

have one or two members who are liberal, while the greater part are as close as a mousetrap.....The Presbyterian Church, while going ahead, is not gathering in the people as it ought. It ought to set the fashion in a great movement of evangelization. Now, these statements apply more or less to all churches; and it is not one of the least encouraging signs of the times that prominent laymen like Mr. Wannamaker are setting themselves to arouse their brethren to effect a better state of things. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that the present age is one of great activity in the Church. Work of a practical character is the motto of the great evangelical Churches, and the Presbyterian Church is not behind the most active of them all. Much remains to be done. It will always be so. The ideal will not be reached in time, or effort would slacken and atrophy would ensue; yet there are labourers late and early at work and there is no room for pessimism in our day. Those who see the weak points are entreated to draw a bow. Practice and precept must go hand in hand.

Session v. Trustees.

A CASE of some interest to Church courts has been decided in Prince Edward Island, the facts of which so far as can be gleaned from the evidence are:—The late Rev. Allan MacLean, former pastor of Tryon and Hampton having resigned his charge and his resignation having been accepted by the Presbytery, that body under the rules of the Church undertook to grant supply to the churches at Hampton and Tryon, and accordingly sent ministers to these churches. The trustees, (who are an incorporated body) however, claiming the right to say who should or should not occupy the pulpit of their churches, locked the doors and refused to allow the ministers to preach who had been sent by the Presbytery. This action of the trustees having been repeated, the members of the session decided to force and did force the church doors open, and allowed the preachers' entrance. The trustees thereupon went before the two magistrates above mentioned and had the members of the session who opened the church doors arrested on a criminal charge of trespass and for wilfully injuring property. The case was tried before these magistrates at Summerside, and resulted in a conviction of the members of the session. Against this conviction an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court which, was called on for trial at the October term in Summerside before Mr. Justice Hensley. An application was there made by the trustees to postpone the trial until next June, but the court only allowed it to stand over until the present session in Charlottetown when it could be heard before the full bench. After hearing all the evidence on behalf of the trustees, and one witness on behalf of the session, the court stopped Mr. Davies and informed him that they had heard enough. Mr. Davies in his opening remarks had expressly declined to ask the allowance of the appeal on the ground that the form of action had been mistaken, but asked for a decision on the merits. The Court, however, decided both grounds, and allowed the appeal: Because, first, that the section of the Malicious Trespass Act under which the magistrates had acted was inapplicable to the case; the members of the Session were acting in what they believed were within their powers; and, therefore, they could not be said to be guilty of a criminal act and of a direct intention to violate the Queen's law; in fact the *mens rea* was entirely wanting, and even if the Session had not the right to open the doors, they could not be held liable in criminal proceedings before the justices. But the Court

went farther, and hold, secondly, that the trustees had no right whatever to close the doors of the church for the purpose of keeping the Session, and the minister sent by the Presbytery, out; that the Presbytery and the members of the session, acting under the rules of the Blue Book of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, had complete control over the church and all other parties were subservient thereto. The court held that the rules of the Church were binding on all the parties and must be carried out. Therefore on the merits the members of the session were in the right, and the action ought never to have been instituted before the magistrates. The decision was unanimous that the conviction be quashed on all grounds. The bench consisted of Chief Justice Sullivan, Master of the Rolls Hodgson, and Vice-Chancellor Hensley.

Banner Sabbath School State. THE report of the Executive Committee of the late annual Sabbath school Convention shows that Pennsylvania is the banner Sabbath school State in the Union in the number of scholars and teachers. She has 139,356 teachers and 1,247,320 scholars.

Interesting Statistics. IN the opening lecture of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., Prof. Whitsitt said that "at one time the Arminian Baptists were in the majority, while now they are almost out of existence, only some 120,000 of them remaining, as against over 3,500,000 Calvinistic Baptists in the United States." This would seem to show Arminianism cannot maintain itself in the same body with Calvinism.

French Evangelization Board. LAST week we drew attention at considerable length to the appeal of the Board of French Evangelization, the thanksgiving collection for which will be made on the 23rd instant. The claims of our fellow countrymen in the Province of Quebec upon the sympathy and liberality of the Church are so well understood by our readers that it is hoped a liberal and prayerful response will be given to this good cause.

A Young Missionary's Death. OUR readers will learn with much regret of the death of Rev. H. S. McKittrick, who laboured in Tarsus, being connected with the St. Paul Institute. He died in harness, the cause being malaria. In 1892 he graduated from Knox College, and he remained a year under the Presbytery of Owen Sound before becoming a member of the faculty of the St. Paul Institute. Further particulars about his career and sad end will be given next week.

"Blot on the Queen's Reign." A STARTLING title sometimes makes a book successful, which would otherwise fall flat on the public. The caption at the head of this paragraph is striking enough, but nothing personal being intended it may well enough serve to draw attention to facts which deserve investigation. It is the title of a pamphlet issued by Mr. John Hawke, honorary organizing secretary, secretary to the National Anti Gambling League. The writer makes a strong plea against betting and gambling, and also an earnest appeal to the Prince of Wales. The pamphlet bristles with important facts, and these are used most skilfully in dealing with the questions under consideration.

ATTENTION is directed to a statement in another column by Mrs. Ross, of Brucefield, Ont., on the Indore Missionary College Fund. Friends are looked to for substantial encouragement.