

E. Loyalists, their expulsion from the old colonies, and their settlement in the Maritime Provinces.

3. Files of newspapers, books, pamphlets, college catalogues, minutes of ecclesiastical conventions, associations, conferences, and synods, and all other publications relating to this and other Provinces.

4. Indian geographical names of streams and localities, with their signification, and all information generally respecting the condition, language, and history of different tribes of the Indians.

5. Books of all kinds, especially such as relate to Canadian history, travels, and biography in general, and Lower Canada or Quebec in particular, family genealogies, old magazines, pamphlets, files of newspapers, maps, historical manuscripts, and autographs of distinguished persons.

Among the advantages to be derived from the institution of a Free Library enumerated by Mr. Hallam, the following is worthy of special notice:—

Looked at from the commonest standpoint—viewed in the dollars and cent light—I maintain that free libraries are profitable investments for rate paying bodies. They develop a taste for reading; they keep people out of bad company; they direct the rising generation into paths of study; they divert workmen from the street corner and the low, corrupting dram shop; and by developing these virtues amongst the multitude, they must necessarily diminish the ranks of those two great armies which are constantly marching to gaols and penitentiaries, and in the same ratio they must decrease the sums of money which ratepayers have to provide for the maintenance of those places. And even if these libraries effected no saving of money, nay, even involve an ultimate increase in public expenditure (which they will not), then, I say, it would be still wise to have them; for I contend that it is infinitely preferable to pay for intelligence than to tolerate ignorance.

The importance attaching to the appointment of a librarian is not overrated. The occupant of such an office requires special qualifications. The success or failure of the library depends on the choice the Board may make. This is one of their most responsible duties. He must have, as an indispensable qualification, a wide knowledge of general literature, be possessed of methodical and orderly habits, of obliging manners and of sufficient firmness of character to maintain the rules necessary for the proper working of the institution. It is also obvious that he must be independent of all cliques and coteries. A Free Public Library is for the citizens as such. To put a nominee of any mere section in charge would throw discredit on the discernment of the Board, and impair the confidence of the people in their management. It is a matter for congratulation that in Toronto the choice of men every way qualified for the office of librarian is not restricted.

From the activity already displayed the completion of this praiseworthy undertaking may be expected within a reasonable time. It will be a boon to many, a rich source of enjoyment and an effective means of moral and intellectual elevation. The readiness and cordiality with which the people recorded their votes in its favour argue well for their intention to avail themselves of the privileges which a Free Library will bring within the reach of all.

It may also be confidently expected that the success attending the pioneer libraries will exert a powerful example on other communities, and that the day is not far distant when in Canadian cities, towns and villages the Free Library will be as conspicuous a feature as the town hall or the post-office.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

THE intense political excitement of the last few weeks has subsided. With a sense of relief the people have returned to their normal ways and are only too glad to occupy their minds with other subjects for a time than those which formed the battle-cries of the contending political parties. There is no wish to belittle the questions that were discussed during the late election contest. Those interested in the welfare of the country ought to take a deep interest in the measures which the respective political parties submit for the decision of their fellow-citizens. It matters a great deal whether a country is well or ill governed, and it may be taken for granted that, if the people generally are indifferent to the methods of legislation and the personnel of those who compose the administration, the country will be badly governed. That remark about eternal vigilance is commonplace in the extreme, but it is perfectly true, nevertheless. Wherever constitutional government exists it is not only in theory but in fact that party organization is essential to its success. We hear a great deal, and not without reason, about the evils of party, but party is not responsible for all the evils that are committed in its name. It ought to be the aim of all upright citizens to seek the purification of political life

by determined opposition to all the base and unworthy devices to which political tricksters without shame are in the habit of resorting. It is all very well to see and decry the nefarious expedients adopted by the opposite party, but, if the best men on both sides would steadfastly resist the wiles of the devil in their own ranks, political life in Canada would not to-day be so open to censure as is unfortunately the case.

A first principle in politics ought surely to be the selection of the best and fittest men for parliamentary honours. This is not always attended to at present. A bustling, ambitious man of limited education, with but slender knowledge of his country's history, less still of the practical questions that occupy the public mind, and crass ignorance of the essential principles of political science, wants to add M.P. or M.P.P. to his hitherto undistinguished name. He has sufficient shrewdness and cunning to capture the convention, and, it may be, the representation of an electoral district. Another man has plenty of money. In some cases it is the most powerful instrument to secure his advancement. Men of this stamp never make legislators, but they make subservient partisans and smooth-working voting machines. Worse still, men find their way into our parliaments who are recklessly and openly immoral. Why constituencies composed of moral and religious citizens care to be represented by such, is one of the marvels of this marvellous age. There is a greater mystery still why they can deliberately go to the polling places and vote for men of this stamp; it is simply incomprehensible. Do they not say in effect to their sons and their daughters: "Canada, this fair heritage that God has given us and our children, is the land we love: you who are our joy and hope to whom we bequeath our dear bought liberties, see the kind of men in whom we repose our trust: these are the men of all others best fitted to promote the happiness and virtue of this Canada of ours: that is why, in the exercise of our patriotic trust, we elect them as our parliamentary representatives?"

Let the best men of both parties also oppose with all their might the corrupt practices that seem to adhere so inveterately to the politics of this and other lands. If the taker of a bribe is viewed with pity and contempt, with what indignant scorn ought those to be regarded who ply the needy and unprincipled voter with illegal offers. The men who buy voters can themselves be bought, and are, therefore, unfitted to sit in the legislative halls of the nation.

It is to be regretted that, during the heated term of an election contest, the press of the country should lose that judicial calmness in the discussion of the questions on which the electorate is called upon to decide. There is a gradual increase of fervour and other less admirable qualities that reach an explosive point before the day of election arrives. The more generous feelings to those opposed to each other in political contentings cease to find utterance. Honourable tactics are too often displaced by methods that would at other times be reprobated. Unjust misrepresentation of an opponent's words and intentions are only too frequent during the political dog-days. True, the ice of winter was on the ground, but the blood of the contestants raged at extreme fever heat. After all, is it absolutely necessary for our leading dailies to outrage the proprieties and descend to the worst features of electioneering as exemplified in the less reputable papers of the neighbouring republic? Surely intelligent Canadians of either party are able to form tolerably correct views on public questions, if the facts are given and discussed with ordinary fairness in the columns of the daily papers. Excited and frantic *ad captandam* appeals to the prejudices and passions of sections of the people cannot be looked upon with approbation by those who regard the press as a powerful educative instrumentality of the age. There is much room for improvement in this respect, and it is difficult to understand why journals, who display ability and enterprise in all other departments, should fail so conspicuously in the tone of their political discussions on the eve of an election. There is no reason for concluding that this vice in Canadian journalism is incurable. Its many other benefits will ere long make a recriminatory style of political discussion distasteful to readers, and then the evil will stop.

SINCE last acknowledgment \$2 have been received from M. A. C., for the students at Pomaret Grammar School.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

ESTIMATE OF REV. R. W. DALE, BIRMINGHAM.

From the growing importance of this form of work, we are sure our readers will be glad of an opportunity of examining the views of one of the ablest men of the day—the successor of John Angel James. *Appropos* of the recent visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey to Birmingham, Mr. Dale delivered a sermon on Acts v. 14: "Believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." After a brief exposition of the text in its primary application to the circumstances of the founding and rapid increase of the early Church, Mr. Dale proceeded:

Of course no such effects can follow any religious services held in our own time. We have but to continue the work which has already been going on for eighteen centuries. Under the Apostles this Divine fire was kindled; we only transmit to the next generation the flame which we have received from the generation that has passed away. But if the meetings which are being held in Bingley Hall achieve their purpose, it will be said of them when they are over, "Believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." For more than a fortnight, on every evening of the week, except Friday and Saturday, there have been from 9,000 to 11,000 people in Bingley Hall. On Saturday evening no services are held; on Friday evenings the congregation has fallen perhaps to 6,000 persons. On one evening only when the weather was very stormy, did the crowd fail to come. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons there have been 3,000, 4,000, or 5,000 people there. On Sunday afternoons and evenings the hall has been thronged, and the doors have had to be shut, hundreds, if not thousands, being turned away.

GREATER THAN POLITICS.

Having referred to the fact of Birmingham being a centre of great political activity, and stated that on some very special occasions Bingley Hall has seen far larger audiences gathered to hear such famous statesmen as Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright, the preacher said: Except in some great political crises, such as do not occur more than twice in a century, I doubt whether any political party could, on six days in the week within a fortnight, gather such audiences as those that have been brought together by the American evangelists. What makes these immense assemblies all the more remarkable is the fact that they are not held in one town only; audiences are not therefore attracted from the remote parts of the country, as is the case with some great political demonstrations. What we are witnessing here has been witnessed during the last eighteen months in Newcastle and Plymouth, and in half a score of towns between. It has been witnessed in Dublin and in Edinburgh. Large buildings—generally the largest which these great towns and cities contain—have been thronged night after night as Bingley Hall is being thronged now.

WHY DO THE PEOPLE GO?

How are we to account for all this? It would take a long time to answer that inquiry. We should have to ask why people care to listen to Mr. Moody who do not care to listen to ordinary preachers; why they care for the musical services organized by Mr. Sankey when they do not care for our ordinary forms of worship. There are several other questions we should have to ask, some of them much more difficult to answer than those I have suggested. But this, at least, is evident—people have not ceased to care about religion. Except in some great national crisis, that seemed to threaten a revolution, I think you would find it impossible to crowd Bingley Hall for a fortnight, six days in the week, to sing political songs and hear a political speaker. To sing hymns and to listen to preaching, they come in such numbers that very often the doors have to be closed and many shut out. Christian men who sometimes despair of the victory of faith should take heart from a fact like this. Religion is still a matter of deep interest to immense masses of the English people. In our work as Christian Churches we should remember that to be despondent is to ensure defeat. If the Gospel of Christ is good news to ourselves, if it give us strength and courage and joy, filling our hearts with the splendour of an infinite hope, we should assume that others will be interested in what we have to tell them. These great meetings at Bingley Hall are a demonstration that we have a right to assume so much as that.

(To be continued.)