

towards the work of converting the heathen which animates themselves. It was recommended that the effort be mainly carried on within denominational lines, but with a view to harmonious and sympathetic relations with all other workers for the same end. Principal O'Meara of Wycliffe College opened the devotional proceedings of the convention of which Mr. N. W. Rowell was the chairman. The principal speakers at the convention and dinner were Mr. Rowell and Messrs. J. Campbell White and Robert Speer, the two latter of New York. We wish the new movement every deserved success. It cannot fail to materially advance the one great movement, before which all lesser aims are as the tiniest planets to the sun, the merest specks of light, ephemeral and insignificant. There is one matter connected with the visits of some lecturers and speakers from the United States to Canada which calls for protest. We refer to their lack of courteous regard for the patriotic British spirit of their auditors. These men would show far better taste and feeling did they realize more clearly that Canada is an integral and important part of the British Empire, and in statistical grouping for missionary or other purposes she in common fairness and courtesy, where contrasts or comparisons with other countries are made, is only in her true place when counted as a part of that Empire instead of being counted with the United States, and then the joint results contrasted with that of Great Britain. Canadian audiences have shown a spirit of courteous restraint and forbearance in this matter, but it is time our too patronizing neighbours had called a halt. We make this comment with all good feeling, but none-the-less with due seriousness and earnestness.

#### "Speaker" St. John.

Comparatively few men have the distinction of being accorded a public funeral under such touching and impressive circumstances as those which accompanied the death of the late speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. During the session of the House, in the prime of life, a short illness, death. To those who for years had known Mr. St. John, had marked his seemingly powerful frame, had been familiar with his bright cheerful disposition and been aware of his temperate life it seemed strange, indeed, that he should so soon have been called from amongst us. Mysterious, indeed, are the ways of Providence. The quick calls to men of such great physical strength as the late Dr. Peters and Dr. Drummond, and of massive frame as Speaker St. John come to us all as strokes of the great clock of time, which is measuring to each and to all of us his portion—unknown as to duration—but, alas for the most part, but too well-known as to results. The Hon. J. W. St. John was essentially a manly man—forceful, genial, staunch and true. Prominent in the Methodist body, he has been a Sunday School superintendent for many years. A speaker of the Ontario Assembly he acquitted himself with honour, dignity and address. His death is widely regretted and the "Churchman" pays its tribute of respect to his memory, and extends its earnest sympathy to his bereaved family and relatives.

#### Spring Thoughts.

One scarcely realizes the rapid flight of time, so absorbed does one become in the pressing cares and serious duties of the present. But Easter has come and gone. The rear-guard fight of winter is visibly relaxing. Buds are swelling. Birds are singing. The tender green of the new grass is refreshing the eye, long wearied with the far spread snow and the cold glint of ice. Soon the meadows will be gay with the golden dandelion. The trees will weave their graceful net work of greenery in the upper air, while along the ground the arbutus will trail its delicate beauty and fragrance and the bloodroot and hepatica will rejoice the heart of the woodland wanderer and gladden and refresh the home to which he cheerily bears the fragile yet precious

treasures of spring. There are no thoughts in the round of the year more full of hope, gladness and sweet and innocent joy than those of the ever welcome springtime.

Regret at the comparatively sudden death of the late Dr. Drummond will have been as wide as the admiration of his unique and captivating verse. He who has made two blades of grass grow where one grew before has been called a public benefactor. Dr. Drummond by his genial, jovial and humanizing verse has roused a warm and sympathetic interest in the simple, cheery, industrious and picturesque habitant amongst his British-Canadian fellow-countrymen. He has not lived in vain who has warmed the hearts of the descendants of the two great historic races, who are blended together as Canadians towards one another. Long will the memory of the gifted Poet of the Habitant be cherished, and in years to come numberless hearts will be warmed and eyes moistened at the song or recitation of his homely and pathetic poems, whether it be on public platform, in the home of wealth and refinement, across lake, or on winding river, afar in the forest by the shantyman's bright log fire, or where the camper looks through pine boughs at the blue vault and twinkling stars above him, or where as the lonely trapper trudges his weary round in our wild and remote north land, his memory is quickened and his heart gladdened by their true vivid and stirring pictures of his home and friends far away.

#### British and Foreign Bible Society.

This old and beneficent society has published an interesting account of its method of business. The Society issues versions of the Bible in four hundred languages, and puts forth about six million copies per annum. In fixing the selling prices the Society charges, not according to the cost of production, but according to the means of its poorest customers. In England the Society issues a Bible for sixpence, as well as a Penny Testament, upon which it has already lost over £25,000. In France, Italy, and Germany the cheapest Bible is sold for about a shilling, and here too the Society is at a loss. The heaviest losses in production occur in the mission field. The Bible which is published at a shilling in the Indian languages costs anything from one shilling and eight pence to three shillings. In China, Corea, and Japan, a Bible which costs about two shillings is sold for sixpence. To this cost must be added expenses of distribution in remote parts of the world. The Society spends each year on its work £250,000 and receives from sales £100,000, so that to cover its losses it requires from its supporters at least £150,000 a year.

#### Professional Forestry.

We have read with much regret a letter in the "Outlook," by Raymond S. Spears, criticizing sharply, but intelligently, the work in the Adirondacks, by Professor Fernow, while in charge of the Cornell College of Forestry at Axton. Mr. Spears questions his judgment, a matter even more important in a forestry professor than theoretical acquirements. The college was, as he says, intended to demonstrate how to make forestry more profitable, more practical and less wasteful than by the common logger. "Professor Fernow's idea was first to destroy completely the stand of trees on the college land, and then replace it with a new forest. Of course, forestry authorities, Gifford, for instance, say that it is better to remove a scrub forest completely, and plant to profitable varieties. But the State had more than seventy thousand acres of burnings and barrens which could have been planted without interfering with the 'weed' trees. The college would have saved money by taking those waste lands instead of the forest, but it chose the best large tract of Adirondack land that was offered for sale—for destruction! However, I am not sure that the college was free to choose just what Professor Fernow wanted." The Cornell tract was purchased from a pulp com-

pany, and pulp companies have proved themselves exceedingly powerful in Adirondack matters. There is not a man in the State who has not reason for regretting the failure of this experiment, loggers most of all. The State needed some one to show how wastes and weed forests could be handled with present profit and future increase. But this 'practical forestry' wasted the forest which it had, and looked seventy-five years into the future for its profit." In every part of old Canada we have thousands of acres of burnt and barren lands which need replanting and certainly there is much to be said in favour of Mr. Spears' view, the result of years of practical observation. Most of the standard works also are written from observations in the European fields only. On this continent, especially in the northern part, including Canada east of the lakes, the climate, soil and character of tree growth requires a very different, and we believe a simpler treatment than that which has grown up in Europe. In another place talking of loggers Mr. Spears says he cuts the best timber, takes no measure to replace it, and the chopping he leaves behind him is a waste. This evil is well understood at the Parliament Buildings, but hitherto we have not heard of any effective changes being made in the leased lands or even in the Algonquin Park.

#### FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

##### Spectator's Comments and Notes of Public Interest.

The passing of Dr. Drummond has been felt as a personal loss by hundreds all over the English-speaking world. He succeeded in reaching the hearts of the people with singular power by the purity and sweetness of his songs; and hearts thus touched have responded in loving sorrow at the announcement of what seemed to be an untimely death. Canada has probably not produced a poet that spoke more simply, more directly, or with greater tenderness and sympathy for the homely virtues of a home-loving people. He knew the French Canadians of Quebec not as a student but as a companion and friend. The wild free life of the woodman, the guide, the hunter, the river man appealed to him with great power, for the wilderness and the water reaches had an impelling attraction for him. He loved nature and he loved the men who were taught at nature's feet, and he gave voice to their occupations and ambitions in verses of peculiar sweetness. The home of the habitant had its attractions too, and it would be difficult to find anywhere in literature a more wholesome and withal graceful and genial presentation of the domestic virtues, the family ideals, the reverence for sacred things, the honour paid to the parish priest, the love-making of young people, than that which Dr. Drummond has given us. There is subtle humor which in no way weakens the sentiment, for we always laugh in sympathy, not in derision. His songs are bright, hopeful and wholesome. They honour and dignify what is simple, true and of good report in life. He has left behind him words that will be read by coming generations with pleasure and profit and all who love what is pure and true will feel pride in these contributions to the upbuilding of what is best in life.

Throughout Canada there will this week be observed the "coming of age" of the Woman's Auxiliary. In a thousand parishes in this Dominion groups of devoted women will assemble in the sanctuary to celebrate the Holy Communion, to offer prayers and thanksgiving, to call to remembrance the outstanding incidents in the work of this remarkable organization during the past score of years, and to look forward to new triumphs in the Master's cause in the years to come. Twenty-one years are but a brief period as the story of the Church goes, but it is far from insignificant when we reckon the work that has been accomplished in this country by our Churchwomen. From an indefinite, incoherent and un-

organized interest in the there has been evolved herent organization which and most of the parish great city branches were pursuing their work members and manifest res women meeting from t mission, bravely resisti should all centre in tl may be found the sam ciousness of personal t tion to the higher ideal iliary has proven fruit contributed directly a sion of the Church but in lands far off. together in a commo sacrifice. It has stim missionary work at created an atmosphere powerfully affect an therefore, a matter o organization should r of majority. We ma celebration will not l lation, but the renew planning of greater t desires to tender his years, years to be even fuller measure c yet been attained.

The decent hous cities has not, we the attention which know at first hand t city and the situat certain extent at lea tude. The most d the city are those w unfavourable circum seems to be again benevolently dispo burdens by the dis first place the city streets are not pr usually congested licensed at almost e the power or the selves and hence l unable to cure. They buy in smal prices. The man cheaply than they, the finds that litt amount in the h easy prey to the ancial difficulties. the officers of the some trifling bill even come upon holding patients sending them to accounts were pr prejudice among due to ignorance at least moonshir avoid these insti have a right to are against them. human habitatio and no repairs w lutely falling to which are used simply disgrace earning from nir ing and clothing children manifes rent. This is th ally direct atten but they do wa with some degr should not our house or tenem have certain mi other? Again i of wealth who ing the necessa