

spurn one of God's best gifts to his children.

It is common enough to reason in defence of the profanation of the Lord's day that the toilers busily employed all the week have no other time for recreation and enjoyment. This is more plausible than real. The exactions of labor in many cases are no doubt severe, but as a general thing the long summer evenings and occasional lawful holidays afford sufficient time for recreation and amusement. In keeping the Divine command there is a great reward. In its violation good cannot come. It is paltering with conscience to imagine that Sabbath desecration is a small matter. It is no excuse for transgression to plead the evil example of others. Let every one who is tempted to indulge in this as well as every other mode of Sabbath desecration reflect on the evil he is doing to himself and others. It may appear easier to go on in the wrong way than to retrace his steps. The farther he advances on the downward road the more perilous it becomes and the more difficult to return. Some have succeeded in persuading themselves that they are doing no wrong in habitually indulging in Sunday excursions by land and water, but many have grave misgivings. Such would do well to reflect on the inspired saying:—"To him that knoweth to good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Let Christian parents and friends use their influence affectionately and earnestly to restrain those dear to them from participating in this growing evil. Human opinions change, customs continue to vary, but the divine ordinance is of perpetual obligation. Inscribed on the tablet of immutable morality we find God's command: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." This is obeyed neither in letter nor spirit when the day is devoted to pleasure excursions.

H. K. Caskey, of Toronto, has accepted the position of general secretary of the laymen's missionary movement in Canada, which was offered to him a few days ago. He will enter upon his duties at once. The chairman and secretaries of the denominational movements and the officers of the council will draw up a plan for a united missionary campaign to be carried out in every province during the coming summer and autumn.

There has been a large falling off in imports into the United States as well as Canada, both in quantity and value. The appraised value of all the merchandise received at the port of New York during 1908 was \$671,000,000, as compared with \$787,000,000 in 1906. If the Laymen's Movement had not come to the rescue we fear there would have been a falling off in the mission funds and as far as possible throw the manness. This has happily been averted.

Five hundred pianos and nearly ten thousand revolvers are stated to have been found in the palace of the deposed Sultan of Turkey. What he wanted of so many pianos is a mystery, even if he had to supply an instrument for each of the numerous wives in his harem. But the revolvers show in what terror he must have been of the assassin. Life must have been miserable for such a wretch, though he brought misery enough to others not to be deserving of pity.

DR. GRENFELL'S NOBLE WORK.

The grant of \$1,000 given by Parliament to Dr. Grenfell to assist him in introducing reindeer into Labrador is money well expended. Already his experiments in this direction have met with success, and it will be a grand thing if the creature which had supplied food, clothing, transportation, etc., to the Laplander can be made equally serviceable in Labrador.

Perhaps there are some who do not fully understand the splendid service this self-denying and heroic man is rendering. Those who have seen and heard him on the occasion of his visits to Canada cannot fail to have been impressed with the noble character of the man, who, giving up what would have doubtless been a brilliant career in England, has devoted his life to a service for his fellow men for which he cannot hope to obtain any reward in this life. For the benefit of those who may not know of his work, we append a brief summary, taken from an interesting article in the Outlook:—

"Early in June, or as soon as the first breaking of the ice will permit, Dr. Grenfell leaves St. John's harbor. Newfoundland, and from then till well into December, when winter storms have made navigation impossible, he is traveling along fifteen hundred miles of as bleak and inhospitable coast as there is in the world. The Strathcona, a stanch little ship of eighty-four tons, with a hospital ward amidships, is his summer home. The Doctor is ever hastening 'down north,' for though some of the coast is uncharted, and though fogs and storms are frequent, the work needs to be done and he is the only one to do it. Early each summer the four hospitals must be visited and their supplies of medicines, fuel and clothing replenished. This task occupies all of June and July, for the Strathcona drops anchor in practically every cove and harbor where the fleets are or where people live in northern Newfoundland or southern Labrador. In a single afternoon and evening in July no less than forty-four individual patients found relief and comfort in the snug cabin of the Strathcona.

"As soon as the anchor is down the boats begin to come alongside; some one throws a rope, and the little skiff is fast. Now the patients climb on deck. Perhaps the first one has one or more likely five or ten decayed teeth and a painful abscess of the mouth besides. Soon his pain is relieved and the next patient comes along. Those that need further treatment are carried in the Strathcona to the nearest land hospital where they can better be looked after. If any are too sick to come to the steamer, Dr. Grenfell or his assistant goes ashore to them.

"About the first of August the long northern trip to Ungava Bay begins. 'Ungava is away down north, where the mail steamers do not go.' A Hudson Bay Company supply-boat makes a yearly trip to Ungava Bay, and so does the Strathcona. There the families are scattered, but their need is great, and the Doctor makes a point of seeing as many of them as possible before their long winter begins. Again in the fall the steamer visits each hospital and the points of southern Labrador before she reaches St. John's.

"Dr. Grenfell asks no personal sympathy from us. He does not want us to pity him. He is never happier than when on the Labrador. To be there is to him the opportunity for service—as he has so beautifully expressed it, 'the joy of the opportunity of service.' His energy is tireless, and is devoted wholly to the people whom he loves and serves. His own money, the royalties from his books and magazine articles, the income from his lectures—the best of his mind and his body—he gives all to his mission."

THE PRESBYTERIAN ALLIANCE COUNCIL AND CALVIN.

The celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Calvin will be a prominent feature in the Council of the World-Presbyterian Alliance, to be held in New York in June. The most of two days will be given to it. This is altogether appropriate. Calvin stands alone in the Reformation. He was not only a reformer but a builder. He grasped the great doctrines of the Bible with a clearness and force above all others. His breadth of view was broader. He lifted religious thought to a higher plane. He was a quickening force in the general life and the development of civil institutions of the world. In the Church he was the founder of Presbyterianism and his conception of the sphere of civil government has profoundly affected the modern policy in national life.

The following list of the topics to be presented, taken from the program, gives an idea of the breadth of the discussion of his life and influence: "Calvin and the Reformation;" "Calvin and Church Government;" "Calvin and the Christian Ministry;" "Calvin and the Case of Servetus;" "Calvin the Theologian;" "Calvin and the American Republic;" and "The World-wide Mission of Calvinism." The names of the speakers selected for the several subjects give good guaranty of the quality of the addresses.

A Scotchman writing on "Scottish Traits of Character" in an exchange, says: "The Scotch are a good deal like their national emblem—the thistle. (1) They bristle all over with self-protection. (2) They are scattered everywhere. (3) They exhibit a certain robustness of character that could not be symbolized by the lily or any other flower so well as by the thistle. And, (4) I might add (if this were not trespassing on our intention, as stated in the initial part of this paper) that their character is crowned with manly and enduring beauty. The thistle is no mean symbol, though, like the Jew, it is much looked down upon by the nations. One thing is certain, it cannot easily be suppressed." He goes on to arraign his countrymen of being over-critical, censorious, double-dealing and obstinate. This is the kind of thistle-down he scatters.

The Premier of Great Britain has at last introduced the long promised bill for the disestablishment of the State Church in Wales. A very large majority of the people of Wales belong to the free churches—Baptist, Methodist, Congregationalist or Presbyterian, and the argument for disestablishment is much stronger than in England, where the established Church represents a larger portion of the people. While a measure of this kind will carry in the Commons, the House of Lords will doubtless throw it out.

MISSIONARY WANTED.

Wanted for the GWALIOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION a fully qualified (unmarried) Missionary to assist Dr. Wilkie at Jhansi, India. Salary \$1,000 One with a knowledge of mechanical arts preferred.

Apply, giving experience and references to Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.