

house of mourning; he may appear almost jovial at the happy and successful tea-meeting, or picnic, and radiant in the marriage company; but behind all that he has to sustain an invisible load of care and anxiety. There is a constant drain on his nervous energy that impairs his health and diminishes his vital force. The unbroken strain renders it impossible for him to continue his work, especially his pulpit work, with undiminished freshness and vigour. The leading pulpit orators find it impossible to maintain their position without frequent breaks in the continuity of their work. The Transatlantic voyage and an Eastern trip are within their reach, and they are not slow to avail themselves of their opportunities. But the great men do not always perform the hardest work. Putting adventitious distinctions aside, the comparatively obscure labourer in the remote country charge or mission field stands as much in need of the summer vacation as the pastor of the most refined city congregation. Presbyterian parity and common sense alike should accord the privilege of a summer vacation to all, although the prudent brother will decide that his trip and his means will be proportionate.

The minister when he leaves his sphere of labour behind does not lay aside the sacred character that pertains to his office. He may properly enough desire to avoid preaching, though if there is a good reason for it he will not refuse to speak a word in season as opportunity offers. There is not one law for the minister and another for church members when taking their holiday. It is just as much a part of Christian duty for them to be faithful in their attendance on public worship at the village church as it is when they are at home. Many a little out of the way church is benefited by their presence and is helped by their contributions and it fosters a kindlier interest in the minister and people of these important outposts of the Church. Another thing will be borne in mind by Christian visitors to summer resorts, and that is that the fourth Commandment is as binding on them there as it is when they are at home.

#### SOCIAL CRIME IN ENGLAND.

It is surprising that when some urgent moral reform is proposed it is met by strenuous opposition. Resistance is always the more determined when definite and effective measures are brought forward for the suppression of an acknowledged iniquity. The Scott Act was in a fair way to become the recognized law for putting an end to the growing and destructive evils of intemperance. No sooner was it perceived that the people were in earnest in desiring its adoption and enforcement than a majority of the Dominion Senate were determined that the law, by their ill-judged interference, should be rendered inoperative. Another illustration of this tendency is observable in the efforts made by the same august legislative body in the treatment they meted out to the Bill designed to make seduction, what it ought to be, a punishable offence.

Why should such persistency be shown in obstructing all advances in moral and social legislation? Political partisanship alone does not adequately explain such obduracy. It was found that certain forms of immorality were extending their debasing and brutalising influence in England, and an increasing traffic is being carried on that puts the defunct form of negro slavery to the blush. Parties cognizant of this monstrous evil very properly asked for such legislation as would stamp out the vile abomination. The proposal was sneered at and obstructed as such efforts in their initiatory stages usually are. The philanthropists were foiled and the iniquity was permitted to continue unmolested.

A few weeks ago Mr. Spurgeon sounded a note of alarm which, by its boldness, startled conventional propriety; and good people thought, accustomed as he is to speak in plain Saxon, that he had gone too far. Stately and decorous England had scarcely time to compose itself after the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle had ruffled its serenity, when all England is swept by a cyclone of horror and astonishment. For months past the staff of the *Pull Mall Gazette* have been pursuing investigations with diligent pertinacity, and during last week that journal has been publishing a horrible mass of sickening details concerning the abounding profligacy prevalent in the higher circles of English life. As might be expected the disgusting revelations have created the most profound sensation that has agitated the people for many a day.

Every expedient is being resorted to in order to break the force of the appalling disclosures. The bold stroke of the conductor of the journal named is by some attributed to that reckless expedient which goes by the euphonious name of journalistic enterprise, and has to be discounted accordingly. Others argue that it is inexpedient to drag such abominations into the open light of day and thereby increase the evils that are being exposed. Others more determined are clamouring for the condign punishment of the offending journal and all connected with it. Officials, imperial and civic, have interfered to suppress the sale of the daring sheet; but the sale was limited only by the impossibility of supplying the popular demand. As high as \$1 for a single copy was offered by parties eager to scan the horrible record. Worst of all, cynical apologists have urged that as the existence of the horrible evils were generally known, that as these things had existed in ancient civilization, what was the use of minding them? let the dark, poisonous river roll to the wide ocean of destruction.

Sensational journalism is certainly not one of the moral bulwarks of a nation's prosperity; and it has much to answer for in fostering and catering to a debased, morbid taste. The daily relash of disgusting details of vicious and criminal deeds is chargeable with sapping the foundations of many a life that might have been virtuous otherwise; but this terrible disclosure comes under another category. Whether the stroke was an adroit effort to help the waning fortunes of a decadent journal or not, the consequences will be far more extensive.

Now that the curtain has been drawn aside and the dread revelations made, the question of expediency no longer remains. In showing the awful growth and prevalence of immorality, the *Pull Mall Gazette* has rendered a most ungrateful, yet at the same time, a most valuable service to the cause of morality. To let this moral leprosy spread its contamination would blight any nation with an irrevocable curse. The nations of antiquity fell because vice had gained a terrible ascendancy. The Roman Caesars blasted imperial Rome with their infamies. Sodom and Gomorrah and the Cities of the Plains were obliterated by the fiery deluge because of their enormous wickedness. God's pure and righteous laws cannot in any age or nation be violated with impunity. The day of vengeance inevitably comes. The hideous disclosures of this moral pestilence are the first steps leading to an effective cure. Virtuous England will not remain inactive under the stigma of this terrible reproach.

#### Books and Magazines.

THE SANITARIAN. (New York: 113 Fulton Street.)—This monthly, devoted to an important specialty, continues to discuss a variety of subjects bearing on sanitary matters. It numbers among its contributors many distinguished experts.

THE SIDEREAL MESSENGER. Conducted by William W. Payne. (Northfield, Minn.: Carleton College Observatory.)—This monthly, full of interest to students of astronomical science, appears in new type, and presents an attractive appearance.

THE COMMUNICANTS' MANUAL. By the Rev. D. M. Gordon, Winnipeg. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs; Montreal: W. Drysdale & Co.) This is a careful and judicious adaptation of the late Dr. Norman McLeod's Manual for the use of Communicants. It is just such a publication as should have a wide circulation among the young.

A WORD IN SEASON. By Rev. James A. R. Dickson, B.D. Second edition. (Toronto: Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co., 5 Jordan Street.)—We are pleased to see that this most useful tractate has reached a second edition. For its great practical helpfulness to young converts, its brief, pointed and Scriptural counsels are specially adapted. It is well fitted to impart spiritual guidance and benefit to the young. It merits a wide circulation.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)—No fewer than three symposia appear in the July number of the *Homiletic*. One is on Ministerial Education, another deals with the question: "Is the Pulpit Declining in Power?" and the third is on the Epistle to the Romans, and a series of studies in the Psalms is begun. The sermonic section is most inviting, and the other departments are copiously filled with just such subjects as the live minister wants to see.

THE LAND OF ROBERT BURNS. By J. Campbell, M.D. (Seaforth, Sun Office.) Most Scotchmen are enthusiastic in their admiration of their country's representative poet. The author of this little volume is no exception. His well written descriptions of the land of Burns will be most interesting to those who have never witnessed the scenery that inspired his muse, while those who have wandered by Bonnie Doon and gazed with interest on Alloway's auld haunted kirk will read with pleasure Dr. Campbell's accurate and appreciative sketches.

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. (New York: Presbyterian Review Association.) The new number of this superior theological quarterly has made its appearance this month. The opening article, "Classification of the Sciences," by Professor Flint, is worthy of the vast research and critical acumen of its distinguished author. Dr. Pritzer writes on the "Return of Jesus the Christ," presenting the usual chiliastic arguments for the views he holds. Another article of marked ability is on the "Renaissance of Education." Among the writers to the present number we are pleased to see the name of Principal MacVicar, who contributes a clear and masterly paper on "Science and Prayer," and Professor Charles A. Briggs writes a most interesting and able paper on "The Revised English Version of the Old Testament." The critical and editorial notes are worthy of the *Review*, while the survey of Recent Theological Literature, written by some of the most prominent theologians of the time, gives a good idea of all that is most noteworthy and significant in new books, in theology, philosophy, and the higher forms of general literature.

#### THE LATE REV. JAMES DICK.

The following minute in reference to the death of Rev. James Dick, of Richmond Hill, was cordially adopted by the Presbytery of Toronto at its last meeting:

In view of the recent death of Mr. James Dick, senior minister of Richmond Hill and Thornhill, and one of the oldest members of this Court, the Presbytery would reverently bow to the will of God, and would reckon it some alleviation of their loss that their brother's life was spared so long, during many years of which he laboured diligently in the service of the Gospel, and laboured with much acceptance and success. Those who were best acquainted with him can bear witness and many others will endorse their testimony that his character was singularly pure and good, that in all the relations sustained by him he conducted himself with wisdom and honour, and that both in the circle of his own denomination and in that of others he held a high and unsullied reputation. Considered also as a preacher and pastor, he did his work faithfully and well, setting forth in suitable terms the various lessons of Holy Writ, giving to all who were under his charge such counsel, or encouragement, or warning, or comfort, as their several cases might seem to require, and looking after the instruction of the young with becoming fatherly affection and care. Nor is it unsuitable to state here that he aided materially the Schemes of the Church, and other similar organizations, partly by contributing to them himself, and partly by inducing his people to do the same. In relation also to the Courts of the Church he rendered much valuable service; of one of these he was for several years a careful and painstaking clerk. At Presbytery, Synod and Assembly meetings he attended with very marked regularity, even when old age had crept upon him; in the principal matters which came before them he was sure to take a lively interest, and on many of them to express his mind; and whensoever he addressed his brethren he was heard by them with attention and respect.

In full harmony with his previous character (and as was to be expected) his last days were calm and happy. Down to the close of his life on earth, he clung to the merits of the blessed Saviour, in hope of attaining to the better world. And now that his spirit has gone thither, as the Presbytery believe, they would think of the good record he has left behind him, and seek to be influenced thereby, that, like him, they may severally be approved by the Master, and hear it said to them at the last: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

To the widow and family and congregation of the deceased, the Presbytery would tender their respectful sympathy; and copies of the foregoing are also ordered to be transmitted to them.