

a remarkable degree of unanimity. Canadians and foreigners are alike in cherishing the most sanguine expectations. Dr. Robertson's plea of the urgent need of immediate, large and concentrated Christian effort in the North-West is unanswerable, and ought to be irresistible. Well does he reason: British, American and Continental Churches may feel impelled to send the Gospel to the nations of Asia and Africa, but if we neglect the evangelization of the North-West who will undertake the work? No less forceful is the reason and encouragement contained in the statement that in the course of a few years at most a very large number of the congregations will not only be self-sustaining, but they will be in a position to give liberally for the work of sending the Gospel to others.

Over the entire Church Home Mission work during the year has been prosecuted on a larger and more effective scale than ever before by self-denying and devoted men. The contributions have reached a higher sum, but the stern fact remains that they are not yet adequate to the maintenance in its completeness of the work in the present proportions to which it has attained, not to speak of its extension, for which there is not only room but urgent necessity. To be anything like satisfactory, the giving must be commensurate with the expansion of the work. For ward must still be the watchword of the Church in this as in every other department of Christian endeavour.

Mr. Croil made an excellent suggestion relative to the circulation of information relating to Home Mission work as an effective means of exciting and sustaining an interest in this branch of Christian activity. He is right, it certainly would be helpful, and the Home Mission Committee could not do a better thing than arrange for the wide distribution among the families of the Church of the admirable report submitted by them to the Assembly.

EQUAL RIGHTS

THE delegation to the Anti-Jesuit Convention in Toronto last week was a large and influential one. The gentlemen, and there were a few ladies also holding commissions, represented all parts of this Province; there were delegates from Halifax on the east, and from Victoria, British Columbia, on the west. On several matters of what may be styled a minor nature, there were diversities of opinion. The delegates were not all of one particular political stripe, neither did they represent any one religious denomination. All sections of the evangelical Church had adherents in the Convention. Whatever may be the prevailing views in different localities, whatever minor diversities they may have entertained, all were of one mind regarding the evils against which it was their duty to testify. The convention made it plain that Romish aggression in general and Jesuit assumptions in particular were not only in themselves abhorrent, but are regarded distinctly as a menace to all liberty-loving people.

It was also made apparent from the brief addresses by representatives from the provinces east and west that while the same intense interest that moves the people of Ontario and the Protestants of Quebec is not so keenly felt, they are far from indifferent concerning the outcome of the agitation that so deeply stirs the central provinces. They feel that, for the present at least, they are remote from the storm-centre, but there is no telling how soon they may have occasion to defend their liberties from the encroachment of a power that strives for supremacy wherever and whenever occasion may offer. For this reason they are not cold and uninterested onlookers. The people of the Maritime, the Prairie, and the Pacific Provinces are extending their sympathies and earnest well-wishes to their brethren and fellow-citizens in Ontario and Quebec. If need be, they may be confidently trusted to take their share in the conflict that is bound to issue in the permanent triumph of perfect religious equality in this Dominion.

Though there were ardent politicians in the membership of the convention, there was a notable absence of those who take a leading part in the political affairs of the country. There were Conservatives and Liberals, but for the time being there was an unusual degree of harmony between them for once. The politicians, however, were not the parties who did most of the work of the convention. The speaking was, for the most part, of a high order. Only at the Tuesday evening meeting were there anything approaching formal orations. At that meeting the speaking was exceptionally good. The addresses of Principal MacVicar, Mr. John Charlton, M.P., Dr. Davidson, of Montreal, Colonel O'Brien, M.P., were much applauded and greatly relished. All of them spoke out in manly tones in

condemnation, not of Roman Catholics, but of Ultramontanism and its arrogant pretensions to usurp power over the State and to secure control of education. The gentlemen from the Province of Quebec were listened to with eagerness, since from them could best be learned the real nature of the grievances and disabilities Protestants in that Province are labouring under. Principal MacVicar's comparatively brief exposition of the case was clear and ringing. Dr. Davidson also gave a crisp statement of the condition of affairs under Rome rule which leads one to ask, If these things are done in the green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

While making reference to the speeches made at the convention, there was one that stood out as exceptionally powerful, that delivered by the venerable Dr. Douglas, of the Methodist College, Montreal. The impression some are disposed to cherish, that oratory is either a lost or fast decaying art, is dissipated in listening to the fervid and impassioned, yet measured, utterances of the Old Man eloquent. The light of the natural eye may be obscured, but it would be difficult to find another who has a keener and clearer mental vision than the venerable President of the Montreal Methodist College. His speech will be remembered as one of the most remarkable events of a most remarkable occasion. Another thing that impressed the large assemblage was the masterly tact exercised by Principal Caven. His retiring modesty was as conspicuous as his ability to say the right thing at the right time, and uniting, as he does, firmness with conciliation, he was able to intervene at critical moments and prevent consequences that many would have deplored. He was never swayed by impulse and never lost his balance, and it is the opinion of many that by his unswerving devotion to principle, unbiassed by any subordinate motive, he rendered eminent services to the Convention and to the cause it was appointed to promote.

Despite minor differences of opinion, the Convention agreed on what is generally regarded as a most excellent series of resolutions, setting forth the pressing duties of the hour, and asserting the firm adhesion of the people to the principle of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Most excellent, so far as they go. It is, however, easier to formulate general resolutions and coin expressive and epigrammatic phrases than it is to apply them to actual conditions. The practical achievements of the Convention will, without doubt, meet with general and hearty concurrence, and so long as it directly and resolutely endeavours to carry out its well defined programme it is entitled to the support of all patriotic and right-minded citizens.

The formation of an Equal Rights Association is an experiment. What its future may be it is difficult to divine. In carrying out the policy defined in the resolutions of the convention it will render excellent service. Its first work is obviously to see that all who desire to do so may have an early opportunity to sign petitions of the disallowance of the Jesuit Estates Act. Such petitions should be so numerously signed, and they should be presented in such numbers, that those entrusted with the administration of the country's affairs cannot by any possibility mistake the temper of public feeling on this matter. Another present and important duty contemplated by the Convention is the employment of the most effective means for testing the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of the acts favouring the Jesuits passed by the Legislature of Quebec.

The success or failure of the work of the Convention, and that contemplated by the Association depends on the carrying out of an honest and above-board policy. If subsidiary personal or political schemes find shelter under its roof its influence will be weak; in that case it would only invite distrust, and ultimate failure, thereby injuring the very cause it is instituted to promote. The great interest at stake, the moral and religious liberties of the people, the future of this Dominion are of immensely greater importance than the rise or fall of any political party, or the advancing of the interests of self-seeking schemers. Whatever may be the short-sighted aims of some, the people at least have no political after thought to serve by the present movement. The one thing they have determined upon is that an effective check be put on Ultramontane encroachment wherever and whenever attempts, arrogant or stealthy are made by its advanced guard, the Jesuits, to intrude into spheres from which they must be firmly and forever excluded.

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CHURCH GOVERNMENT. A Treatise compiled from his Lectures in Theological Seminaries. By Alexander T. McGill, Emeritus Professor at Princeton. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—In this volume we have the substance of more than forty years' teaching on Church Government. Dr. McGill's students are numbered by hundreds all over the land and to them especially these lectures of their old and honoured instructor will be most welcome. The table of contents shows how wide a field these lectures cover, and of what great value the book will be to those who are interested in the questions that are here considered. In his preface the author says: "My readers will see throughout the volume that ruling elders, whether learned or unlearned, are a leading order in the writer's judgment, to be understood, instructed and animated with ever increasing concern." On "deacons," too, the writer's opinion is clearly stated, as well as on other subjects which at the present time have a living interest. Just as the closing pages were going through the press, Dr. McGill passed to his rest and reward, ripe in years, in character and in labours. The copious index was prepared by another hand, which also soon after completing this task laid down the pen to resume it no more.

A MANUAL OF INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT. By Dr. Bernard Weiss, Professor of Theology in Berlin, Germany. In two volumes. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, Toronto: William Briggs.)—This work forms a valuable part of the "Foreign Biblical Library," edited by Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, A.M. It is designed especially for ministers, theological students, teachers, and thinkers in any station of life who desire a profounder knowledge of the New Testament Scriptures, and are willing to do some critical reading to attain that end. Those who are disposed to go below the surface and dig for hidden treasures will find themselves guided to richer veins and rewarded with larger nuggets of gold, by accepting the services of this well-informed companion. In the first volume, Dr. Weiss wields the pen of a master in discussing what he calls the "Science of Introduction," from Patristic times to the present. He then devotes over a hundred pages to a critical and detailed "History of the Origin of the New Testament Canon." This is followed by a still more elaborate "History of the Pauline Epistles." The second volume, just issued, opens with a careful analysis of the Epistle to the Hebrews, and treats at some length the question of its authorship. This epistle has been variously ascribed to Paul, Apollos, Luke, Philo, Clement and Barnabas. Dr. Weiss thinks it morally certain that Paul was not its author, as is commonly supposed. In his judgment the strongest reasons point to Barnabas, as the writer of this remarkable book. Next follows a suggestive examination of the Revelation of John, the Brethren of Jesus, and the General Epistles of James, Jude, Peter and John. Two hundred pages are then devoted to the Historical Books of the New Testament, taking them up separately and interweaving many facts of decided interest. The volume closes with an Appendix giving a "History of the New Testament Text," involving its original language, its early manuscripts, its various versions, and its marvellous preservation. On the whole, we are compelled to admit that this is a work of vast research on the part of the writer, and, rightly studied, must be one of vast instruction to the reader.