

Women, helpless, shut away in these convent prisons, of whose conditions we must be ignorant. We may visit our lunatic population, we may enter our colleges, hospitals, asylums, even our prisons, with an inspector's warrant. We may thus extend the protection of the strong to the weak and helpless; but did anyone ever hear of submitting these convents to Government inspection? Where is the Government record that gives the number of inmates, the number who have died, etc. Indeed, where is the Government in our country to-day which would demand such an act of justice, or enact a law to meet the case?

We have said that no work is more important to Canadians than the evangelization of Romanists. And why? Because the whole past history of Romanism teaches us that, whatever her spiritual ambitions, her actual creed is political power, and in her own stealthy, persistent, vigilant way she is fast gaining that in Canada.

"Ah," we say, "we must pray to be delivered from Rome." True, indeed; fervent and unceasing prayer must be made to God for our country. But we, as Canadian citizens, must add to our faith and prayer works of the most decided and uncompromising kind. God teaches His people in His word and through history that deeds of valor and of self-sacrifice must be performed. The liberties we have He might have given, in answer to prayer, by the word of His mouth. He did not do so. He even permitted them to be purchased by the blood of our ancestors. He expects us to guard them jealously, to maintain them, that we may perpetuate the blessings of civil and religious liberty. Are we doing that? Are we maintaining Protestant faith in our laws, upon every one of which we write, "By and with the consent of Her Majesty," our Protestant Queen, Defender of the Faith"; in our schools, with our Bible; in our homes, teaching our sons and daughters the love of their country, and the duties of a free Protestant citizenship? In a word, are we weaving the religion we are professing into the texture of our law and our patriotism?

Will our readers recall the history of Oka, and the persecutions of the faithful Methodist Indians? What does Oka present to our view to-day? An object lesson, truly, which demonstrates how firmly, yet how quietly, the monastery system of the middle ages is settling down in the Province of Quebec.

The Order of Trappists has invaded our country, with headquarters at Oka. They manifest their extreme poverty by wearing the coarsest of robes, which are never removed day or night, and their hygienic knowledge by dispensing with baths and bed linen. At the same time they display their wealth by erecting costly buildings, and their worldly ambitions by carrying on an extensive farm business on the most approved modern plan. Thus they are in direct competition with the business of the surrounding farmers, whom this rich Church has reduced to a condition of hopeless struggling by its grinding imposition of tithes and taxes.

The subject, then, of this month, appeals to us with more of the personal and national feeling in it than

some others, because it belongs to the welfare of our own country, and involves our Protestant interests. The religious future of Canada depends on fidelity to the trust God has imposed upon us. We women may well plead with God that those to whom power belongs may be true to that trust.

A. P.

Chat with the Editor.

IT is very gratifying to learn of the successful meetings assembled in the various places to welcome and hear our returned missionaries. As a society, God has evidently set the seal of approval on our work. Our missionaries are imbued with genuine love of their work and a holy ambition to advance the kingdom of Christ. In our home we have just had the privilege of entertaining Miss Wintemute, returned from Japan. Her address before a large audience was extremely interesting and instructive and highly appreciated. Miss Wintemute also contributed to the interest of our missionary anniversary by a short talk on our own educational work and the position and status of the women of Japan. Our young sister intends returning to that country and will probably give her life work to that interesting people. We follow her with our prayers and warmest wishes for success.

THE General Conference of the Free Baptist Church have admitted women as delegates. This year, at Lowell (Mass.), there were thirteen women, who seated themselves with their delegations as naturally as if they had always had seats in the body. It is recorded that the women were faithful to their duties, took part in the discussions, read papers, and voted. The Conference courageously voted that of twenty-one members, of the General Conference Board, to have in hand the business between the sessions, "seven shall be women." The world of the Church is moving on.

THE mission cause has lost an earnest and efficient worker in the death of Mrs. Warren, editor of the *Heathen Woman's Friend*, and wife of Prof. Warren, of Boston University, which occurred on the 7th of January. Mrs. Warren was much esteemed for her many gifts and graces; and the loss of one so eminent in good works will be sorely felt, both in public and private.

WE hope the readers of the OUTLOOK are also readers of *Onward*. Those were brave, true words for our young friends from the editor, *re* the liquor traffic, which should find a response in every pious soul. "If Christian men and women would vote as they pray, they could sweep out of existence in a year the civic and political wrongs and corruptions of which we hear so much." We can stand a good deal of education yet on the subject of identifying and harmonizing our religion with our politics, and on the sacredness of the trust God through government has given us in the ballot. There are yet quite too many professors of the "want-to-be-an-angel" style, who are too pious even to talk of a ballot. God multiply manifold the influences of *Onward* with its ring of true Christian duty, and its aim to "set up the kingdom of God."