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AN UNWILLING ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to have to announce that our printer has rebelled against the additional pages introduced into our last number. We shall, therefore, be compelled, for the present, at least, to return to our original size. But we have gained three columns by reducing our advertisements to that extent. We are thus enabled to furnish our patrons with three columns more reading matter, and trust that they will bear with us for a few issues. We are getting the paper made, and in the course of a month will appear in a new and much enlarged form.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

This question is not to be settled on the platform, or by the crude thoughts and acts of unregulated minds. It is a social problem which demands, and is receiving, the best thought of some of the foremost men of the day. It is freely recognized in England as the national sin, which, if not checked, will destroy the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race. And the Church in England is grappling with the evil. Her Bishops and clergy are putting forth her vast power in remedy, and with telling effect. We cannot ignore the fact that in this land there are great moral forces at work, raising the fallen, and dealing with the intemperate. Christian bodies are actively at work in these movements. The Church of England, with her historical succession, her glorious past, ought to be in the front rank. Clergy and laity should not rest until they place her where she ought to be, and where she is now in England, in the front rank in guiding the sentiments and instincts of a great people. This question of intemperance is a religious one. When the demon takes possession of men our Saviour's words well apply: "This kind goeth not out but by PRAYER and FASTING." It must be dealt with as a sin, and the sinner must be shewn the remedy for sin, and taught to value the means which God has appointed to strengthen and restore the infirm and fallen. We maintain that the Church ought to despise no means of extending her legitimate work, the salvation of souls; and if she sees a gigantic form of sin growing up in her midst she is bound to provide against it. Now no one denies that intemperance is a body and soul-destroying evil; no one denies its effects on the body; the Bible is very clear as to its future effect on the soul. We claim then, that there is a demand, in view of the increase of all forms of intemperance, of a special agency beyond the ordinary agency of her services, an agency that will bring out her remedial powers. We

want an organization, as the Bishop of Northern Texas says, "Which shall have a churchly stamp, a churchly character, and a churchly name; such an agency as may by sound advice, by solid principle, by wisely directed effort, and in varied ways, . . . such means as shall be productive of the desired result." But the charge is repeatedly made, (though the answer has been given over and over again by Archbishops and Bishops, to say nothing of others), that if you have a special society for this purpose you usurp the function of the Church, which is the great Temperance Society. The Church is a great Temperance Society, and were she ideally pure such a Society would not be required. This objection, however, would be against any Society at all. The Church is the great Missionary Society, yet we multiply Home and Foreign Missionary organizations. The Church is bound to provide ministers of the glad tidings, yet how many societies are there to provide these? She is bound to provide for the Widows and Orphans of her clergy, yet she delegates this duty to a Society. We never hear objections raised to these, yet they stand on the same footing as a Temperance Society. A man might say with equal truth that these Societies are usurping the functions of the Church in practice, unless our whole system were revolutionized, and all our people become perfect in duty and practice. If this were a millennial period, and there were no tares with the wheat, it might be done. But it is absurd to think that the Church in this work can do her full duty without having resort to special organizations in order to carry on departments of her work. Let the Church then, as a Church, wisely and boldly take hold of this question. Let whatever organization she has, while not ignoring approved moral and intellectual and legislative helps, be distinctly a religious work, instructing those who are pledged as to their christian duty, and the right use of the means of grace, by which alone they may hope to cast out the demon which is destroying them, and be enabled to persevere in godly and sober living. We believe, in this way, that the Church would occupy her proper position, and exercise a powerful influence in checking this special evil.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH CONGRESS.

The Church Congress at Albany has been a great success. These Congresses are placing the Church before the intellectual minds of the United States in such a way as to greatly strengthen her influence, and to bring out her latent power. The able way in which the subjects were discussed has arrested the attention of thinking people. The following subjects were treated by written papers, (appointed and volunteer speakers), viz.: "The relation of Social Science to Christian Ethics;" "Positive Christian Education;" "Communism in its relation to Republican Institutions;" "The Authority of Dogma;" "The causes and remedies of non-attendance at Church;" "Memorial Art;" and "The Personal Work of the Holy Spirit." In this connection we ask, what is to hinder Nova Scotia and Fredericton uniting to hold a Congress? We have innumerable practical questions that need ventilation, and

brains enough among our representative men, clergy and laity, to discuss them ably. If the subjects and writers were chosen with care, we do not hesitate to say that the Church would be placed in a new light before the people, and they would recognize her ability to deal with the problems of the day. Much good would undoubtedly result from the inauguration of such a movement. Is it not worth trying?

In the discussion of the "Causes and Remedies for non-attendance at Church," one speaker gave three reasons, the overworked condition of those who labour, the swarm of Sunday papers, and the want of moral independence among the clergy, whatever the last may mean. Another said that the problem was to be solved by free churches always open, services more elastic in tone and character, multiplied services, plainer preaching, and more frequent Eucharists.

HOME MISSIONS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

WHAT is the matter with the Church people of this Province? A lover of the Church is sadly hurt in spirit to hear from the Board of Home Missions, and from His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, what was echoed in the various pulpits of city and country on Thanksgiving Day, viz.: that the Missionary work of the Diocese is more than at a standstill,—that, unless relief comes at once, many of the churches will have to be closed in consequence of the Missionaries being unpaid, and the Bread of Life will be taken from some who for many years have enjoyed the full privileges of the Gospel.

Why do we find ourselves in this sad and unhealthy condition? How has it come about?

We hear upon every side of depressed times, but what, in reality, has specially reduced the means of Churchmen during the past year? Is it a failure of the crops? Have the fishermen made small fares? Has any epidemic made its appearance, entailing great expenditure of money for advice and medicine? Has any special disease destroyed the cattle? Have prices fallen, and is there no market for products of sea and land?

Nothing of the kind. The crops have been magnificent; the inland fisheries large; the deep sea fisheries particularly good; our cattle are in demand, and so are our root and fruit crops both in this country and in England; our ships are now getting good freights; shipbuilding is very active, and an unusual number of men are being employed in the various shipyards.

Looking around and about us and making enquiries, we find no good and sufficient reason why the people this year should be less able than during the last year or two to support their clergyman. Indeed, there is hopefulness and energy among all classes of our people, such as have not been felt for several years, and the belief is strengthening, that a new and brighter era is now dawning, and that already a rift is plainly visible in the gloomy clouds of depression and stagnation.

We fear the explanation must be looked for, to a great extent, in other causes; causes which have operated to shut men's

hearts and to close men's pockets to the calls of God and His Church. It is to be found, we fear, in the ignorance and carelessness of our Christian obligations.

It is due to a forgetfulness of the fact that all we have is from God, and that we are His stewards to whom we have to give a strict account at the Great Day of Judgment.

If only we felt the truth more strongly, that what we have is not our own but God's, we should feel more willing and should find ourselves more able to give to the work which is God's, and which He has given us to do for Him and ourselves.

Looking at this question, as the writer does, as a business man, he fails to perceive any insurmountable obstacle to an immediate removal of the present difficulties. All that is needed is a hearty and combined effort to accomplish it.

It would be well for those people to whom the Gospel has been preached for so many years, with but small cost to themselves, to rise above petty difficulties and to make the effort to do more for themselves than formerly. And it will also become the duty of the men of means and the people generally in more highly favored sections of the country to give more liberally, and to give at once, towards paying without delay the arrears of salary due the missionaries, who have hardly enough to live upon, even when the money comes in promptly, and things are bought for cash.

The Secretary of the Board of Home Missions is now on a tour along the Western Shore of the Province, and we bespeak for him the kind attention and the hearty support of all faithful sons and daughters of the Church.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK DANES.

THE Danish Settlers in New Denmark, N. B., have recently held a meeting to promote the immigration of their country men. They have decided to publish a pamphlet giving a statement of the advantages of the Province, to appoint one of their number to visit Denmark, and to ask the Government to secure for these intending immigrants a large block of land near the present settlement. We trust this will result in large numbers of these thrifty people settling in the Province, instead of going to the Western States. Should they come, as seems probable, the Church must be alive to her duty in providing means for their spiritual oversight and instruction. The Rev. Neil M. Hansen, pastor of the present settlement states, "the Church is constantly making progress here, and especially is the Sunday-School in a good condition."

SINCE writing our article on the Senior Clergy in the Dominion, we have been informed that the Rev. L. C. Jenkins, D. C. L., of P. E. I., has been about sixty years in the Sacred Ministry. If there are any others of these venerable brethren alive, we should be glad to be informed of their names.

FAITH AND DEVOTION.—If faith be the main-spring, devotion winds up the machinery, and keeps it in continual motion. It is as impossible for the soul to remain strong in faith, and active in obedience, without continued communion with God, the fountain of all grace, as it is for a clock to perform its revolutions without being regularly wound up.—*Jackson.*