

in the lesson. They all contributed their mite for the work of the church and for missions, and when their offerings were put into the hands of the church treasurer, the whole church was stimulated by their liberality and self-sacrifice.

The spiritual temperature of that society never fluctuated, falling toward zero in July and August, and rising toward blood-heat in January and February. The Holy Spirit abode in the hearts of the members, and the power of the Spirit was manifested in their Christian growth and in the conversion of sinners. They were all workers for Christ, and scarcely a week passed round that the society did not rejoice together, like the angels above, over some lost one who had been brought back to the fold.

At this point the dreamer was awakened by the question, "Is the society of your dream possible?" At first he was disposed to think that the ideal which he had reared was too high. But when he thought of what had been already accomplished, and of the fullness of the divine promise, he took a sheet of paper, and writing the first words of the pledge, "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength I promise Him that I will strive to do whatever He would like to have me do," he signed his name, and with renewed prayer and consecration resolved to make the ideal actual.



THE phenomenal circulation of Charles M. Sheldon's "In His Steps" is an unparalleled event in the literary world. Never in the history

A Literary Wonder.

of Christian literature has any book received in so short a time so large a sale, or had from pulpit, platform, and press so much attention. The criticism has not always been of the appreciative kind. Litterateurs have criticised it for its want of literary finish, and theologians for its failure to emphasize fundamental truths. Replying to a critic who wrote a personal letter complaining of the lack of recognition of the Atonement, the author said, "I believe with all my soul in the atonement of Christ for a sinful world, and I preach it constantly in my church. The book, 'In His Steps,' was written to arouse church members and nominal Christians. It was not written as a text-book on the doctrine of the Atonement."

Still, in spite of all its faults—and the book has a good many—it is beyond dispute that no book of recent times has laid hold so powerfully of the Christian conscience. It calls attention to the sad fact that the Church as a whole is not living upon the high plane that it ought to occupy. Professed followers of Christ are making no serious or determined effort to carry out in daily life the principles of the gospel. Indeed, it is a question if many do not regard such adaptation of the laws of Christ to the affairs of life as chimerical or wholly impossible. The fact that millions of people read and approve of a book of this kind is an indication that, after all,

there is a widespread desire on the part of Christian people to live a higher and more satisfactory life, and to manifest the spirit of Christ more fully in their daily occupations.



THE battle against Sunday papers in England has proved completely victorious. The end has come sooner than was expected. The proprietors

Seven-Day Journalism.

of the seven-day newspapers have received a lesson that they will not soon forget. It is not likely that any other attempt will be made to establish a Sunday paper for at least a decade. The great victory was won by the simple plan that Christians should withdraw their support from the offending journals. The plan was carried out most effectively. Both the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Telegraph* dropped in their circulation by tens of thousands, and some of the largest advertisers in the kingdom withdrew their advertisements. The publishers soon realized that their venture was not merely unpopular, but, what they regarded far more, unprofitable.

In Canada we have escaped thus far the Sunday newspaper nuisance, but in many of our cities and towns the way is being prepared for this abomination through the circulation of United States papers. Evil communications corrupt good manners, and we commend to the Christian public in Uncle Sam's domain the object lesson which has been given by their kinsmen and ours beyond the sea.



As the summer season comes with its beauty of foliage and flower, the thoughts of a multitude will turn to planning for a vacation among the green fields, the leafy woods, and the laughing waters of our many unexcelled Canadian resorts. Away from the toil and heat, the dust and noise of the busy city, tired brains

Fresh Air for the Children.

and bodies, absorbing the marvellous tonic of God's free air, have opportunity to rest and recuperate. To those favored with such privileges we would whisper a word of suggestion. In your flight from the city, you will leave behind you hundreds of weary workers whose circumstances forbid to them the enjoyment of God's beautiful world. The fight for existence demands that they remain confined in houses and workshops earning to-morrow's bread by the sweat of to-day. These people have children. Boys and girls, with all the childish possibilities for enjoyment that your little loved ones possess, whose developing natures, hungry for the wider world that lies beyond the pale of asphalt pavements and jangling trollies, bid fair to be dwarfed, stunted, aged without maturity, for want of room to grow. What sweeter work, what charity nearer the heart of Christ, than to send a party of these children out to the country for a week in summer time? God talks to the child-heart in the still, small voice of nature. The yellow-eyed