

have done so. As an evidence of growth in spiritual life the amount given for foreign missions during the last four years has doubled, having been last year £6,328.

Prevailing sins are much the same everywhere, and as regards Sabbath breaking, intemperance, betting and gambling the best that could be said was "no retrogression, but little if any progress."

The report on Temperance presented by Rev. John MacMillan, while it speaks of advance, yet reveals a state of things little short of appalling and shows the tremendous forces of evil against which the church in Ireland has to contend. While the drink bill of the United Kingdom is 1½ per cent. less for 1893 as compared with 1892, it still reaches the enormous amount of about £139,000,000. In Ireland there is one licensed house for the sale of drink to every 66 families and they run from one to every 37 families in Belfast, to one for every 11 families in Hilltown. For drunkenness on the Lord's day there were 3,100 arrests in Ireland, being a decrease of 1,500 as compared with the average number before the Sunday Closing Act of 1878. The report notices that while opposition to restrictive legislation is powerful and well organized, yet the Labour leaders take strong ground in favour of it, and that "local opinion by direct popular vote is rapidly becoming the law of the British Empire." The example of the colonies in this respect is referred to as a rebuke to the Mother Country, which, from this report, is evidently yet in a very backward state, as regards this matter, so vital as it shows it to be to the progress of every branch of Christian work. The Sabbath Observance Committee's report referred to causes inimical to the proper observance of the day, such as the too eager pursuit of worldly gain, excursions by land and water, pleasure parties and social entertainments held on that day and the opening of public houses. It is noted as a hopeful sign that the working classes are seeing it to be to their interest to uphold the integrity of the day of rest, evidenced by the fact, amongst other things, that the Labor Conference held last autumn refused to have any public demonstration on Sunday. The refusal also to open the National Collections, on the Lord's day by a vote in the House of Commons of 166 against to 39 for, was mentioned as encouraging. The progress of the Saturday early closing movement, which is being pushed on under influential auspices, it is believed, will advance the cause of Sabbath observance. It was suggested and agreed to that sermons should be preached on the subject on the third Sabbath of May.

The Sabbath School Society is an organization formed thirty-two years ago by some of the ablest and wisest men in the church. It has for its object supplying the Sabbath Schools with the Word of God, and various kinds of helps for its study. There are now 1,500 teachers in connection with the Sabbath Schools and 81,000 scholars. The contributions to the schools last year amounted to £185 and those from them to £1,149. A children's magazine, *The Daybreak*, under editorship of Rev. George T. Rea, has a growing circulation and aims to inform, to instruct and interest the children and win them to a loving sympathy with all that concerns the spread of the gospel in the world.

The Central Presbyterian Association has for its object providing rooms in Belfast for young men, including a gymnasium, assembly offices and an assembly hall where the Assembly could meet and where also evangelistic services on a large scale could be held. The report recommended procuring for these purposes the site of Fisherwick Church, and going on with the work by degrees. The scheme was warmly advocated and the report was unanimously adopted.

The Sustentation Fund reported a total of £33,155, being a slight increase in congregational contributions, but a falling off in other sources of income, in addition to a large increase in expenditure which caused a decrease in the supplemental dividend from £15 last year to £10 this. Reasons for encouragement are found in that investments grow steadily year by year and that congregational contributions, which are the great hope of the fund, on the whole are well maintained. As with our own Augmentation Fund, many fail to do anything for it, and as this fund is vital to the church's wellbeing, its standing is a source of constant anxiety. Organization is needed in every congregation, and a large-minded, unselfish liberality. A comparison, extending over a period of years, showed that the fund was scarcely holding its own, which was a cause for constant solitude, so that a crisis was approaching in connection with it. It was largely a layman's question keeping it up, but earnest interest appeal from ministers and intelligent teaching of the people were necessary. Enthusiasm, organization and making it compulsory in every congregation to contribute to it were needed for its effective maintenance. A resolution proposing that it be an instruction to Presbyteries to see that each congregation is visited by laymen qualified to inform them upon the present condition and claims of the fund was adopted unanimously.

The Irish Mission is a very important home mission work carried on in the south and west of Ireland largely among Roman Catholics. Its agencies are chiefly colportage, including the Dublin City Mission, the Mission Press, the Connaught Schools and the Lallina Orphanage. All the circumstances are most favourable for the prosecution of the work, opportunity for preaching and distributing the Word are abundant and there is great readiness to receive it. There is yet

much land to be reached and great room for extension. Colportage work has been found especially effective. During the year 30,309 Roman Catholic families have been visited and with 29,937 of them religious conversation had been held, many copies of the Scripture have been sold and tracts and books together with the 10,631 copies of the *Christian Irishman*. The total number of schools kept open is 42, of which 27 are in Connaught. The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland has offered its co-operation in colportage work and the Free Church of Scotland has shown a deep practical interest. The work has been largely under the management of the Rev. Dr. Magee and Rev. Mr. Armstrong, who have both been connected with this mission for about fifty years. On account of the infirm health of the former, the Rev. Thos. Lyle was appointed his assistant and successor.

The Foreign Mission report submitted by Rev. Dr. Barclay, one of the conveners, was of a very encouraging nature. Work is carried on chiefly in India and China.

The staff in India of missionaries sent out from Ireland numbers twenty-eight. The work as narrated in the report resembles very greatly that of our own agents in India. Its difficulties, trials, encouragements and agencies employed are the same. A full account of it was given to the Assembly in an interesting speech by the Rev. Robt. Boyd, a returned missionary, in which he spoke of their native pastors, evangelists, thirty-six in number, their teachers and scholars, their Bible women and Zenana workers, and eighty-six Sabbath Schools and their teachers. Their educational work, he said, was disapproved of by some, but their work in the schools he thought invaluable, together with a native Christian literature which was year by year spreading over the land. Last year 80,000 tracts and books sent out from Ireland had been distributed by evangelists. The provinces they were at work in contained a population of 10,600,000. Their work, he said, was carried on in an atmosphere of 90 degrees, in the coolest room of the coolest house and was so trying that a pure Britisher of the fourth generation was unknown.

Rev. Thos. C. Fulton, who has just returned after spending ten years in Manchuria, China, gave a most encouraging account of the progress made and the ever-increasing interest manifested in that country. In 1889 there was a membership of 75, to-day it was about 1,000. Everywhere there was room and need for more workers; more workers is the cry of every returned missionary.

The Rev. Mr. Stevenson, son of the late Fleming Stevenson, of Dublin, gave an account of the Students' Volunteer Movement. Now there were from 700 to 800 men at home connected with it and 12 per cent. of their number had gone to the foreign field.

The ordinary income for the year, it was stated, had been £11,800, but unless there was a considerable increase they could neither add to the number of their missionaries nor increase those local agencies on the field which during late years have done so much to extend Christ's kingdom. This and suitable buildings were needed to complete their missionary equipment both in India and China.

The Colonial Mission was reported on by Rev. Geo. MacFarland in the absence of the convener, Rev. James Cargin, the state of whose health also made his resignation imperative.

The report said that during the past year the Colonial Mission had lent a helping hand to the churches of Canada, Natal, New Zealand, Tasmania and Queensland. A synopsis of Rev. Dr. Cochran's Home Mission report was laid before the Assembly, and reference made to the visit and appeals of the Rev. C. W. Gordon, which have resulted so favourably to the church. The work in all the other colonies named was also referred to in a sympathetic spirit and the convener in closing his report said that "His conviction of the great and urgent necessity for a colonial mission has increased and deepened with the years he has acted as convener."

The Rev. S. Gardiner, Kingstown, seconded the adoption of the report in a speech full of hope and encouragement to colonial churches. He referred to the remarkable expansion of British colonization, the utter inability of the colonists to overtake the Christian work growing out of it, its importance to maintaining a proper state of national well-being, and acknowledged the great responsibility laid upon the church at home to look after and follow emigrants with all the means of grace. The Rev. Samuel Houston, M.A., Kingston, Ontario, who attended the Assembly as a deputy from our church, was invited to address the Assembly, and did so in a comprehensive and powerful speech of which, along with the labors of Rev. Mr. Gordon, we have no doubt our church will reap the fruits for many years to come. Mr. Houston referred to the great extent of the Dominion; it afforded ample room for all and any number of emigrants who should come to us, to the variety of occupations and professions open to all; to the political, social, racial and religious problems we are engaged in solving, and closed by giving a comparative and forcible statement of the progress made by the Presbyterian Church in Canada during the last ten years. A resolution of thanks to Mr. Houston was passed by acclamation, and the Moderator addressed him in the most appreciative terms. We give the closing sentence: "We have received you to-night with warm hearts, and when you go back to the great church you represent, we trust you will bear to them the expression of our Christian regard, and that you will give them the assurance that, in their great

struggle for liberty in the church, for the right direction of public life in the state, in the pastoral oversight of these scattered immigrants, in all these most important services of our Lord and King, we watch with interest their valiant doings, and wish them God-speed.

The Rev. Mr. Hamil, of Lurgan, at the suggestion of Rev. Mr. Cargin was appointed convener in his place.

(To be continued.)

## Books and Magazines.

THE INCARNATION AND COMMON LIFE. By Rev. Brooke Foss Westcott, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Durham. The Copp, Clark Co. Ltd., Toronto.

So well and favourably known is the writer of this book that anything like commendation is really a work of super-erogation. The book consists of a number of papers and addresses on a variety of subjects, but all having the closest relation to our common every day life and duties, given at various times and places. The titles of a few will give some idea of the whole: 'Fellowship in Intercession,' 'Social Obligations of the National Church,' 'The Family,' 'The Christian Idea of Almsgiving,' 'Socialism.' The purpose of the writer is thus stated: 'In the following pages I have endeavoured to express what I have felt from time to time when I have been called to consider some particular phase of our present life, and to mark, however imperfectly, the application of the gospel to our difficulties and sorrows and duties.' The work is, as all will expect who know anything of his other books, suggestive and helpful and his learning, beauty of speech and spirit appear on every page.

THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS AND ROLL OF PROTESTANT MISSIONARY MARTYRS FROM 1661 to 1891. By James Croil, Montreal. Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Mr. Croil is already well known in Canada, not only as a prominent elder in the Presbyterian Church, as formerly editor of our Church Record, but also as a writer on Missionary subjects. The title of this book at once awakens interest. It is divided into two parts, the first reaching from apostolic times to that of the Scottish Covenanters; Part Second comes down to 1891. The work is moderate in size and compact, but useful for reference as well as for reading. Its usefulness is increased by containing a Summary of Protestant Foreign Missions with their incomes and a copious index of names mentioned in the book.

BEAUTIFUL JOE, an Autobiography. By Marshall Saunders. Toronto: Baptist Book Room, 9 Richmond Street West.

This is a Canadian edition story of a real dog with the real name Beautiful Joe. It is dedicated to the well known G. T. Angell, president of the American Humane Education Society and prefaced by a commendatory note from Lady Aberdeen who classes it along with Black Beauty. Having said this we have said enough to commend the story to all our readers. Its object is the praiseworthy and most necessary one of inculcating upon all, especially the young, a love for and humane treatment of dumb animals.

RICHARD ROGERS, CHRISTIAN. By Alice Barber McConnell. Presbyterian Board of Publication.

The Presbyterian Board's name attached to a book is a guarantee of its pure and wholly useful moral aim and purpose. This is a story of Western prairie life in its first stages of which Richard Rogers is the real or supposed hero. The book is written in graphic, colloquial style and in every page we may read the moral of sobriety and religion inculcated in it.

This is the latest music from Wm. Pond & Co., New York: 'The Benedicite, pointed for chanting, G. W. Warren; 'The King of Love my Shepherd is,' quartet, and 'Great God of Nations,' duo, sop. and tenor, J. B. Marsh; 'Christ the Lord is Risen To-day, solo, L. Bogert; 'Knowest Thou the Land,' song of Hebrew exile, H. P. Mendes; 'The Butterfly,' a march, B. S. Huhn; 'Empire State Express,' a march, W. P. Adams; 'New York World,' march, F. N. Innes, a well-known band-master; 'The New York Recorder,' march, D. F. Bradley; 'Captain Lydecker's Quickstep,' H. S. Morris; 'The Amsterdam,' T. G. Dodworth; 'Modesty Gavotte,' L. Lehmann; 'Gavotte der Kaiserin,' P. Hertel, with full description of dance; 'At the Carnival,' waltzes, B. H. Janssen; 'The New Amsterdam,' waltzes, S. P. Wardwell; 'Old Dog Tray,' 'My Old Kentucky Home,' and 'Sweet Red Roses,' arranged for banjo, by D. Emerson; 'La Bresiliere,' for mandolin and guitar, C. de Janon; and these songs, 'Before the Ball,' (not after), S. Howard; 'Good-bye, Dorothy,' S. Waters; 'You have to be Tricky Now-a-Days,' 'And by Instalments,' both by F. McClelland; 'Oh, Tell Me,' R. Coverley; 'Old Pop Martin,' C. F. Cahill; 'Ain't I a Lute?' H. Randall; 'The Song of the Bridegroom,' Dan. Gillette; 'Saturday Night,' C. F. Byrne; 'Love's Magic,' waltz song, C. Streitmann; also 'Colonial Collection,' a volume of favorite songs arranged for guitar, from which such as the following will quickly commend them: 'Come where My Love Lies Dreaming,' 'Old Black Joe,' etc., besides many of Verdi's prettiest operatic airs. It is in paper binding. Also 'Recherche Collection,' a volume of choice instrumental pieces for guitar, well selected and of various grades of difficulty—for instance, the ever lovely gavotte, 'L'Ingenue,' by Ardit, 'Il Trovatore' Airs, and 'De Call's Sonatas.' It is well printed and in paper cover.

The *Cosmopolitan* for June contains, besides leading articles, 'Famous Hunting Parties,' by Buffalo Bill; 'The Panama Scandal,' by a member of the Chamber of Deputies, many others more brief, but yet of great interest such as 'The Home of Joan of Arc,' 'The Fjords of Norway,' 'How to Preserve Health and Attain Strength,' by Sandow; 'The Modern German Drama and its Authors,' by Friedrich Spielhagen, and continued articles. The *Cosmopolitan*, Sixth Avenue and Eleventh St., New York, U. S.