, adapted to his place, eloquent enough for all practical purposes, by rallying about his ministry, and not depending on him to "draw" them as well as those who care nothing for religion.—*The Watchman*.

THE AULD KIRK BELL.—Appropos of the recent purchase by St. Andrew's Church, Galt, of the old bell—which had passed into private hands, but which was first hung in the old "Kirk" in 1835, and which we have often heard when a boy—Dr. Jackson, in a sermon, concluded thus:

A bell once was cracked, and the clapper made a great clamor about his fate—that he should be forever joined to a cracked bell—a crowd had gathered to hear the complaint of the clapper, when the matter was referred to Diogenes, the Cynic. He heard the clapper's complaint, and then gave his judgment: "The clapper is wholly to blame. First, you cracked the bell, and then it would never be known that it was cracked if the clapper did not tell it." The Doctor left the application to everyone's own conscience. Well, we thought of some people who air the family troubles in public; of some Canadians who expose their country to shame; and even of some Christians who do not cover up the sins of their own people.

THE GIGGLING HABIT.—A serious aspect of the giggling habit is that it is so nearly incorrigible. Mannerisms of all kinds strike their roots deep, but "He! he!" and "Ha! ha" become part and parcel of the offenders against reason and taste. That which makes the listener nervous to irritability, fretting the amiable into a desire to smother the meaningless cackle in the throat which gives it birth, if he cannot escape beyond hearing of it, is practiced involuntarily by the habitual laugher. Like the famous button on the learned advocate's coat, with which he fumbled incessantly while pleading, the giggle would, if suddenly taken away, deprive its slave of the power of speech. To command gravely temperate articulation would be to strike dumb.—*Harper's Bazar*.

THE PLEBISCITE.—Ontario has spoken in thunder tones, on the subject of the Liquor-business. If Governments are "The People Governing Themselves," then we must have the dangerous and nefarious traffic put an end to. No more will statesmen feel free to license