

and deal pews with doors in place of the old oak sittings, which had been ruthlessly cast out. Beside the church was a public house formerly known by the name of "Heaven's Gate," and here, no doubt, the rude forefathers of the hamlet drank and slept, or it was the custom of the farmers who came in from their distant homesteads to pass a week at a time drinking at the inn."

#### The Seed of the Church.

The strength of the Church lies largely in a well-informed and devout laity. The seed of the Church are the children of the laity. It is idle and futile for Churchmen to complain of the growth of religious ignorance, and of the callous indifference of so many of the laity towards Church worship and work. So long as parents, guardians, and even in some cases clergymen, are not doing their utmost to instruct their own children in the vital truths of Christianity, and to have those who are not being taught at home brought to Sunday School and well grounded in the Catechism, in the use of the Prayer Book, and in knowledge of the Scriptures no election can be won without a thorough canvass of the constituency. No life insurance company can succeed unless its agents diligently seek and obtain new policy-holders. How, then, can a Church grow if its members are lukewarm and indolent in teaching their children its truths, and in seeing to it that in each parish and mission there is a growing Sunday School with a staff of well-instructed and energetic teachers? We almost idolize our public school system. Is our Sunday School system less important? Men and women of the Church, to you and your children is the promise. Are you providing and preparing the seed for a bountiful harvest?

#### Old Age Pensions.

There is much to commend the movement set on foot in the Old Land which aims at the State paying pensions to men and women who have passed the age limit of sixty years. It is founded on a spirit of broad and enlightened brotherhood. It may be fairly said that the element of charity does not enter into the proposal to mar it with any sense of the shame which comes from abject dependence on others for the means of livelihood. Rather may it be deemed a proportionate return, late in life, when the working and earning power has greatly diminished, of the money which each individual has for the greater portion of that life been paying into the public treasury in rates, taxes, and it may be other ways. In a general sense it may be likened to the relation which is established between a life insurance company and an annuitant, or to the military pensioner who, at the end of his life, receives that which helps to provide the necessities of life from the State, in whose service his life has been spent. Apart from the humane principle which underlies the movement is the important consideration that vice and crime could not fail to be greatly diminished by the removal of one of their chief incentives, the lack of the necessities of life.

#### The Secret of the Success of the Salvation Army

Was the theme of an address recently delivered by its venerable founder, General Booth. Like many sermons and addresses, it was rather diffuse, although he spoke for nearly an hour and a half. He spoke at length of his recent visit to Australia, and the assurances of the good that the Army had done. In Germany, where he had been just a short time ago, they would have nothing to do with the Army at first; but the people had realized the good work that it was doing all over the world, and in Berlin he was able to address two gatherings of over 5,000 each. Then he detailed the early struggles of forty years ago in the east of London, and now the flag of the Army flew in fifty-

two different countries. Speaking of the emigration and colonization scheme recently projected, he said that when men were out of work and starving it mattered little where they were sent so long as they got employment and homes for their families. What, then, was the secret of the success of the Army against so many difficulties? Because they put their hearts in their work; because of the self-sacrificing sympathy which ran through officers and men; because of the methods employed, which had been marvellously helpful in taking hold of the people; but the great secret of their success was their belief in God. Their religion was a mixture of divinity and humanity.

#### Church Growth in Wales.

Some figures of unusual interest have been published by Canon Beck, Vicar of Roath and Rural Dean of Cardiff. The learned Canon points out that there has been an increase of 104 per cent. in communicants in the four Welsh dioceses within the last twenty years, from 74,778 in 1885 to 152,583 in 1904; and of Sunday School scholars during the same period of 52 per cent., or 92,000 in 1885, and 140,370 in 1904. The Church in Wales has been, and is, beset by many difficulties. But the spirit and labour of the faithful Welsh Churchmen have risen superior to all opposition, and they are sowing good seed with an unstinted hand, and are honoured and blessed in their victorious work for our Lord and His Church.

#### Australia and the Navy.

The Australian Government has recently had a report prepared by their naval director which contemplates an expenditure of over one million and a half dollars a year for a period of seven years to provide a navy for the defence, when necessary, of the Commonwealth, and as well as a contribution to the naval strength of the Empire. The Australians are in earnest in this matter. They realize how necessary a maritime police force is for the protection of commerce and the defence of their country in time of war. Such provision is a matter of years of judicious expenditure and careful and thorough training and preparation. Neither the Australian, New Zealander nor South African deem it fair play or consistent with a proper sense of self-respect to allow the over-burdened tax-payer of the British Isles any longer to be the sole provider of a maritime force for the protection of the commerce of the Empire and the maintenance of the integrity of its widely scattered dominions. How much longer will Canada be content with the invidious distinction of depending on the tax-payer of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to protect her commerce and defend her shores?

#### MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

A wave of belief in public ownership has passed over North America, and, like the rest of it, Canada has yielded to the fashionable idea. Glasgow has done such wonders that every municipality felt that it must copy such a successful example. But we learn from the "Literary Digest" that there are spots and defects which have been overlooked. "Professor Hugo R. Meyer has gone at the problem in the spirit of an original investigator, and reveals in a striking way the inertia which has fallen upon the extension of street railways as the result of municipal operation and the circumstances which have naturally attended it." He shows that only 13 per cent. of the towns of between 5,000 and 9,000 inhabitants in the United Kingdom have street railways, while in the States there are 41 per cent. Strangely the numbers of these towns and cities and the population are practically the same, though the one is compacted in a small island and the other spread over half a continent. Owing to the Tramway Acts it has be-

come impossible to raise money for private enterprises, while the municipalities have either put off or have only built short lines where they were sure to pay. Where a company wished to build six and a quarter miles of road a borough thought it would be a paying thing to build the mile and a quarter which passed through it, and so spoilt the scheme. Thus the people have been left without facilities to reach cheap and comfortable suburban homes. The much-heralded trams of Glasgow are only 140 miles for over a million people in the city and suburbs. "It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that in 1901 no less than 91,200 inhabitants of the city lived in the condition of three to twelve persons in one room, while 194,300 persons lived in the condition of five to twelve persons in two rooms." "The result has been to paralyze the extension of street railways in Great Britain, to deprive of electric power important manufacturing interests, and to keep the people huddled up in small, unsanitary spaces near the centres of population, while their smug officials write rose-coloured reports about the gross earnings of their carefully selected tramway lines."

\*\*\*

#### LENT.

And now we approach the solemn and chastening season of Lent, when the Church commemorates the forty days spent by her Lord in the wilderness in loneliness, fasting and prayer. The Jews, it will be remembered, had four annual fasts: In commemoration of the capture of Jerusalem; of the burning of the temple; in memory of the death of Gedaliah; and in memory of the attack on Jerusalem. Many other fasts were observed by them. The Pharisees were accustomed to fast twice a week. Now the Christian observance has relation solely to that period of time in our Lord's earthly life, in which by retirement, self-denial, and devotion he prepared himself to cope successfully with the tremendous trials, temptations and sufferings which were besetting him. He retired from the world that the spirit might dwell in him more richly. He denied himself food that he might more perfectly become "the bread of life." He gave himself up wholly to devotion that he might become more completely the central object of devotion to mankind. It is a strange and striking commentary on human life that the first man Adam, fresh from the hand of God, possessing all that could delight the eye and rejoice the heart, in the midst of everything that could minister to sensual enjoyment, fell before the tempter. But the second Adam, in the wilderness, without food to eat or water to drink, his bodily senses chastened and subdued by fasting was thus enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome the tempter. It has been well said that "God blesses true fasting as a means of grace, and an aid to prayer, a help to purity. It is a way of showing shame for sin and love for Him, whom our sins slew. It holds the flesh down and strengthens the Spirit's rule over the whole man." The point of this statement is that the fasting must be true to win the blessing. That great and good lawyer Sir Matthew Hale ever kept fresh in his memory the Latin proverb, *perimus licitis*: we perish by permitted things. Surely there are no things which more effectually sap and undermine the character and ultimately wreck the life of man than the alluring and insidious things, that at the outset seem so innocent and pleasant that we readily give them entrance. Alas! too often it is, but letting in the thin end of the wedge, which under the blow of growing desire sooner or later rend the moral character and drive what might have been a noble, useful life, a shattered fabric on the shore of time. Surely there can be no better season for comparing our lives with the Divine standard than that of Lent; and at the very outset we cannot go wrong by giving earnest heed

to the maxim, which strength to the famous fish by permitted things."

#### FROM WEE

#### Spectator's Comments

His Lordship Earl G. Canada, has already on a disposition to give more than polite plat speak in public. Some ing before the Canada besought the men of the every effort to uplift this country. He declared for him would really earnest in that direction accomplish what all g He went further, and present were only filled conviction and the sen direction he could sti ideals. And why not this has usually some here or there sees th pitifully low outlook t munity, and calls alo may be but a cry in is taken up by one an and eventually the opinion is altered. W hear our Governor-G his personal and offic tion to ideals of citiz fading memories in t sible for His Lordshj without leaving a de mands at least. We a few days ago he c McGill to put the wherever it may be f the organization that real is highly indigr will be quite in orde put up a Member of to ask the Premier i responsibility for hi proceed to read His suming to thus expre to emphasize is this is to be a factor in public life in this co spoken support of r things. We have nev Bishops of the Cana tempted to express

some obvious princ quite in order for th counsel the members aspects of their dut wisdom from such into fruitful soil her bear fruit. But thi stand for decency a well as private life shoulder on this ma the men who are gi be cried down and represent lower stan

Another point to before the medical well worth conside to the compositor some of which co tity of spirits, w deadly-narcotics. A scious agents in l: temperance in thei to be the prey of taking spirits in la of medicine, surely