

electing grace which is sovereign and illimitable.

But the doctrine of election becomes most helpful when we understand it in the form in which Jesus always presented it. "Chosen" was a word He continually used and applied to His disciples. But He never failed to specify the purpose for which they were chosen. "The old notion"—to borrow Washington Gladden's words—"was that choice, or election, was simply the drawing of the chosen into a safe enclosure where they might be sheltered, protected, and fed." They were chosen in order to receive something themselves. Election was an enviable privilege. Such a notion is very apparent in the Westminster Confession, and is the reason why some of us long for alterations in the venerable document. For that is not the idea of Christ at all. Hear Him "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit." According to His teaching, election is not privilege, but responsibility. If we are among His disciples, then we have been "picked out" that we may be assigned some definite work. We are elect, not to be saved ourselves, but to save others, not for personal enjoyment, but for service. So received, election is not something that implies advantage to one and disadvantage to another, but something that imposes a solemn duty, for the proper discharge of which a strict account must be given.

DOWN BY THE SEA.

The Rev. J. G. Shearer, Field Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada has just completed a five weeks campaign of Nova Scotia in the interests of the preservation of the Lord's Day. Some things reported by him will be of interest to our readers. Some fifteen months ago Mr. Shearer visited twelve Nova Scotia towns and cities. In ten of these, Alliances were organized and were united in the Lord's Day Alliance of Nova Scotia. His recent tour has included twenty-five centres, in everyone of which the people have organized in defence of the Christian Sabbath. In some few of these, owing largely to inclement weather, the attendance was not large. In all the interest was gratifying. In many places, notably in Lunenburg and the Sydneys, the attendance was very large. As compared with his former visit Mr. Shearer found the interest in the work of the Alliance very largely widened and deepened. He believes the explanation of this is to be found in the fact that the work of the Alliance is now much better understood and hence prejudice or indifference, born of misconception or lack of information, have given place to cordial approval and hearty co-operation; and in the fact that the people generally have had special reason to see that the inroads on the integrity of the Lord's Day in the forms of railroad construction and traffic, Sunday steamers, pleasure excursions, labor in connection with the development of the Provinces mineral resources, etc., are becoming increasingly frequent, bold and serious. In one institution alone no less than seven hundred and fifty men are working twelve hours a day and seven days a week.

Some of the gratifying features of this growing interest in the protection of the Lord's Day against the inroads of greed, pleasure, irreligion and general selfishness are noted. The various branches of the Church are all uniting in the Alliance move-

ment—the Protestant branches with practical unanimity—and to a considerable extent the Roman Catholics as well. The Archbishop of Nova Scotia himself nominated one of his clergy as a Vice President of the Provincial Alliance, and two others as members of the executive Board, while in several local organizations Roman Catholic clergy and laymen are heartily co-operating.

Among the prominent laymen who have accepted office in recently formed organizations are:—D. D. McKenzie, K. C., M. P. P., Mayor of North Sydney, M. H. Fitzpatrick, Ex. M. P. P. New Glasgow, Judge McLeod of Pictou, C. S. Wilson, Ex. M. P. P. Windsor, W. H. Chase, Wolfville, Albert Gaten, Ex. M. P. P. Yarmouth, C. E. Kaulbrick, M. P. P. Lunenburg, Hon. Senator Wood and Judge Emerson, Sackville. Others who have warmly commended the work and serve on Executive Committees are:—Hon. J. N. Armstrong, M. L. C. North Sydney, Hon. Angus McGillivray, Antigonish, Hon. H. R. Emerson, M. P. and Hon. Justice Hanington of the Supreme Court, Dorchester, N. B.

The organized labor forces also as represented in the Provincial Workingmen's Association and the various Trades and Labor Unions, have, in the Industrial centres of Nova Scotia, as formerly in Ontario and the far West, joined hands with the Alliance. It should be no matter of surprise that workmen prize their weekly rest day. The law of the Sabbath is "The Magna Charter of Industrial Liberty". Moreover, apart from all higher considerations experience uniformly proves that seven days in the week toil receives in the long run only six days wages. But it is none the less gratifying to learn that the workmen so generally are recognizing the fact that they have special reason to be interested in the work of such a movement as the Lord's Day Alliance. Mr. Shearer has visited Sackville, Dorchester and St. John in New Brunswick, where Branches have been organized of the New Brunswick Provincial Lord's Day Alliance. He returns East early in January to visit the main centres in Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island holding a Provincial Convention in each, and attending also that of Nova Scotia in Halifax early in February.

The World Religiously.

Every year the Allgemeine Zeitung, of Munich, publishes a carefully prepared estimate of the religious statistics of the world. According to the estimate for the present year, there are in Europe 384,500,000 Christians, 6,600,000 Mohammedans, and 6,500,000 Jews. In all America there are 126,400,000 Christians; the Jews and heathen are not given. In Asia there are 12,600,000 Christians, 109,500,000 Mohammedans, 200,000 Jews, and 667,800,000 pagans. In Africa are 4,400,000 Christians, 36,000,000 Moslems, 400,000 Jews, and 91,000,000 heathen. And in Oceania are 9,700,000 Christians, 24,700,000 Moslems, and 4,400,000 heathen. In the whole world there are 240,000,000 Catholics, 163,300,000 Protestants, and 98,300,000 Greeks, or a total of 501,600,000 Christians in a population of 1,544,509,000. It is a striking fact that Protestants are increasing in numbers faster than Catholics. In English-speaking lands Ireland alone has a majority of Catholics. The wealthiest Catholic Church is that of France.

Scatter seeds of sunshine: The world is better for a smile.

Sparks From Other Anvils.

Reformed Church Messenger: A missionary church is a live church, a growing church, a conquering church, because it is the true church of Jesus Christ.

Endeavor World: The first gift that Christ wants, the most important gift in his eyes, I think, is our obedience. I do not believe that he cares much about any other gift till he has that gift.

United Presbyterian: The man or corporation, that knowingly and wilfully disobeys and defies the laws of the divine government, is in fact a moral anarchist and arrayed against the authority of God.

Presbyterian Banner: Worrying is one of the greatest drawbacks to happiness. Most of it can be avoided if we only determine not to let trifles annoy us, for the largest amount of worrying is caused by the smallest trifles.

Lutheran Observer: Temperance education is a remedy—peaceable, philosophical, radical, far reaching. It trenches on no man's rights. It appeals only to the power of truth. It is the echo of God's primordial decree, "Let there be light."

Christian Intelligencer: The ointment which is wasted is the ointment which is not poured on Jesus' feet. Let the people who do not believe in missions and other beneficent work outside the bounds of their own congregation make a note of the above now, and remember it every time the offering plate of outside benevolence is passed around.

Lutheran World: There is no use in our whining about the sordid heart of the world. It is not a useful business to be in. There is no use in whimpering about the worldliness of the world. It has always been worldly, and is no more worldly now than it has always been. Paul did not fall to weeping because Corinth was a worldly town.

Michigan Presbyterian: Why are not our prayer meetings better attended? Why are not more heads of families present? Why are so many of those who do attend disposed to occupy a seat as distant from the leader as possible? It will not be amiss especially if the exercises should seem to drag, for any thoughtful person to rise and answer one or more of these questions.

Presbyterian Banner: Experience counts. Everywhere men appeal to it as conclusive. Why not accept this as to prayer and the good providence of God? Is there anything on which we have more positive testimony than gracious answer to prayer? Is there any song so universally sung as, "Praise God, for he is kind?" David recorded his testimony as to the faithful care of God. It has been repeated in every age. Why not accept this testimony?

Canadian Baptist: In the way of legislation we confidently expect a distinct advance, particularly touching the prohibition of the liquor traffic, that unspeakable shame and curse of our country. Now that Provincial authority respecting this traffic has been defined by the highest court of appeal, it is demanded that the Provinces move up in the direction of Prohibition. The several Canadian Provinces now have an enviable opportunity of showing what can be done by means of restrictive legislation.