

bia the prohibition provisions of the license law are finding more general acceptance.

Local prohibition is at best defective, but it is so vastly superior to any form of permission of liquor selling that it is cause for great gratification that it is so extensive in this country and elsewhere. Faithful enforcement of local prohibition will help towards the national prohibition, to secure which is the aim of every true prohibitionist.

AN OPEN-AIR MISSION.

The churches of Melbourne, Australia, which were so greatly blessed last year under the labors of Dr. Torrey, have begun a new mission, which *The Southern Cross* calls the most original, picturesque and courageous attempt at evangelistic work yet undertaken in that city. The simultaneous Open-air Mission represents an attempt to reach the classes outside the churches; the great multitude who have not so much broken loose from Christianity as have forgotten it, and are living as though it did not exist. The new mission represents a return to early and primitive conditions of Christian work. Christ's messengers leave their comfortable churches and their sheltered pulpits, and betake themselves to the streets and the sea-beach and the riverside; to wherever the careless and semi-pagan crowds assemble. The new effort is great in scale, admirable in organization, and has behind it the energy and sympathy of all the evangelistic churches. More than 170 churches in the city are represented in it, and over 130 ministers of all Protestant denominations will personally take part in it.

General Religious News.

—A Christian brother, somewhat pessimistically inclined, recently declared that the churches are "everywhere starving themselves by starving their ministers." Not all nor perhaps most churches are doing this, but many of them are. Every denomination has in it some of these pitifully mean churches.

—The Christian Endeavorers of America have built twenty-nine churches in destitute portions of the United States. Twenty-one of these have been built by the Christian Endeavor Missionary League of the Reformed Church in America. The Christian Endeavor gifts from this denomination during the past year have amounted to \$10,477.

—The oldest earl in the United Kingdom is a clergyman, "the Rev. the Earl of Devon," who was born in 1811, and is now seriously ill at Powderham rectory, South Devon. The earldom of Devon ranks fifth in precedence among the earls, the title having been created in 1553. Many sons of peers take orders in the Church of England, but it is not often that a clergyman holds one of the highest titles in Great Britain.

News of the Churches.

CORNHILL, K. Co.—A new church building is to be erected at Cornhill. We hear the work has already begun.

FREDERICTON JUNCTION, N. B.—The work in this pastorate is progressing encouragingly. The pastor, Rev. J. B. Daggett, has the love and confidence of his people. The parsonage is to be erected at once. It is expected to have it completed by the early fall.

FROM REV. T. O. DEWITT.—I preached at Rusiagornis on the 3rd inst., and was at Woodside on the 10th inst. I enjoyed speaking to the people at both places. I am, by the blessing of God, gradually gaining, so that I shall be able to do some little work for the Master as opportunity offers. T. O. DE WITT.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES.—I baptized two men and one woman at Millville on Sabbath, the 10th inst. I have been giving a little care to Millville through the year. I also go to Haynesville and Staples Settlement once in a while. I shall go to all three places on the fifth Sunday in May. J. J. BARNES.

PORT MOUTON, N. S.—On Sunday, May 10th, at South West Port Mouton I baptized six converts, all of them heads of families—three brothers and three sisters. God's Spirit was with us in power. The work is progressing favorably here. They have an interesting Society of Endeavor in this place, and the brothers and sisters work well. In Port Mouton last Conference meeting we appointed more officers for the church, viz., brothers Edward Wagner and Edward Paysant were chosen junior deacons; Bro. Nelson Wagner, clerk; Bro. Simeon Colp, treasurer, and Bro. Theodore Lathem, sexton. The work in this part of God's vineyard moves very pleasantly. It is inspiring to get into our Endeavor or prayer meetings. The congregations are large. The Sabbath school is doing grand work, it has eight teachers, Bro. Thomas Wagner is the superintendent. ROSCOE HEINE.

FROM REV. F. G. FRANCIS.—I wish to acknowledge through the INTELLIGENCER some testimonials received recently from the several parts of this pastorate. To begin with, the pastor's home comfort has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a "morris" easy chair, the gift of friends on both sides of the Bellisle Bay. Then, the faithful few constituting the church at Long Point donated the proceeds of a social which was held a few weeks ago, amounting to \$19.50. In addition to this, the sewing circle at the head of Bellisle re-

membered us to the amount of \$17.08. And to finish, we wish to mention the annual donation of the church at Midland, which was held at the parsonage on the afternoon of May 6th. A goodly number of brethren and sisters came to our home, making us glad by their presence and leaving us the stronger to struggle with "the wolf" to the extent of \$25. In this public way we would gratefully acknowledge our sense of indebtedness to the entire circle of friends represented in the above. It was my privilege to baptize two converts at Long Point, Sunday before last. F. G. FRANCIS.

FROM REV. G. W. FOSTER.—I again write a few lines. The brethren should write as often as they can; there is nothing more generally interesting to our people than the news from the churches. We ought to be able to keep the Church News department well filled. The work on my field is going on about as usual. A few weeks ago some special meetings were held at Mount Pleasant, with good results. They were very helpful to the brethren and sisters, and we believe sinners were converted, and made happy in having the "Love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit." Two were baptized and united with the church; we trust there are more to follow.

Our people at Mount Pleasant are building a very beautiful church, which is nearing completion; when finished it will be one of the finest in the county. They deserve great credit for the sacrifice they have made and the untiring efforts they have put forth to build a house for the Lord. Our services are well attended, and we trust that the seeds of truth we are trying to sow in our Master's name will not be in vain.

I wish to express the thanks of Mrs. Foster and myself to the kind friends of Rockland church for valuable presents recently received. To Mrs. F. they gave a beautiful willow rocker, and to myself an elegant student's chair, accompanied by an address. The chairs and address were presented by Mr. Adelbert Jones, teacher at Lower Windsor. The address was exceedingly well written and expressed many kind words indicative of love and good will; but we thought it a little too lengthy for publication in this letter. May the Lord abundantly bless the dear friends is our sincere wish and prayer. GEO. W. FOSTER.

Coldstream, C. Co., May 11th.

FROM REV. J. NOBLE.—I have been thinking about writing for some time, but thinking about it doesn't do it. I left home the 30th day of March for Wolfville, to visit my daughter and family. Spent a week in St. John visiting friends. Crossed the bay to

Digby the 6th of April, and got to my daughter's about 5 p. m. that day. Spent two weeks there, and then returned to St. John and spent another week with friends. By this time I began to think I had played long enough and must get to work again. The first Sunday I attended a funeral, but felt quite weak. The following Wednesday I attended another, and this time I felt a little stronger. Thursday I went to Charleston for Sunday. Was there in the morning, and at Connell in the afternoon, had two services and drove to Victoria Corner. I was quite tired, but rested through the night, and next morning drove home. On my way down I stopped to see Brother Parsons; he is very feeble; he goes out some, but not to do anything. On my way from St. John I stopped off at Fredericton Junction to see Brother Daggett. He is at his old work, building a parsonage, and enjoys his field very well. He has taken a good strong clinch with him, and so far has been successful. The Lord prosper him. Good by for the present. J. NOBLE.

Woodstock, May 12th.

MINISTERS.—Licentiate Cochrane is improving steadily. He was able to visit some of his people last week, and attend a prayer meeting at Rusiagornis. He has not yet preached, and should not do so for some time yet.

Rev. A. J. Prosser is making an earnest effort to remove the debt from the Campobello parsonage, and he will probably succeed.

Rev. J. A. Robertson has, we hear, engaged with the Brown's Flat-Oak Point pastorate for the summer.

Licentiate Wilson is to spend the summer at Whitehead, under appointment of the Home Mission executive. He goes next week. His friends will remember that his P.O. address is Whitehead, Grand Manan.

Rev. H. A. Bonnell called at the INTELLIGENCER office a few days ago. He reports that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the work of the Keswick pastorate.

WHAT THEY COST.—A merchant at Sioux Falls, S. D., has published the following advertisement: "Look at this: The cost of three beers a day for a year would bring into your home—one barrel of flour, 50 lbs. of sugar, twelve pounds of cornstarch, ten pounds of maccaroni, ten quarts of beans, four twelve-pound hams, one bushel of sweet potatoes, ten pounds of coffee, ten pounds of raisins, ten pounds of rice, 20 pounds of crackers, 100 bars of soap, three twelve-pound turkeys, five quarts of cranberries, ten bunches of celery, ten pounds of prunes, four dozen oranges and 25 good beef-steaks."

A NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER WRITES:—"A number of times I have felt like writing you, commending the stand you have taken for the right, not only as an editor, but in other ways also. But you needed not my poor words. Your work speaks for itself, and will stand the test. God bless the INTELLIGENCER."