

In planning Christian work for the next year it would be well to take it for granted that much of what we do will go for nothing. The Master has provided for this when He has given so much into our hand. He will not lose sight of the smallest particular, but those for whom we work will catch sight of a very small part of what is being done. It is Christ who has said, that the cup of cold water shall not fail of its reward, but that is from His side. Many cups will be given and will bring no response from the recipients. But the response will come if we go on doing good. The eyes will sometime be opened. No heart is so supremely selfish as to resist the patient continuance in well-doing.

CLARION CALL TO WORK.

That veteran Prohibitionist, Rev. Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, president of the Ontario Alliance, has addressed the following to temperance workers:

Dear fellow-workers, I take this means of extending to you my most hearty congratulations. Our prayers are answered and the efforts of many years are now rewarded. The privy council of Great Britain, the highest court of the empire, has decided that the Manitoba liquor act is good law. The judgment leaves not the shadow of a doubt as to the right of a province to prohibit the liquor traffic within its bounds. Repeatedly have the people of Oxford county, as well as the people of Ontario, by large majorities demanded prohibition; repeatedly has our provincial government declared its readiness to grant prohibition to the utmost extent of its power, as soon as that power was ascertained. We now know beyond a doubt what that power is. We can shut up every barroom in the land. Is that not a consummation devoutly to be wished? Look at the character of our barrooms, the drunkenness, the Sabbath profanation and general defiance of law that characterizes them. Can human ingenuity devise a reason why a good citizen should vote in favor of barrooms?

Friends, our opportunity has come. God's clock is striking. Shall we not awaken, and show ourselves strong on the Lord's side. Depend upon it, everything possible will be done to divert the minds of the people from this great moral question, and to prevent our government carrying out its pledge. There will be evasions, equivocations, and misrepresentation by legions. Already the liquor interest in its alarm is putting forth prodigious efforts to safeguard the barroom. Its president publicly boasts that "when the liquor ranks are cemented they can return or defeat any government." This impudent boast may not be an empty one, if our Christian people do not bestir themselves. Prohibition candidates are likely to run in this county for the legislature.

A bright young man said to us the other day. "The church is a business institution just as anything else is, and must be run on business lines. When the minister preaches what the people do not want then he must give up his job". That is plain speaking, and we believe it expresses the opinion of the majority of the people. What has led to the entertainment of this opinion, and how it may be driven out of the mind are two problems it would be well to consider.

NEWMAN.

Newman, an Appreciation with the Choicest Passages of his Writings Selected and Arranged by Alexander Whyte, D. D. This volume contains two lectures on the late Cardinal Newman, and a series of important selections from his writings. The author says: "This little study is not at all intended for those who know Newman already. It does not presume to instruct those who have mastered this rich writer for themselves. This lecture has been prepared for those rather who know Newman's name only, and who know little or nothing more than his mere name." There is criticism in these lectures, but criticism is by no means the predominant feature. The spirit in which the work is done is rightly represented by the word "appreciation." Dr. Whyte tells us at the beginning: "I live by admiration, hope and love, and Newman has always inspired me with all these feelings toward himself and toward many of his works." Dr. Whyte has made the analysis of spiritual life and the study of character his special line, and he has delighted in the work of showing that real religion in the deep mystic sense exists in all the churches and lives alongside of all varieties of doctrine and worship. This recognition does not lead him to undervalue earnestness of doctrine, and he makes this appreciation of Newman a medium for setting forth the central truths of the evangelical theology. Newman played a great part in the religious and ecclesiastical life of England during the last century, but the young men who are now rising up do not know him or his writings and this book will be useful as a compendium or an introduction.

The selections are sufficiently varied to show the range of Newman's activity and the beauty and adaptability of his style. We quote as a specimen the following:

On Definiteness in Preaching.

"My second remark is, that it is the preacher's duty to aim at imparting to others, not any fortuitous, unpremeditated benefit but some definite spiritual good. It is here that design and study find their place; the more exact and precise is the subject which he treats, the more impressive and practical will he be; whereas no one will carry off much from a discourse which is on the general subject of Virtue or vaguely and feebly entertains the question of the desirableness of attaining Heaven or the rashness of incurring eternal ruin. As a distinct image before the mind makes the preacher earnest, so it will give him something which it is worth while to communicate to others. Mere sympathy, it is true, is able, as I have said, to transfer an emotion or sentiment from mind to mind, but it is not able to fix it there. He must aim at imprinting on the heart that will never leave it, and this he cannot do unless he employ himself on some definite subject which he has to handle and weigh and then, as it were, to hand over from himself to others. * * *

Nay, I would go to the length of recommending a preacher to place a distinct categorical proposition before him, such as he can write down in a form of words, and to guide and limit his preparation by it and to aim in all he says to bring it out and nothing else. This seems to be implied or sug-

gested in St. Charles' direction: 'Id omnino studebit, ut quod in concione dicturus est antea bene cognitum habeat'. Nay, it is not expressly conveyed in the scriptural phrase of "preaching the word," for what is meant by "the word" but a proposition addressed to the intellect? Nor will a preacher's earnestness show itself in anything more unequivocally than in his rejecting, whatever be the temptation to admit it, every remark, however original, every period, however eloquent, which does not in some way or other tend to bring out this one distinct proposition which he has chosen. Nothing is so fatal to the effect of a sermon as the habit of preaching on three or four subjects at once. I acknowledge I am advancing a step beyond great Catholic preachers when I add that even though we preach on only one at a time, finishing and dismissing the first before we go on to the second and the second before we go to the third, still after all, a practice like this, though not open to the inconvenience which the confusing of one subject with another involves, is in matter of fact, nothing short of the delivery of three sermons in succession with a break between them." Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier. London and Edinburgh.

Literary Notes.

The Toronto Mail and Empire has issued a unique Christmas supplement, which contains the story of the nativity in a number of the different languages spoken in Canada, including English, Gaelic, Danish, Norwegian, French, Italian, Cree Indian, Polish, German, Galician and Russian. This supplement, which is to be sent with the ordinary issue of the paper on Christmas morning, will be valuable as being distinctly Canadian.

A Hebrew Grammar, or an outline of the Natural System of the Language for Students and Ministers, by Archibald Duff, LL. D., B. D. There are a great many Hebrew grammars now available, but those students or ministers who already possess one or more will find stimulus and help in going over this "outline". This is a small book of eighty pages and is the outline upon which Professor Duff has worked with success for many years. The Syntax is of course very brief and will need to be supplemented with reference to some larger work. In the fifth chapter some brief notes are given on "Versification and Metre" which the student will find exceedingly suggestive. We think something can be said for the "Ollendorf Method" which, Dr. Duff claims, has surely "served its purpose and ought to pass away," but this is not the place to discuss the matter. We would advise all who are beginning the study of Hebrew to get this small book and we are certain that it will give them interest and stimulus in what is usually considered a dry subject.—Adam and Charles Black, London, England.

A certain congregation has almost completed a new church building, and is anxiously canvassing the question of who to ask to open their new church. They want a man that will draw. Another denomination made one hundred and fifty dollars at a church social this fall, and the Presbyterians want to go one better.