

AS we go to press notice of the closing exercises of Queen's College, Kingston reaches us. Names of graduates will appear next week. The Rev. W. T. Herridge, B.D., of Ottawa, preached the Baccalaureate sermon at which the hall was crowded, from the words, "I exercise myself," Acts xxiv. 16. We quote these stirring sentences said among other things:—"I appeal to you as you go forth from these halls, rightly to use the powers which God has given you. Gird your loins to the heroic task of achieving for your native land a permanent renown. For the sake of the hearthstone which once sheltered your childhood; for the sake of the mother's love, which of all earthly loves endures the longest; for the sake of the best instinct of your own nature; for the sake of Christ who still looks upon you with eyes of Divine sympathy, listen not, I beseech you, to the roar of temptation, however seductive may be its call. Contend stoutly against every foe which assails your moral freedom, and let God and His angels behold a glorious and decisive triumph of a man." We may here added that Prof. Watson of Queen's goes to California as soon as the examinations are over, where he will remain some time delivering lectures in Stanford University. This is a well-deserved tribute to the high character and attainments of Professor Watson.

### THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

AS we are now into a general election, and the country will soon be in the very thick of the fight, the voice which will be heard in our land for some time to come will not be that of the turtle. There will be much keen and some angry discussion—only some, for upon the whole Canadians are a good-natured people. No one will regret that the session of the Legislature at Ottawa which has just closed has come to an end. It has not reflected much credit upon Canada in any way, while many will feel that the spectacle which at some times it has presented has been a humiliation, if not a disgrace, to the country. Let it be remembered, however, that the men who go there and who bring discredit upon the dignity of the House and the good name of the country, are there, because the citizens of Canada choose them and send them there, generally knowing what kind of men they are. The remedy lies in the hands of the people themselves, and to condemn those who conduct themselves unworthily is to condemn ourselves. Now there is an opportunity of remedying the evils which all good men of all parties deplore. We with all our heart believe in the propriety and obligation of every citizen taking his full share of responsibility, and doing his duty to his country by the exercise of the franchise, and we have no sympathy whatever with the ground taken by many that politics and public affairs are not for their pure minds and clean hands to touch. As great responsibility for whatever anyone regards as evil in the state may be incurred in not exercising the franchise as by exercising it. It is to be regretted that not always can men of that character be found for whom everyone would like best to vote. Let every Christian, every pure minded man, every patriotic man in his place do his utmost to see that only such men are asked to represent them and sent to parliament, as will both advance those measures which they consider the best for the country, and whose character will also command confidence and respect. Plenty of men in both parties are to be found worthy of all confidence, and the leaders of both parties should see to it that they do not alienate the respect, the confidence and support of good men by selecting as standard-bearers those whose character is already known to be besmirched. There is no doubt that the character of both the Local and Dominion Legislatures is better than it once was. This must be because the standard of public life and conduct in the whole country is rising. Late events have shown that there is yet plenty of room for improvement. Let every wise and good man of all parties in the coming election so use his influence that the House to be elected will, in point of character, be the superior of any that has been before it, and such that even rumour itself will not be able to charge any one of its members with the excesses which have been freely, and there is every reason to believe with too good reason, charged against some members of the Parliament which has just been dissolved.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE W. F. M. S.

THE Women's Foreign Missionary Society has grown to such an extent, and its operations have such an important bearing upon some of the most vital parts of the Church's work, that its annual meeting has come to be second only in its importance in the eyes of the Church to that of the General Assembly itself. In addition to the account of its proceedings given elsewhere in our columns, some salient features of the meeting just closed may well be noticed.

The presence of the devotional spirit, the spirit of prayer and supplication, and the prominent place deliberately provided for this in the programme of its proceedings was very noticeable. The earnestness and reverence of those who led the devotions, and the hushed stillness with which they were joined in, showed very markedly how fully this spirit characterised the whole body of the delegates. They were evidently a company of praying women. In the prayers themselves, the sense of God's Fatherhood, of gratefulness, and of the need of and dependence upon the gracious power of the Holy Spirit were very manifest.

The Society has adopted a noble motto, "The World for Christ." It is one in which faith and hope are boldly expressed, which calls for high endeavor, and points to a glorious future, a consummation which, when it has been attained, will transform this earth and human history into something very different from what the past has been. The inspiration of this motto is evidently felt in the Society and exerts a real power as a motive force. Again and again it was quoted not simply as a fine sentiment, but seriously, as an object which, however remote its attainment may yet be, lies before, which the Society is pressing on to, and fully expects yet to be realized. That is the object which they had met to forward, it was kept well to the front, and its power really felt. And why should it not? Can there possibly be any nobler aim; any achievement so wholly sublime as to win the whole world to Christ? Nothing is more near or more dear to the heart of the Redeemer Himself than this; and all Christians may well feel its inspiration.

How the Society has grown from year to year until it has reached its present large proportions was also felt and seen. It has branched out into such a variety of forms of beneficence and blessing, it reaches out so far and so wide, not only all over our own land into every city, and town, and even village almost, and many rural districts, but to India, China, Japan and to the utmost corner of our most remote foreign field. And being engaged in this work for our own Church, has brought that of other churches within their view and more or less of their knowledge. So that the effect of the whole has been what was often referred to at the annual meeting, that, while the members of this society have been seeking to do something for others, they have in the doing of this, received a very great deal for themselves. To be worthily engaged in any great and good work, enlarges and ennobles the worker. This has been the effect very markedly upon the members of the W.F.M.S. They are very gratefully conscious of it, and it was frequently alluded to. The conceptions of very many, probably of all, of Christian work have been greatly enlarged, and the power and capacity of Christian women banded together to attempt and to succeed in carrying on a large undertaking, have come to many as a revelation. Not only in this respect has the work been of great service to the women of our Church, but also and perhaps more has it benefitted them by enlarging the hearts and sympathies of very many, by furnishing avenues and means for the exercise of those Christian affections which have their home so pre-eminently in the hearts of Christian women.

The growth of the society has called for new adaptations of agencies and machinery from time to time, and these have both been wisely made; it has called for a large amount of executive ability, and the women who have that kind of ability have been found, and their work stands before the Church and the world to-day as one of the brightest pages in its history. It is not to be wondered at, the fact is very visible at the annual meeting, that the Society's officers enjoy to the fullest the entire confidence of their constituents. We should say not only this, but they enjoy in a very large degree the sincere and warm personal affection of those whose work they are conducting. We

believe they deserve it. Under their guidance the work has grown, the constitution has been adapted to its new requirements from time to time, and now it is almost a model of sanctified wisdom. Under it a large undertaking is worked harmoniously, and it is capable of indefinite expansion to meet new needs and demands.

In the hands of the president and her staff of assistants, the methodical orderliness of the conduct of business was very visible, and not only allowed a large amount of work to be overtaken, but also to be done without a jar. Scarcely does any General Assembly meeting pass without getting into one or several tangles, which some clear head, like that of Principal Caven, has to straighten out. There was nothing of the kind, nor even an approach to one, at this meeting.

The interest taken in and care bestowed upon, Mission Bands were very conspicuous when that subject was up for consideration. They largely comprise, as yet, only girls and young ladies. It is now felt, and most justly by some, that earnest efforts should be put forth to draw boys into this work. Why should they not be? The two together, boys and girls, are the hope of the Church and of the world, and the future strength and growth of the society and the extension of its good work depend upon the extent to which boys and girls alike can be interested in it, and their services enlisted on its behalf. There were here and there, apparently more than in former years, which could be well accounted for, intimations of decrease in the membership of some auxiliaries. If the Mission Bands are well and vigilantly nursed and tended, any present apparent falling off in membership can only be temporary, and continued growth is assured. But to make it sure this must be done. We observe that some similar religious societies, one year devote their energies specially to advance one department of their work, and another year to advance another. In view of the very large number of female members of our Church, who as yet take no part in the work of the W. F. M. S., at some opportune time, if not this present year, their might be special effort put forth throughout the whole Church to make a large addition to the membership of the Society from among this class. Done in the spirit and manner, and by the happy methods in which it would be certain to be attempted under the guidance of the General Board, it could not but result in large accessions, not only to the increased power of the Society, but to the rich spiritual gain and blessing of all thus brought in.

We notice in a word only one feature or two more. One of these is the fact that, the great proportion of all the money given for the cause of Christ through the W.F.M.S. is a direct, voluntary contribution of money by its members, without having recourse to any of those questionable, often humiliating methods by which money given for christian objects is defiled, and true, Christian liberality destroyed.

Another is, the steady, unfaltering loyalty of the society to the interests of the Foreign Mission work of the Church as represented by, and in its widest aspects, under the control of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee. On nothing is the society more decided, and its record more unquestionable than its absolute fidelity to the church's missionary interest, as they are devised by the General Assembly and carried on under its responsible office-bearers. The Foreign Mission Committee of the General Assembly and Board of the W.F.M.S. work hand in hand, and it is largely because of this perfect unity of interest, and harmony in their operations, that the work of our Church abroad has had such a rapid expansion, and that its prospects for yet greater growth in the future are so bright. "The world for Christ is a sublime motto," and if by the influence and work of this society, and of all our members who are really alive to the great mission of the Church, it can be made to penetrate the heart and more and more mould the action of our Church in the future, then there lies before her what will yet be her brightest era of mission work at home as well as abroad, for both are included in "The World for Christ."

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