

learning and long experience can give. Mrs. Lay, 2716, 2718 St. Catherine St., Montreal.

It is said that just previous to a battle, Oliver Cromwell's soldiers were accustomed to look at him, and then whisper to each other: "See, he has on his battle-face!" When they saw that stern, iron face, lighted up with martial fire, they felt that victory was certain, and they followed their leader with unquestioning courage. It is sometimes so with the Christian. When the day of battle comes, the battle-spirit comes with it!

THE INDEPENDENT is only responsible for the utterances of its contributors and correspondents, in as far as these may transgress Christian propriety, or inculcate wrong moral principles. Inside these bounds, the writers bear their own responsibilities. We are not moved thus to speak, in consequence of anything in this or recent issues; but only to have the principle understood, once for all. The INDEPENDENT puts the Editor himself, when a personal contributor, in the same position as other writers.

UNREST: Rev. Dr. Chas. S. Robinson, says, in the *S. S. Times*:

"Boswell used to say of Johnson, who, as we all know, was never able to come to the brightness and comfort of a true faith till just before he died, that his intellect resembled a vast amphitheater; in the center of this stood his judgment combatting, like a mighty gladiator, some apprehensions and doubts and conjectures which, like the beasts of the arena, were all around looking at him through the bars of the cells as he entered, ready to be let out upon him. Sometimes they forced themselves through; after a desperate conflict he would drive them back to their dens and chains; but, not being able to kill them, he was almost invariably assailed again by the same animals. Very vivid is the picture thus offered; it is the likeness of many a mind unrestful ever as his was. But is such a state of chronic antagonism necessary?"

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, says *The Indian Witness*, have the option of refusing to receive opium from India in 1890. The petition calling upon that Government to do so, which has been so extensively signed within the last three months, will be taken to China by a deputation from India, and presented at the Chinese Court. It will thus be given the best possible chance of success. If China should exercise her treaty right and prevent further importation, the Indian Government would be forced to raise its revenue from

some other source. A slight import duty on piece goods, and a stiff import duty on all European liquors would make up for the loss, and leave a margin for Burman railway extension.

WHEN we hear something bad about somebody whom we supposed to be good, take out your lead pencil and say, "Let me see: before I accept that baleful story about that man's character, I will take off twenty-five per cent. for the habit of exaggeration which belongs to the man who first told the story; then I will take off twenty-five per cent. for the additions which the spirit of gossip in every community has put upon the original story; then I will take off twenty-five per cent. for the fact that the man may have been put into circumstances of overpowering temptation. So I have taken off seventy-five per cent. But I have not heard the other side of the story at all, and for that reason I take off the remaining twenty-five per cent. Excuse me, sir, I don't believe a word of it."—*Palmyra*.

PEW RENTS—The plan adopted by several of the Detroit churches, obviates the objection which may be raised against the rental system, and also retains whatever is valuable in the free pew system. A card is sent out to every one desiring a sitting in the church, on which he is requested to signify how much he is willing to pay for the support of the church, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, as the case may be, and also to signify the numbers of three pews which he would prefer to occupy. In case two or more prefer the same pew, the one paying the most has the preference, or it is decided by lot. This gives a sitting to every one who supports the church, without distinction of rich or poor, or of place in the church as high or low.

If now the occupant of the pew during the previous year be given the preference of the same pew another year, every point of difficulty would be guarded. Liberty must be given the trustees to send back the pledges for an increase, if the total does not meet the expenses of the church. The office of trustee has not been enough magnified by the Church as corresponding to that of deacon in the New Testament, and it may be that there should be more prayer for them, for upon their faithfulness depends largely the spiritual welfare of the church.—*New York Evangelist*.