

THE APPROACHING CHURCHES.

When Methodist union was first actively advocated in Canada the proposal met with so little favor that discussion of the subject was not admitted to the organs of the existing bodies, and its advocates were reduced to issuing a weekly newspaper to deal with this subject alone. After six months this publication, the *Methodist Union*, was able to retire triumphantly from the field with the words: "Now that the highest court of each of the Methodist churches concerned has pronounced in favor of union and done its share for the present towards bringing it about, it will no longer be embarrassing for the several organs to open their columns for the free discussion of the subject." The last terror expressed on the negative side of the question—for both sides were heard in this paper—was that union would be followed by disaster, as there would be many who would refuse to become parties to the union, and the last state would be worse than the first. We do not, however, remember hearing of any schism at all resulting. There were, of course, individual departures, just as there are liable to be after any church episode, but not so much as a group anywhere. Almost all the members of all the churches became as loyal to the united church as they had been to their separate bodies, and loved union at least as much as they had before loved their distinctions. We do not suppose that there is today any similar fear of discussing the question of a larger union, pro and con. It would certainly not be unnatural if there should be minorities in both churches so conscientiously opposed to union that they would refuse to have part in it. Such conscientious minorities have to be tenderly considered, and, while they are important, conceded to. But there is necessarily a point beyond which their scruples cannot be allowed to rule. —*Montreal Witness*.

SOME MINISTERIAL REQUISITES.

An eastern city church has been going through the ordeal of seeking a pastor. If it still insists upon the requirements, as advertised, it has not found a suitable man yet, nor will it do so. Some of the specifications will be of interest to our ministerial readers. "He must be a man who thoroughly understands Jesus Christ and can interpret Him infallibly." We would respectfully inform the church in question that the Pope is not a candidate for a pulpit at present and there is small indication that he will be. Besides this, we have just a little curiosity as to how the pulpit committee concerned is going to decide as to whether their prospective pastor is infallible in his interpretations or not.

Again, the successful candidate "must have a vision of the conditions of today and be able to apply to them the teachings of the Master." The trouble with many students of the

times, ministers and laymen, is that they have "visions" instead of sober judgment and practical common sense. However, the gentleman sought may be gifted with accurate vision of present day life, yet we will go a long way to see him if he can "apply to them the teachings of the Master." True indeed, the great lack in our day is for just this very thing, the application of Christ's teachings to life. This is "a consummation devoutly to be wished," but if a man exists who can step forth and induce modern life to let him apply these divine teachings, we would like some one to inform him that his modesty is holding back the Millennium; and the world is not in a mood to tolerate that sort of thing, as anybody can see by the papers.

But these are not all the conditions laid down by this considerate church. Oh, no! "He must be, if not an orator, at least a forcible, a convincing and by all means an extemporaneous speaker." Further, "He must have good judgment, great tact, a patience that endureth all things; he must be an active worker, one of those men who never let the grass grow under their feet." In our judgment the accepted candidate would need "a patience that endureth all things," as well as great—infinity great—tact to finish his first year with such a people. As to the last named condition, if any man we ever saw attempts to meet these demands fully, there will be no possible danger of the grass growing under his feet, for it will soon be growing over his head.

We learn that \$1,500 a year is the inducement held out to attract such a clerical wonder. If there were such a thing as a ministerial museum he could make more by an exhibition of his powers there, rather than in this pulpit. To many an over-worked and under-paid preacher \$1,500 a year looks like a fortune, but in a great city today, with the social demands upon a clergyman, it is a bare living. If any great business firm were looking for a man, who could approach a realization of corresponding demands upon his ability, it would not think of offering him less than \$15,000 per annum. Yet such are the "conditions of today" that a church dares to lay such absurd exactions upon a prospective spiritual overseer. Is it any wonder that the ministry is coming to be avoided by capable men, and that those in it find it hard to "keep in touch" with their churches and fulfill their demands?—*Union Gospel News*.

BE CAREFUL.—Information comes to us of a man, giving his name as Dickinson, and saying he belongs in Woodstock, soliciting aid in Sunbury Co. for a Mrs. Dow, who, he alleges, is "a widow with five small children, and was recently burned out." He gives the name of Rev. Jos. Noble as having authorized him. Rev. Jos. Noble was communicated with, and says he knows nothing about the alleged case of need, nor about the man who is doing the collecting.

Notes and Gleanings

There are nine million children in the United States who attend no Sunday-school or other place of worship. Part of these are in your community. What are you doing for them?

At the end of 1901 the number of sailing vessels flying the British flag was 7,227; of steamers there were 8,147.

Two hundred and fifty notice boards are to be erected in the streets of Edinburgh requesting citizens not to spit on the pavement.

Works Both Ways.—Wells: Did Christian Science cure you of rheumatism?"

Syckley: "No; but rheumatism cured me of Christian Science."

Cocanut-trees grow in profusion on the Philippine Islands. Despite the fact that the crop is periodically effected by heavy typhoons, the trade has increased immensely in the last twelve years. There are, by careful computation, about 300,000,000 cocanut palms in the world in full bearing.

An effort is being made to establish a second morning newspaper in Edinburgh, which, in spite of a population of nearly 300,000, has never been able to sustain more than one. The reason assigned is the canniness of the Scots, who decline to advertise in more than one paper.

The principal household fuel of Berlin and other German cities is a briquette made of brown coal, peat, and anthracite dust. It is clean to touch, kindles readily, is cheaper than good coal, and free from smoke. There are in Germany 286 factories where these brown coal briquettes are made.

TAKE A MOTHER'S WORD.

Thousands of mothers in all parts of Canada have written to say that Baby's Own Tablets are the best medicine they have ever used for the cure of the little ills that afflict all children. It is impossible to publish all these letters, for they would more than fill a newspaper, but the following extracts are a fair example of what all mothers say about this medicine:

Mrs. Jas. Hopkins, Tobermory, Ont.,—"The Tablets are a blessing to both mother and child."

Mrs. John Dobbie, St. Andrews, East, Que.,—"I consider it my duty to recommend Baby's Own Tablets to all my friends who have children."

Mrs. A. Burns, Minitonas, Man.,—"I have found Baby's Own Tablets do all you claim for them."

Mrs. F. J. Como, New Brandon, N. B.,—"The Tablets are just the thing for children; they make them well, cheerful and happy."

Mrs. H. H. Pitts, Ashnola, B. C.,—"I have found the Tablets a most satisfactory medicine for children. I always keep them in the house."

Mrs. A. W. Higgins, North River, N. S.,—"I cannot praise the Tablets too much. They are the best medicine for children I have ever used."

You can take the words of these mothers with every confidence, and you have a positive guarantee that the Tablets contain no opiate or harmful drug. No other medicine gives a similar guarantee. Sold by druggists or sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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