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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Convention of the Christian and Missionary Alliance passed off quietly last week at Toronto. Rev. Dr. A. B. Simpson and Rev. Dr. Henry Wilson were present, and the sessions lasted for three days. The reports from the Mission fields were very interesting, especially of work in the Sandwich Islands. The addresses were fervent and optimistic, and in the line of thought with which Dr Simpson's name is familiar. While the public attention was not strikingly arrested the meetings were considered as fairly successful and as stimulating to those especially interested in their management.

The Toronto Temperance reformers are bestirring themselves none too soon. The Convention to be held tomorrow evening will give an opportunity for an exchange of views as to the best plan to be adopted in furtherance of the objects of the Union, viz; recommendations as to the municipal campaign, the amendments to the License Act and other matters. Representatives from Churches and Young People's Societies will be made welcome and ought to attend. The early meeting of the Legislature leaves no time to spare in arranging for a proper representation of the claims of the Union before the government and Assembly.

The installation of Sir Oliver Mowat as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario last week placed the capstone on a long and honorable political career. Sir Oliver's new position is one of honor not divested from responsibility for which his exceptional experience of public affairs well fits him.

At the same time it is a position of comparative rest, and no one will deny that such rest has been fully earned. The great influence which Sir Oliver was able to wield over the people of Ontario was due to two main causes, his natural sagacity and shrewdness, and to the confidence inspired by his moral and religious character. The arts of the politician he was master of, but he operated within a well-defined limit, and never transgressed the proprieties of public life. One lesson to be learned from his career is that the people are more alive to high character in their political leaders than they are generally credited to be, and that a lofty standard in public affairs will still pay. The people as a whole, irrespective of party or creed approve Sir Oliver's appointment.

The needy aged seldom fail to enlist the sympathy and aid of the philanthropist, and seldom are better results found than from work among this class of the poor. An instance in point is furnished by the Home for Aged Women, situated in Toronto, at which anniversary services were held last week. The annual report was most gratifying and the ladies and gentlemen who are devoting time and kind effort in connection with the institution have reason to be encouraged. A new branch will soon be added to the Home, designed for the accommodation of aged men whose claims were presented by Rev. Dr. Parsons. The institution is kindly and carefully managed and is worthy the support of all givers to deserving city charities.

Should the negotiations at Washington result in a better understanding between the Governments of Canada and the United States, and a better feeling between the two peoples, very much indeed shall have been gained. As to the settlement of the political questions at issue nothing definite has been made known that can provoke intelligent comment, but the assurance that the conferences between the high officers of state have paved the way for friendly negotiations in the future must be satisfactory to all who can accept it as true. Canada is in no mood to make one sided sacrifices of her trade and commerce, neither is the United States, but in settlement of questions bound to be in dispute between countries so situated as are these two, good feeling will reach just conclusions where diplomacy, based on suspicion, is bound to fail. A promising opening appears for the religious press and the churches of both countries to cultivate the courtesies begun by the national leaders.

What has been rightly termed a remarkable discussion took place at the annual meeting of the Baptist Congress, at Chicago. The topic was the all important one "Whether or not Baptism is a pre-requisite to the Lord's Supper." Some leading and trusted members of the Congress, announced a change of opinion from what has hitherto been generally held. One speaker, Rev. Dr. O. P. Gifford, of Buffalo put the case thus:—"We challenge