

Religious Intelligence.

THE PRISONERS' AID ASSOCIATION.

Prevention may be better than cure, nevertheless the cure of the first malady is oftentimes the prevention of a second. Because a man has once fallen into crime is no reason why we should not put forth our best efforts to prevent another such lapse.

Thus our Prisoners' Aid Association aims at "the reformation of offenders, their welfare when discharged, the prevention of crime, and prison reform." When the world is turning the cold shoulder to the man just out of prison, this organization goes to him with an offer of temporary lodging, meals, a supply of tools, and such helps to a better life. The Society also strives to minister to the heart-life of these unfortunates through its Sunday-schools and preaching services held in the prisons and reformatories. This work is greatly aided by the hearty co-operation of the Toronto ministers. The Association also provides night schools and a Home for girls, and affords medical treatment for indigent inebriates. Outside of the work done among the prisoners, it aims at drawing the attention of the public to the need of prison reform, such as the Parole System, "whereby efficient supervision shall, as far as possible, be maintained over prisoners liberated on ticket-of-leave;" the Probation System, "whereby first offenders may have an opportunity to reform without imprisonment;" and provision for the Scientific Treatment of Inebriates. Needless to say, a work like this cannot be carried on without the support of Christian people. To Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, its indefatigable secretary, the Association owes very much of its success.

A GREETING OF WELCOME.

The Guardian has come through its metamorphosis with the New Year in the hands of its new editor, the Rev. G. A. Bond, B.A. We would reply to his "foreword" with the heartiest welcome to our midst. Though newly installed in this post, Mr. Bond is by no means a stranger to our people. His literary style—terse, vigorous, sparkling with animation—has been known for some time through the various publications of Methodism.

During the eight years that Mr. Bond has filled the editorial chair of The Wesleyan, he has shown marked ability, and we know that his constituency there, with its cultured and literary tastes, was not one to be satisfied with inferior work. With a pleasing modesty, however, he forgets his past successes, and turns to the untrod path that lies before. Mr. Bond is a graduate of Mount Allison, and is not the first gifted son our sister college has given to the West. We recognize the voice of a descendant of the seagirt shores of Newfoundland, when he says in his opening editorial:

"As captain of the ship, he is, of course, responsible to the owners; but having been given his general sailing orders, and told the port for which he is to steer, he must be allowed to manage his own crew and shape his own course. Doubtless it will not be all smooth sailing, but that matters little so the port be gained in good trim and in good time."

THE TRANSVAAL LIQUOR LAW.

Those who contend that prohibitory measures cannot be made effective in our own land should look a little into the enforcement of the restrictions of the liquor traffic in the Transvaal. To secure the proper enforcement of the new Transvaal liquor law introduced by Lord Milner, a special force of inspectors and detectives has been engaged. Any attempt to influence these officials is punishable by the forceful penalty of seven years' imprisonment and a fine of six hundred pounds. Surely a penalty of this nature will make men think twice before becoming law-breakers. Another most important feature of the measure is that in any village, ward, or municipality, a bare majority of those polling is sufficient to introduce prohibition for three years or longer, if not reversed by a contrary vote.

In villages and municipalities not having prohibition, great restrictions are placed on the traffic, such as prohibition of sale of liquor to natives, likewise to drunken persons or those under sixteen, abolition of barmails and of back and side entrances, no gambling to be permitted on premises