

**Missions in China.** "Will the missionary societies that have been engaged in China take up work again when the way opens," is well answered by—"Will merchants and traders again enter." The missionary has ever been the pioneer among savage and barbaric peoples and if China is re-opened, the missionary will be in the van, and he will meet with many a warm welcome from faithful and true hearts that have learned to know and love the men and women who unselfishly give their lives for the uplifting of their fellow-men. Dr. Percy Leslie, just home, deep scarred and worse from Honan, says that among those most friendly and true to them at the end, were men who had taken no interest in religion nor in the missionaries until the troubles began, and then through knowing them as neighbors, had done what they could for them to the end. Such men as these will be missionaries, even in these dark times, in telling their neighbors from their own knowledge, the character of the men and women driven out, and in thus dispelling ignorance and prejudice and preparing the way for "The glorious return."

**United Canada.** "Whether my political life be long or short, all my life shall not have been lived in vain, if, when I am laid in the grave, the races are a little more united," said a Canadian statesman in a speech, a few weeks ago. To live and work for such union should be the aim of every Canadian patriot. But it must be remembered, that just as rays of light can only be nearer each other as they near the sun, the source of light, so true heart unity between the races can only come as hearts get near the one heart centre.

The only bond that can bridge race cleavage is that of a common law from God, a common Saviour and love to Him. Party, political or commercial bonds cannot stand the strain of race alienation. Canada will never be a truly united people so long as the charter of human liberty, the Word of God, in their own tongue, is a practically prohibited and unknown book among any great race section within her borders. In proportion as they accept that Law from heaven for their life on earth will they be drawn together in the strongest of all bonds. A nation in which all the races are united by the bonds of a free, intelligent, unselfish, unprejudiced, Christian brotherhood will be the only truly united Canada. Be it ours so to live and work that whether our lives be longer or shorter, they may have contributed something to this end.

**Summer Vacation.** Unfortunately the summer holiday season has a tendency to project its influence into the succeeding months in more ways than the best. Were the new strength and vigor brought to bear upon the Church work that has been for a little laid aside, the vacation season would be a distinct gain. But habits of carelessness, in regard to Church attendance, and the keeping of the Sabbath, and other duties of the religious life are liable to form, if not carefully guarded, and are sometimes continued when vacation ends. Needless to say, the vacation which strengthens the lower part of our being, the physical, and weakens the higher, the moral and spiritual, is dearly bought. "What shall it profit a man."

**Argyle and Iona.** A worthy example to Presbyterians was the late Duke of Argyle, father of our one time Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne. Not long before his death, though offered a high price by the Roman Catholics for the Island of Iona, with its ancient sacred buildings, associated with the memory of St. Columba, he refused the offer and donated these buildings by deed of gift to the Established Church of Scotland, to be held by her as a Presbyterian possession for all time.

Such men, whether in Scotland or Canada, who put loyalty to what they think right before gain of any kind, either of wealth or power or fame, are treasures greater far than storied temples. The highest style of architecture as well as the most permanent, is the building of character, and every man who builds well his own is in that measure deciding the character of the nation.

**Communion Cups.** The individual communion cup has evidently come to stay. Three or four years ago it was unknown. When it appeared it was laughed at. Then it was reasoned against. Now it is being adopted. James Church, New Glasgow, N. S., Summerside, P. E. I., probably others, are using it. More have decided to do so. It seems so unlike the common "cup" of all the ages, that the first suggestion of it comes as a shock. But why? Communion is spiritual, it does not depend upon externals, or, if it does, what more likely to hinder it than the thought that tobacco-stained lips or moustaches have bathed at will in the cup from which I drink. Why should one be asked to do at the Lord's table what would be deemed improper and unclean at man's table?