

order and beauty, but the manner—the why or the whereof of the simplest of these—what could he say about it? Absolutely nothing. And in the meantime whether or not he, as an individual, were destined to live for ever, or to go out like the snuff of a candle in the curious incident which men call death, was a matter with which he did not meddle, and in which he evidently thought a wise man could have only a very languid interest. And this, it seems is all the length to which the world by wisdom has yet attained. If so, alas for wisdom! Cowper's lace maker's position was after all infinitely better than that; for, if such wise men are right, she will be on a perfect equality with them at the last, while if she is right, alas for them!

COFFEE TAVERNS.

WE have once and again noticed the inception and progress of the coffee tavern movement in Toronto, and have very heartily expressed our gratification at the success which has so far attended it. This success must have been very encouraging to those who have been specially active in the work. Things are not even yet in full working order, but so far there is every intimation that the enterprise will pay a fair percentage on the money invested, and will be a very great boon and blessing to multitudes. We have no doubt the promoters of these taverns aim at eventually making them to the full what is implied in that word in everything but the sale of intoxicating liquors. As yet, so far as we have been able to observe, this has not been attained. We are not sure if it has even to any great extent been attempted. As these houses are, they are simply eating-places where good wholesome food can be secured at a cheap rate, well cooked and becomingly served with the surroundings pleasant and attractive, and the temptation to take "drink," even in the smallest quantities, entirely removed. This is all very well so far as it goes, but it falls very far short of the idea of a tavern, as that word is usually understood, and as the thing is in most cases actually found to be. The "coffee palace" and "coffee tavern" movement in Britain has ever kept in view the reproduction of the tavern, *minus* the "drink." It has aimed at affording to all the opportunity of taking "their ease in their inn," and of enjoying more fully and more profitably the social intercourse, which so many seek in the whiskey taverns, and the relaxation which after a hard day's work they are bound to have somewhere. It is notorious that, while the craving for drink leads many to the tavern, many more are drawn to such places in order to have a good time with their friends—to discuss the topics of the hour—and to enjoy for a short time the warmth and comparative comfort they may not have in what they called their homes or lodging places.

There are multitudes of hard-working men and women who want a little pleasure, a bright half hour now and then in a dreary life. The drinking saloons are the only places where they can find even an approach to what they seek, and it is therefore not wonderful that in so many cases they gravitate in that direction. It is all very well for those who have bright cheerful homes and pleasant society to talk of the folly and sin of going to such places, but what is to be said of those who have nothing but dull cold rooms to go to, or who live in places where they have no congenial society, and where all the surroundings are forbidding and unattractive? It may be a matter for regret that even these should spend their evenings in taverns, and should drink whiskey in payment of the light, warmth and shelter as well as amusement they receive. But if there is nothing else, far less nothing better, what can they do? The question is much more easily asked than answered. To give a practical and effective answer the coffee tavern enterprise was started in England, and with the same object in view, the Coffee House Association has been formed in Toronto. We do not believe that the latter will rest satisfied with anything short of fully coming up to its English model, or even of improving upon it. To merely provide comfortable, convenient eating-houses, we repeat, would fall very far short of what is needed. Rome, however, was not built in a day, and the success which has already attended the movement will no doubt stimulate the managers and other officials to make the coffee tavern in every respect a very formidable and successful rival to the whiskey one.

There is one feature in some of these tavern associations in Britain which is especially noteworthy, and which might be, and we have no doubt will be,

adopted here. We refer to the plan of selling printed tickets of the value of one penny or two cents, for the use of ladies and gentlemen who prefer giving food instead of money to needy persons. A party producing one of these tickets at any of the coffee houses, no matter where it has been issued, is entitled to a half-penny basin of soup or broth, and a halfpenny roll. Two such tickets secure a penny basin and a penny roll, or a cup of coffee and a roll. A very great amount of business is done by these tickets. One gentleman in Dundee, Scotland, mentions that during the months of January, February, and March, 1878, he and his family alone distributed no less than seven thousand and ninety-eight such tickets, with which liberal friends had supplied him. Others, he adds, were doing the same on a far more extensive scale, so that, even in times of destitution, it is thought that Dundee can never be under the necessity of opening soup-kitchens. Many a deserving family in Toronto might in this way be helped far more effectively, and in a manner much more congenial to their feelings, than by the soup-kitchen plan; though, to be sure, but for the whiskey taverns, there would be very little need for either soup-kitchens or for charity lunch-tickets, as well as much else of a like character. If the coffee tavern movement is to be a permanent one, it must rest on a paying basis. As a mere charity it will not succeed, and will not be permanent. And there is no reason why it should not pay and pay well. In Great Britain there are already literally thousands of such houses in successful operation, and some of the companies, after making every allowance for depreciation of property, have been able to declare yearly dividends of from four to ten per cent. on their paid-up capital. We see no reason why even individuals should not start such houses as mere private speculations, or why they should not be fairly successful in such honourable ways of earning a livelihood.

In the meantime we congratulate the Toronto Association on the amount of success which has attended its efforts, while we express a hope that its directors will at no distant day have such arrangements made as that social intercourse with, when wished, quiet games at chequers, chess, etc., may not only be possible, but be a prominent feature in all their establishments, which we trust will, by and by, be found in all parts of the city.

GOSPEL WORK.—MESSRS. MOODY AND SANKEY.

PLYMOUTH AND DEVONPORT.

The first service conducted by the evangelists was held in the Volunteer Drill Hall, Mill Bay, Plymouth, on Monday evening, September 25th. In shape the building is like a great ship turned keel uppermost, and is capable of seating 3,500 people. Upon the fitting-up and improvement of this place the Committee has expended between four and five hundred pounds. Twenty-three congregations of the leading denominations of the Three Towns are associated in the movement; and "ever since the date was fixed," as one of the local friends remarked, "we have been praying for the success of the work." From September 1st, daily prayer-meetings have been held. Rev. G. F. Head, Vicar of Charles, has had forty members of his congregation doing nothing else but visiting in the "slums" of the town to get the dwellers in darkness to come to the revival meetings. A powerful body of workers from the Three Towns have banded together for the approaching campaign, and on Sunday, September 24th, the vicar of Charles preached a special sermon in reference to the forthcoming mission.

The services, being held both in Plymouth and in Devonport, have entailed much physical labour upon the two evangelists. Owing to the great crowd it is impossible for the published times to be adhered to, the meeting on Thursday night in the Guildhall being well on long before the stated hour. Here Mr. Sankey kept the people spell-bound by his singing until his colleague could arrive from the Drill Hall. In the quadrangle of the municipal buildings there must have been at least two thousand people assembled, for whom there was no room in either meeting.

The work in the Three Towns did not become "rooted and grounded" until Thursday, and then it glowed with fervent heat. Mr. Moody was unusually solemn and powerful. While the people at the Drill Hall were waiting for the evangelist, Rev. G. F. Head spoke a few timely words upon "Power." Mr.

Sankey, whose resources seem inexhaustible, succeeded in awakening much interest in the Gospel songs by some effective musical drill.

Mr. Moody addressed his hearers upon seeking Christ. When showing the utter unconcern about spiritual things exhibited by many, the speaker mentioned the case of a man who had wandered, in a very indifferent way, into one of the after meetings. "I said to him, 'Are you a Christian?' 'No,' the man replied. 'Would you like to become one?' In the most nonchalant way imaginable he answered, 'Well! I have no objection.'" He closed with a most persuasive appeal to all unsaved to become Christians that very night. Responses to his pleadings came from all over the building, especially on the part of the young men. As the audience rose to sing, a steady stream of seekers after the light passed with bowed heads into the inquiry-room.

On Friday, Lady Hope addressed a large number of women in the Guildhall, a noble building, whose windows are full of pictures from English history, in which Plymouth and her sons have played no mean part. We were specially struck with the motto of the town, inserted in all sorts of ways: "The name of Jehovah is a strong tower." The phrase might well serve as an epitome of all that the evangelists are preaching in this place.

At Devonport the Lord has wonderfully blessed the simple, faithful preaching and singing of His Word. Amongst the many inquirers was an old man of eighty-eight years of age, who then and there received Christ as his Saviour. Several backsliders have returned. One woman had forsaken the "narrow way" for twenty years. Numbers of young people have been under conviction of sin.

Nearly all the military staff in a Government office at Plymouth have become soldiers of the Cross, and also an officer of Her Majesty's Navy.

At the early meeting on Sunday last Mr. Moody gave a rousing address to workers. While the wind whistled through the building, and the booming of the guns reverberated from across Plymouth Sound, the preacher's voice quivered as he urged upon his brethren to bring out their one talent. Passing in quick review the foremost men and women of the Scripture days, the speaker must have infused new courage into those before him to grasp with a firmer grip the sword of the Spirit. At a meeting for those not attending at any place of worship, we saw, as at Newport, many of that class present, mostly men. A number of sailors being present, the hymns were chosen with reference to them. Mr. Moody spoke to his listeners upon "Compassion." In a most powerful and convincing manner he showed how great was the compassion of Christ. The speaker's illustrations drove the truth right home. At the close Mr. Moody held a prayer-meeting for any who would stay. The inquiry-room was soon nearly filled with anxious men. Many were dealt with in the hall itself, while in the inquiry-room, in response to Mr. Moody's request for public confession of faith, a volley of "I will's" was poured forth.

The workers are toiling incessantly, so deeply are they impressed with their responsibility in the sight of God and before their anxious brethren and sisters. Lady Hope and Mr. H. Drummond are pleading each in a way and with a power that wins and holds their large audiences. The members of the choir, both in Devonport and Plymouth, have carried the message to thousands, and have been in many instances blessed themselves.

A CABLE telegram received from Principal Grant states that Prof. D. H. Marshall, of Edinburgh, has been appointed Professor of Physics in Queen's College, Kingston, the position vacated by Professor Williamson. He will deliver his inaugural lecture on November 10th. Mr. G. McGowan, the new Professor of Chemistry in Queen's, has arrived from England.

THE annual meeting of the Missionary Society of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, was held on the evening of Friday, October 20th. The following is the staff of officers elected for the session:—President, W. H. Geddes; 1st Vice-President, D. Currie, B.A.; 2nd Vice-President, R. McNabb, B.A.; Recording Secretary, J. C. Campbell; Corresponding Secretary, W. A. McKenzie, B.A.; Treasurer, A. Lee; Executive Committee, D. G. Cameron, W. K. Shearer, Daniel McKay, B.A., G. Whillans, B.A., J. W. McKenzie, B.A.; News Committee, J. H. MacVicar, M. L. Leitch, J. C. Martin, C. McKeracher, N. Waddell, J. McIlraith.