

feeling that females do not supply all the prowlers. Hence the following petition is being circulated; it will tell its own tale and make important suggestions:—

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,—The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth—

That having observed that the Bill for the Protection of Girls contains a clause providing for the punishment of women who solicit in the streets, and having before them the fact that women are constantly annoyed and imperilled by the solicitation of male profligates in the streets, your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will, in justice, make the male offender in this matter equally punishable with the female offender. And your petitioners will ever pray.

A little wholesome impartiality is what we want.

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AUSTRALIA.—Our friends in Australia have held a Jubilee. The first Congregational church in Australia was organized at Pitt street, Sydney, in May, 1883. To celebrate this event, the Committee of the Congregational Union of New South Wales invited the Unions of all the other Australasian colonies to send delegates to an Intercolonial Conference. The invitation was warmly responded to, and over fifty of their representatives assembled with the members of the New South Wales Union in a series of meetings from the 15th to the 23rd May, in Pitt street church. We have not yet received a full report of these meetings, but what has reached us goes to show that they have had a wondrous effect in quickening the churches there, and filling the hearts of the brethren with joy and gladness. Indeed, it has been a jubilee. This is what the *Victoria Independent* says; and the *New South Wales Independent* has its heart too full for utterance, and therefore copies and endorses its contemporary's remarks:

"We cannot let the occasion pass without a reference to some prominent and noteworthy features of the gathering. First and chief is that which we can call by no other name than the manifested outpouring of the Spirit of Christ. The tone of the meetings was high, reverent, brotherly, Christian; and this was sustained throughout. From the sweet and solemn moments spent in glad association at the table of the Lord, after the true and manly ring of the words of the pastor of Pitt street church, to the hours of pleasant fellowship amid the wondrous beauties of Sydney harbour, there was everything to minister to the uplifting of the inner and real life; with not a jar of discord left unresolved into richest harmony. The praise, the prayers, the addresses, were stimulating

and gracious. Men were brought nearer to Christ in being brought thus nearer to each other. Nor was this true key-note departed from in the course of earnest and vigorous debate. Upon some of the questions there was naturally large diversity of opinion; but upon no question did any man speak a sentence tinged with the faintest unbrotherliness or lack of Christian courtesy and love. The foolish and inter-necine jealousy, which is, in some quarters, sometimes seen when men from different colonies seek to enforce their views, was entirely absent from their discussions. At such a time it would have been an unwarrantable intruder; but it did not even make an appearance, to necessitate its being cast out. Among the many forms of good resulting from this celebration everyone will recognize as highest and best the real and vital stimulus, the spiritual blessings to each heart."

Following the worthy example of the fatherland, a Jubilee Fund has been begun. The Australian churches rejoice in a debt of over \$400,000, which distributed over two hundred churches gives an average of \$2,000 each. Immediately after the close of the Jubilee Conference, arrangements were entered upon for a series of meetings throughout the churches. Eighteen meetings have already been held, and in nearly every case with most gratifying results. The reports, however, are far from complete. Nearly all the churches visited seem determined to pay the whole of their own debts, besides contributing to other objects. Already the promises are considerably above £20,000.

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NOTHING stimulates more than good example, and if it is a Christian liberty to provoke unto love and good works, it is no less a privilege to be provoked. May we be provoked? Let us see. Congregationalism found its way to the Maritime Provinces about A.D. 1760. The centennial is more than past, uncelebrated. In 1836 the Colonial Missionary Society was formed, and Mr. (now Dr.) Wilkes induced to come to Canada as its pioneer missionary and agent. Shall we prepare for a jubilee then? We may justly do so, if we can wait so long. Yet, there were ministers in the field before Dr. Wilkes came. Dr. Lillie came in 1833. Indeed, we have allowed centennials and jubilees to pass unnoticed. Yet, may we not inaugurate a General Conference, and bringing all our scattered forces together, make a fresh start in onward work. We have made a start—our last Union testifies thereto. Let the impetus be added thereunto, and any suggestion from friends thereon in our columns will