

cult to show that the average of morality is higher in Ontario now than it was forty or fifty years ago. There may be less drinking and less fighting; but is there not more dishonesty, more perjury, more Sabbath breaking, more disrespect for parental and other authority, more disrespect for the Bible and sacred things? The character of a people is well shown by the kind of men they put in places of honour. Within the last year, the second or third generation of Canadians have put men in the highest places that their grandfathers would have carried out of the country on a fence rail.

But to return to our friend Pioneer. It soon became painfully evident to his friends, and more particularly to his wife, that Pioneer was just losing self-control. His will power was going, and he did not know it. For many years he prospered on his farm, but of late his affairs were fast becoming entangled. His financial embarrassment made him drink all the more heavily. He drank to drown his sorrow. He had to drive his grain forty or fifty miles to market. In those days there was a tavern at almost every cross roads. The temptation was too strong for poor Pioneer, and many a time he had to be taken home. His creditors began to push him, and a mortgage was put on the farm. Poor Mrs. Pioneer signed away her home with a trembling hand and a heavy heart; but what could she do? A few more years revealed the awful fact that some of the boys were following in their father's footsteps. A second mortgage was put on the farm.

A year or two afterward it was sold. Pioneer drank harder than ever. Some of the boys went to ruin along with their father. The family eventually broke up.

Reader, is this a fancy sketch? Is there a township in Ontario, in which evictions of this kind have not taken place?—*Knoxonian, in Canada Presbyterian.*

AGES OF ROYALTY.—Emperor of Germany, ninety; President of France, eighty; King of the Netherlands, seventy; King of Denmark, sixty-nine; Queen of England, sixty-eight; King of Wurtemberg, sixty-four; Emperor of Brazil, sixty-one; King of Saxony, fifty-eight; King of Sweden and Norway, fifty-eight; Shah of Persia, fifty-seven; Emperor of Austria, fifty-six; King of the Belgians, fifty-two; King of Hawaii, fifty; President of the United States, fifty; King of Portugal, forty-eight; King of Roumania, forty-seven; Sultan of Turkey, forty-four; King of Italy, forty-three; Emperor of Russia, forty-two; King of the Hellenes, forty-one; King of Bavaria, thirty-nine; Khedive of Egypt, thirty-four; Emperor of Japan, thirty-four; King of Servia, thirty-two; King of Siam, thirty-two; Emperor of China, sixteen; King of Spain, in his first year; Prince Regent of Bavaria, sixty-six; Queen Regent of Spain, twenty-nine.

THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

The Central Association of Congregational Churches and pastors met at Georgetown on April 7 and 8.

The following members were present: Revs. W. W. Smith, Newmarket; C. Duff, M.A., Parkdale; J. Burton, B.D., Northern Church, Toronto; J. W. Pedley, B.A., Georgetown; A. W. Gerrie, B.A., Pine Grove; W. H. Wariner, B.D., Bowmanville; A. W. Richardson, B.A., Caledon; and Mr. J. Bennett, delegate, from Pine Grove. There were also present, and invited to sit as corresponding members, Revs. M. S. Gray, Michigan, C. S. Pedley, B.A., Speedside, and D. McGregor, M.A., Guelph.

Several were late in their arrival, others left before the meetings were concluded. Notwithstanding the extreme paucity of members, the gathering at Georgetown was a good one. The programme was, for the most part, practical, and was thoroughly discussed.

Mr. Gerrie was chosen chairman, and after singing and prayer and routine business, the subject of "Our Missionary Policy and Work" was introduced by Mr. Duff. A hearty discussion ensued, in which nearly all present took part. The question, Whether it is better to concentrate our energies in the centres of population, or have them diffused over wide areas? was the centre from which the speakers reached out in various directions. The impression seemed to be that while we should occupy and hold the centres, we should also wisely and energetically work the country places, which act as feeders to those centres.

In the evening a public service was held in the church, at which Mr. Burton delivered a plain, practical and helpful sermon from Psalm xxxii. After the sermon, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered. The pastor of the church presided, and was assisted by Mr. Smith and Mr. C. S. Pedley.

On Friday morning a paper prepared by Mr. McGregor, of the Western Church, Toronto, on "The Roots of Our Prayer Meeting Difficulties," was read by the secretary. This paper elicited one of the most inspiring and helpful discussions of the association. The brethren came very near together in loving sympathy, as, one after another, they told their experience in the Master's work, with special reference to the weekly religious meeting.

In the afternoon, Mr. J. W. Pedley read a thoughtful and well-constructed paper on "Church Union." The paper served as an introduction to the following resolution, which had been circulated among the members of the association previous to the meeting: "Resolved, that the following shall be accepted as a basis of denominational union: We believe in Jesus Christ as He is given to us in the Holy Scriptures; that He lived and died for our sins, and rose again for our justification. We pledge constant and faithful