

Our Contributors.

OTTAWA.

As the capital of the Dominion has been well chosen; for a more commanding and beautiful spot could scarcely have been selected than the present site of the Parliament buildings on the hill. The buildings and surroundings are splendidly matched. Daily looking at them but deepens admiration; so grand in character and so excellent in skill and taste.

As your readers are well aware that this city of 70,000, with the districts adjoining, 100,000, is one that in itself represents the expansion of the Dominion. It is not a finished city, but growing and expanding year by year. This not alone because it is the seat of Government, although that is an important factor, but because there is a pride in the city and a pushing, energetic spirit, to make the best of things. Not surprising is this delight and interest in it, for a better ordered, cleaner place, the writer has not seen. The way the streets are kept surpasses anything seen in more than one land. Yes! Ottawa is beautiful and the people do all possible to make it so. This is as it should be, especially in the capital of as fair a land as the sun shines on.

The many really, can the word be used, lovely walks and fine parks, to be more in the immediate future, are both an attraction and a delight. For such places are common to all and strengthen the democratic spirit, using the word in its proper sense, also tend to awaken and strengthen the sense of and admiration for the beautiful. If the over-worked word environment can be used, there's not the least doubt it is a factor in not alone the enjoyment of life, but in moulding character, be it indirectly, it possesses a moulding force. So on every hand is seen the hand of art making effective the many natural advantages of this most worthy capital of not the least fairest portion of this great continent.

Whatever the cause there is a marked spirit not alone of refinement but of courtesy and geniality. This is very pleasing and certainly helpful. The copy-book quotation is, "manners make the man," well, that is not all, but it surely is something to "be courteous." As we only pass this way once, and "good nature," in a Christian sense, is no small part of the "new and living way." Christ being the exponent and exemplar, whatever tends to take us out of self must be beneficial; and whatever tends to make the path of life smooth must be good.

Directly the forces for good are abundant, although, as in all considerable cities, the work is a hard one and calls for the most persistent effort and the utmost alertness. A big question is at the front of the mind, and a sentence will have to deal with it. It is this, are our present methods, in cities, the only and best to Christianize the masses? Will not the indirect method have to be tried? The institutional church does not mean such wretched schemes as those being tried by Bishop Potter, but an applied gospel in a practical way,

in the use of things good in themselves. Abuse of a bad thing is a misuse of terms, and denotes a twist in thought. The use of a bad thing is an abuse.

That apart, our Lord took men as they were and where they were, and His message suited man in his then conditions, and so today. But, this is it not possible to reach man through agencies that shall be shattered with the law and spirit of our own message?

Here the thought cannot be pursued. Hope what has been said will not be misunderstood. There is no substitute for the gospel of grace, but there is adaptation.

Coming here I had to have a church home, for I set my face against being "a tramp" of the churches, if the word is not too harsh, so at once I cast in my lot with the First Baptist Church, as a worshipper, and a worker. I told them I was a Free Baptist and belonged to the Baptist family, and should remain so, in no disturbing sense, but was ever willing to work with people going my way, even if they did not travel as far as I did. They have been kind, very kind, and pastor, Rev. A. Cameron, an exceedingly able, broad and good preacher, and his people have been kindness itself. Still I am a Free Baptist, and must be what I am, glad in my principles, and proud of my people. This personal reference must be excused, it seems out of place, but I know so many good friends by the sea will be wondering what Christian relations I should seek here. That is my reason for naming it. Space gone, much intended to be said must be left for another time.

T. H. S.

SHINTOISM.

In Shintoism, the prevailing religion in Japan, there is no ethical or doctrinal code, no worship of idols, no priestcraft, and no teaching concerning a future state. Its positive features are the deification of heroes, emperors and great men, together with the worship of certain forces and objects in nature. The principal divinity is Amaterasu, the goddess of the sun, from whom the Mikado claims to be descended. Shintoism is considerably modified by Buddhist beliefs, but the reverence for ancestors, for country and for ancestral institutions, as represented in the Mikado, is still a ruling force with the masses.

JAPAN'S TEMPLES.

There are in all Japan Buddhist temples to the number of 73,000, and Buddhist priests to the number of 100,000. For every square mile there are an average of three temples and four priests, and for every 540 people there is one temple, and for every 400 people there is one priest. There is contributed to these temples each year for the support of the priests and the maintenance of the temples yen 11,500,000, or about \$12,000,000 United States money. These figures apply to Buddhism alone, and do not include any items of Shintoism or other religions.

What Others Say.

HYPOCRITICAL.

Like some hypocrites in private life, Russia sought to gain support on the claim that she is a Christian nation. She is to-day a disgrace to the name of "Christian," in her brutality and inhumanity.—*Journal and Messenger.*

THEY LOOK ELSEWHERE.

Many a minister who is hail-fellow-well-met with other people in places where sport goes on and pleasure abounds is pained and surprised when he finds that for trouble, care, and in the serious crisis of life, his friends look elsewhere for truth, comfort and instruction.—*Chris. Register.*

JUDGE BY THEMSELVES.

It is next to impossible for a dishonest man to believe that any other man is honest, for a hypocrite to believe that any other man is truly candid, or for a lazy man to believe that any other man likes to work. These impossibilities are based upon the fact that it is in accord with fallen human nature for men to judge others by what they know of themselves.—*Rel. Telescope.*

GOOD COUNSEL.

A word of warning may be needed putting ministers on their guard against the slavish use of sermonic outlines which may be published in books and magazines. These have their place, if wisely used; but the minister who uses them will be robbed of his individuality and will surely have his originality suppressed. Each message which the preacher delivers should be his own in all its essential features, drawn by his own study from the Word of God, and constructed by his own ability into its logical and rhetorical form.—*Christian Observer.*

OUGHT TO HAVE IT.

A plea for a pension to Private Mulloy, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, who lost his eyesight in the South African campaign, has been presented to the Minister of Militia, who has promised favorable consideration of this and similar cases. We seem to be somewhat tardy in compensating our heroes. We send them away with huzzas and welcome them home with fireworks and then leave them to perish.—*The Wesleyan.*

WHAT HE DID.—From the Alaskan mines comes this story: A young Swede, whose opportunities had been so limited that he was nothing but a stable-boy, before he went to the mines, was fortunate enough to secure a good claim and to dig a considerable amount of gold out of it. His partner, also a Swede, asked him one day: "What are you going to do with your money?" "I mean to do more for the world," was the quiet answer, "than the world ever did for me." He meant it, too, for this ex-hostler has since given something like \$50,000 to endow a college and a hospital in the Far West.

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