

concentrates attention, while the quality of the platform speaking deteriorates every now and then. The convention needs, more than anything else, men like Professor Drummond, who take a broader outlook, and have grasped the essence of a simple and genuine Christianity. There is too much laboured exposition of Scripture, and interpretation that is either too literal or too fanciful, although it should be said that pre-millennialism was not made unduly prominent this year. If some of our leading pastors and teachers, or representatives of other educational centres, could bring to bear an influence which would lift the meetings from the ruts into which they occasionally fall, Mr. Moody's conventions could be made reservoirs of much greater spiritual power.

THE *Canada Presbyterian* is responsible for the following, we sharing responsibility by reproducing it. Of course our contemporary, with ourselves, gladly recognizes exceptions from the stricture here implied but imitations multiply and are poor things; at any rate there is room for thought.

Chat-away Assemblies, Whimsby Camps, Paradise Parks and such like are very nice and enjoyable places to visit. It is quite possible to have a very good time at any of these delightful retreats, but it is possible also that these summer religio-educational fairs may be considerably overdone, just as was the old-time soiree which has now almost gone out of commission. It is a grand thing to meet with old friends and make new ones, amid the fluctuating associations of the camp grounds; it is delightful to hear the lions, ecclesiastical, scientific and educational, do some mild roaring. These modern institutions have their use no doubt. Those who like to have their reading and thinking done for them by proxy will find that those midsummer dissipations fill the proverbial long-felt want, while those who, through the year endeavour to give their intellectual nature anything like justice, will find their moral and spiritual being braced and strengthened by calm and silent converse with nature. But then it has to be remembered that these gregarious summer pasturages are paying concerns.

Our contemporary, the *Christian Mirror*, Portland, tells us that Congregationalism is growing in Pennsylvania. It has now ninety-five churches in that State, and has made a net gain of eighty per cent. in church membership since 1880.

SUMMER holidays and summer retreats are becoming more and more necessities of our social city life. Houses are closed because the family is away rusticated. It is a serious question how this summer *abandon* may be indulged without demoralization, for in too many instances the strolling player, the saloon-keeper and gambler follow the pleasure-seeking crowd. We therefore welcome

all endeavours to provide places of summer resort free from such demoralizing influences. Of the Toronto endeavours we feel justified in mentioning Long Branch, a place of seventy acres, fast becoming a scene of comfort and of beauty. We mention it because its manager, Mr. T. J. Wilkie, has been long known as a Christian worker, having been the active secretary for many years of the Toronto Y. M. C. A., then of Brooklyn, besides being an active member of one of our city churches. There are many lines of Christian work, and this, though business, may be made Christian also in influence and in power. The rules of the ground, rigidly enforced, forbid all alcoholic liquor and unseemly conversation.

ACCOMPANYING the Press Association party on its annual excursion brought before us more of these endeavours to provide summer rest and recreation. Near Barrie is a pleasant resort on Lake Simcoe, and at the other end an island on which a pleasant evening and night were spent. Orillia, on Lake Couchiching, is prettily situated, and the entire scenery of the lakes in that region delightful. Shaded islands, charming bays, glistening wavelets, with clear skies, combine to impress a Canadian with the fact that for beauty of prospect and clearness of air there is no need of seeking other climes or foreign shores.

OUR brief stay in Barrie enabled us just to call upon our friend, Mr. J. R. Black, and to meet one or two of our friends there. We found Mr. Black cheery and hopeful, and the friends we met spoke highly of his work and power. The town of Orillia was visited, and under the town authorities we drove around it. We shall not dwell on the horrors of the idiot asylum there further than to say that the kindly care exercised over these horrible forms of humanity is a standing testimony to the power of Christian disinterestedness and charity. As we were driven around the growing town we were impressed with the fact—no Congregational Church here. There is room and work.

It has been our practice to give our readers the benefit of all adverse criticisms of ourselves that could well be published. Is it too much to publish the following *per contra*, and to thank our friend for his encouraging words? We do get encouragement betimes.