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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4, 1908

Next Monday, 9th inst., has been appointed as the day for general thanksgiving. Special services will be held on Sunday in most of the churches, and these will doubtless be largely attended. Canadians have great reason to be thankful to Almighty God for Peace, Plenty and Prosperity within our borders, and to Him grateful thanks will go up from hearts and homes.

Genuine thanksgiving thinks backward, to review the gifts of the past, but still more looks forward to anticipate the grace promised for the future.

Anyone who has visited Quebec will agree with Earl Grey that the English-speaking people of Canada have something to learn from their French compatriots in regard to the courtesies and amenities of life. The French-Canadian is always polite.

The rector of an Episcopalian church was suddenly seized with heart failure in a New York town the other day. It was assumed from his garb that he was a Roman Catholic. A priest was hastily summoned, who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic church. It does not appear, remarks the Sentinel-Review, that any great calamity followed the mistake. Perhaps the great powers that rule the universe pay less attention to our nice distinctions of creed and garb than we sometimes imagine.

To be safe in Christ's hand, and so never to perish, is one thing; but to feel that we are safe, is quite another. Many are safe who do not feel it. Christ's hand holding them, and not their hand holding him, is the true secret of their safety and perseverance.—Bishop Ryle.

THE LAYMEN'S CAMPAIGN.

During the recent political contests in connection with the Dominion general election there has been running another great series of meetings, namely, the conventions and mass meetings from Halifax to Vancouver of the Laymen's Missionary Movement. It speaks volumes for the hold the latter movement has taken, that at such a time so many splendid and inspiring missionary gatherings could be accorded overflowing audiences. The large proposition is to evangelize the heathen world in this generation. That, of course, means more prayer, more men, more money, more information.

The method is to stimulate the movement in the first place at the more important centres of population, with the expectation that they in turn may impart the stimulus to their respective districts, so that, sooner or later—and the sooner the better—the movement may strike each individual congregation. There are several points on which all the speakers and all experience seem to concur. (1) The minister must be earnestly alive to the Great Commission of preaching the Gospel to every creature, and must therefore back up his laymen in every legitimate way in this movement. Any pastor must see that to have his laymen take hold of the missionary cause in an earnest manner will benefit the cause and the layman too. (2) It was agreed that you need a laymen's missionary committee in every congregation, apart from the women's missionary committees, children's mission bands, &c. Of this committee the minister should always be a member, but not necessarily, and not preferably, the chairman. It was also pointed out as important that this committee should be chosen carefully from those who already had or were capable of having an active interest in the big idea of the evangelization of the world in this generation. To this committee there should be no merely complimentary nominations. (3) All agreed the only way to secure the large advance in missionary giving necessary, was the way of the Weekly Missionary Envelope. On this point there was no dissenting voice. (4) There was complete agreement that at least once a month the thought of the evangelization of the world in this generation should be brought before the congregation, from the pulpit, at the mid-week meeting, and otherwise, and that the laymen themselves should as much as possible divide up to study this field, and the other field, and briefly present the information. Without plenty of information there can be little interest.

With a sympathetic minister in every congregation, a live missionary committee of men, the weekly mission envelope, and much prayer, it is believed the Dominion can successfully grapple with its share of the project of the evangelization of the world in this generation.

It is not wealth that gives the true zest to life, but reflection, appreciation, taste, culture.

A HINT FOR THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES.

Now that these colleges are about to commence a new session, the "Scottish Review" very pertinently discusses the training of our future Ministers. The writer complains that too much time is spent on Theology, to the neglect of economic science and present-day social matters. "There must also be instruction, as we have indirectly noticed, in social and economic subjects. Men are eager to know how to fit in their Christianity with their every-day life. That minister alone is qualified to guide men who has studied his own age. A cursory knowledge of Old Testament problems, dogmatic theology, and abstract exegesis has meant that the Church has ceased to speak the language of the people. The needs of to-day demand men who can translate the truths of the past into the present. It is doubtless an excellent thing to have an exact knowledge of the ancient Jews. We venture to think that it is also desirable to have some slight acquaintance with the modern English. The young Scottish minister is theologically well equipped, yet too often crudely ignorant of the aims and aspirations of the workingman." All this applies equally to our Canadian students, and their training for an effective Ministry.

AFTER THE STORM.

The general election for the Dominion Parliament is now a thing of past history, to the relief of many who grew tired of the prolonged recrimination. On the principle, however, of giving vent to and getting rid of unpleasant humors, instead of retaining them in the body politic, there may be a fair amount of good out of much controversial evil. Each leader happily was a clean upright man personally, which is much for which to be thankful; and as for the Dominion Premier, it is a duty and a pleasure for "The Dominion Presbyterian" as a Protestant journal to say his attitude in the past as respects large moral questions has been that of a Christian statesman of a high-minded and lofty type. The new Parliament contains a considerable number of beginners of marked ability; and there is every reason to expect and believe the interests of Canada, morally as well as materially, will make important headway during the life-time of the present House.

Much of this world's sadness comes from things that ought not to bring lasting sadness at all—such as poverty, and disease, and death. And that which is saddest of all is often least sorrowed over. "There is nothing sad but sin," said Charles W. Gordon. ("Ralph Connor"), of Winnipeg, to an audience of Christian people who had gathered to consider methods of leading their fellow beings into the service of the only Conqueror of sin. And the Sunday School Times asks: Why should we let our lives be saddened by those orderings of God which He can make into blessings for us if we will? And why should we welcome into our lives that death-bligh which is the sure cause of the only sadness worthy of the name?