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THE CARELESS WORD.

'Twas a careless word by a Christian spoken ;
'Twas a pledge to his God that was thoughtlessly broken ;
But it kindled a doubt
That never went out.
The speaker repented—perhaps was forgiven ;
The loss to the one that heard it, was—heaven.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

The pastor who enters into the feelings and circumstances of his people—being one with them in their sorrows as well as in their joys—will live in their affections and is all the more likely to have a long and useful pastorate. He may not be so eloquent and able as other ministers in his Presbytery, but he has the heart-power which draws to him those whose welfare she seeks in sweet and lasting bonds

The nomination of Dr Hugh Macmillan, of Greenock, as Moderator of the Free Church, in place of Professor Davidson, who had regretfully to decline being proposed for this honour because of health considerations, will be a most popular one. He is one of the most notable men in his Church. Eminent as a preacher, theologian, and scientist his writings and lectures upon a vast variety of themes have secured for him a popularity much wider than the bounds of his own denomination. He is a true spiritual teacher of original mind, who has a message for his age. His public appearance as Moderator will be looked forward to with much interest.

It is a significant fact that while the value of church property owned by Roman Catholics in the city of New York is \$8,124,650, that owned by the Presbyterian Church in all its branches is \$9,354,000. The entire valuation of church property in New York City, including all religious bodies, is \$54,670,600.

There are in all Japan Buddhist temples to the number of 73,000 and Buddhist priests to the number of 100,000. For every square mile there are an average of three temples and four priests, and for every 540 people there is one temple and for every 400 people there is one priest. There is contributed to those temples each year for the support of the priests and the maintenance of the temples yen 22,500,000, or about \$12,000,000. These figures apply to Buddhism alone and do not include any items of Shintoism or other religions.

Dr. A. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, suggests four points of which our young men should be convinced in order that they should become total abstainers: "1. That nature is against alcohol; for it is not the natural fruit of the vine, but the product of decomposition. 2. The Bible is against alcohol. 3. The church is against it, and must be; a tipping pastor is worse than any ten grog-shops. 4. The State is, or ought to be, against alcohol, as alcohol is against the State and against law."

Drunkenness decreases nearly 3 per cent. per annum in London. This is hopeful. It is also reported that "excessive drinking" among the wealthier classes in Great Britain is disappearing. Another statistical fact which is given in the same line is, that the "prison population" in

England has fallen off in late years, and that some of the prisons of Great Britain are empty. To us, these items seem to be linked together closely and in the way of effect and cause. When there are fewer saloons in our country, there will be more empty prisons.

The one hundred and fortieth anniversary of the Scotch Presbyterian church, New York Rev. Dr. G. Wylie, pastor, will be celebrated with special services on Jan 31st, the services to be continued on Feb. 2nd and 5th.

The saloon keeper would not be looking after his own interest if he did not try to educate boys into drinking habits. The wholesale liquor seller, the brewer and the distiller want to extend their trade and to gain new customers if they have ordinary business enterprise. But to do this, they must be blind to the woes of drunkards' families and deaf to the prayers of heart broken wives and mothers. Occasionally they avow their aims and seek to promote a general revival of the infernal business. At the Liquor League of Ohio a short time since a candid officer said: "It will appear from these facts, gentlemen, that the success of our business is dependent largely upon the creation of appetite for drink. Men who drink liquor like others, will die, and if there is no new appetite created, our counters will be empty, as will be our coffers. Our children will go hungry, or we must change our business to that of some other more remunerative. The open field for the creation of this appetite is among the boys. After men have grown and their habits are formed, they rarely ever change in this regard. It will be needful therefore, that this missionary work be done among the boys, and I make the suggestion, gentlemen, that nickles expended in treats to the boys now, will return in dollars to your tills after the appetite has been formed. Above all things, create appetite!"

Mr. Tyrell, of the Geographical Survey Department, has arrived at Winnipeg, bound for Ottawa, and reports having discovered rich tracts of agricultural and stock raising country hitherto unknown. He left Selkirk on January 31st. From Norway House he descended the Nelson River in a canoe to the Pine River, ascending it to Wolf River. Again the Nelson was descended for seventy-five miles, until the Brentwood River was reached, thence down the Grassy River to the Sturgeon, which brought them to the Saskatchewan at Cumberland House. Recently they reached Prince Albert. Mr. Tyrell says that there are large areas of rich, cultivable lands west of the Nelson River, and though wheat is not grown, simply because it would be of no value, all varieties of vegetables are produced in the gardens of the Hudson Bay Company posts, and prove hardy. Except for the climate, he declares that that country is as richly blessed as the famed Red River valley.

Some one asked Mr. Spurgeon if he thought the heathen could be saved if the Gospel could be preached to them. He replied that he never felt any concern about that, but he did doubt if the Church would be saved itself if it failed to preach the Gospel to the heathen.