

during the present century, and their prospects of increase, the Rev. Charles Williams states, that in 1801, in the matter of accommodations in places of worship, the Established Church had in England and Wales, 4,069,281 sittings, while all the Free churches had but 963,169. Now, in the last year of the century, the Baptists alone, who make less provision than is made by Methodists and Congregationalists, report accommodation in their chapels for 1,278,263 persons. In all probability the total for the whole of the non-Established denominations is not less than 7,800,000, whereas the accommodation in places of worship connected with the Establishment is given in Nye's "Church Annual" as 6,948,928. The outcome of the hundred years of work ought to encourage us, as we anticipate the twentieth century. Our outlook is bright. The men of the first half of the century were strong, and brave, and faithful, Bunting, and Beaumont, and Newton, the Claytons, and Jay, and Raffles, and Parsons, and James, the Rylands, and Fuller, and Robert Hall, and Drs. Steane and Cox, to name only a few representative leaders, gave character, and impetus, and inspiration to the work of the first fifty years of the nineteenth century. Their successors have been worthy of them. Binney and Dale, Punshon and Garrett, Brock and Vince, Spurgeon and Maclaren, with many of like ability and equal worth, have made the last half century as fruitful as the previous fifty years. The several Twentieth Century Funds, the lead of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches under the forthcoming presidency of Rev. J. G. Greenhough, M. A., promise to make the last year not the least memorable in the annals of the nineteenth century. Consolidation and extension are the watchwords of the day. In 1900 the Free Churches will be busily engaged in strengthening the stakes and lengthening the cords of their tent—a fitting task for the eve of the twentieth century.

Questions.

- No. 1. Is it Scriptural to say in prayer "if it be Thy will?" Or are we to understand that every prayer will be granted if made in faith?
- No. 2. Is it Scriptural to employ physicians in time of sickness, or are we to expect God to cure every disease without human agency in answer to prayer?
- No. 3. Please explain Matt. 6:25, 31, 34.
- No. 4. Does the law in Lev. 11:7, regarding the eating of swine's flesh, apply to us now? Or are we sinning in eating it?

M.

- 1. It is Scriptural to pray—"if it be thy will." See Matt. 26:39.
- 2. Yes, it is as Scriptural to employ a physician when his services are required as to avail ourselves of the superior knowledge or skill of any other man to minister to our needs or comforts. And we are constantly dependent upon the superior knowledge and skill of others.
- 3. The revised version gives the correct meaning. The things which minister to the present life ought to cause us some thought, but they ought not to make us anxious or to fill our minds to the exclusion of things of greater importance.
- 4. No. You may eat your pork with a clear conscience, but, for your stomach's sake, better not eat a great deal.

Acadia Notes.

After an ample Christmas and New Year's holiday, THE RE-OPENING of the three Institutions took place on January 10th. The re-opening at this season means for the Seminary and Academy the beginning of a new term. Both the schools report a substantial increase of students. A shadow has been cast over the Seminary by the death of Miss Greenough, of New Glasgow, who was obliged, through failing health, to return home mid-way in last term, and who recently passed away. Her memory will be affectionately cherished here, and the sympathy of all hearts goes out to the bereaved ones. Principal McDonald and a young lady from the Y. W. C. A. represented the Seminary at the funeral. Principal Brittain and the Academy are feeling the inspiration of the recent action of the Board, in appointing a committee to consider the necessities of that Institution. The Academy is an important part of our educational machinery, and it is believed that its usefulness can be greatly increased. It deserves to be treated with all practicable liberality. The College students have returned to face the mid-year examinations, which begin next Monday. The number of students in the College exceeds that of any former year. The registration for the year is 147.

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Thanks to the faithfulness of Bro. W. E. Hall, and to the faithfulness of a host of friends of the College all over the country, the Governors were able, on the 20th of the present month, to certify to the American Baptist Education Society that \$15,375, not previously reported, had been collected on account of the Forward Movement pledges. It will be remembered that on the 20th of January a year ago, a former sum of \$15,000 was reported and certified. There has, therefore, been raised and certified to the Education Society just half the total amount which must be raised in order to secure Mr. Rockefeller's pledge in full. This is very gratifying, and calls for thanks, not only to the brothers and sisters who have contributed to this success, but to the heavenly Father, whose hand has surely been upon this work for good.

And now without the loss of a day, or the slightest re-

laxing of purpose, we must proceed to the collecting of the third quarter. Bro. Hall will be continued in the work, and we bespeak for him the hearty co-operation of all who have made pledges, or can yet make pledges to this work.

THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR COLLEGES

will be observed this year at Wolfville, in accordance with the suggestions of the Executive of the Inter-Collegiate Y. M. C. A., on Sunday, Feb. 11th. Special services will mark the day, and it is earnestly hoped that it may prove to be a day of spiritual quickening and power. Last year, as on former occasions, a grateful and stimulating feature of the services was the reading of brief messages from former students and friends, expressing their interest in the schools, and conveying words of encouragement and inspiration to teachers and students. We shall look for similar messages this year, and shall greatly appreciate them. Will not the pastors also enlist the prayerful sympathies of their people at the prayer meetings of the previous week, and take occasion at some service on the Sunday itself, to speak of the work of the Institutions. It is probable that the Day of Prayer will be followed by a series of special meetings, and we bespeak the prayers of all our people, that God's blessing may be poured out upon us. T. TROTTER.

Wolfville, Jan. 26th.

The True Force of the Kingdom.

Mr. Bland paused a little, looked up in my face, and seeing my sympathy in my looks, proceeded:

"The nearest I get to my business is when I tell people that I was glad to see them at Sunday's service, or that I noticed they were not present. Of course I often speak of the children being in the Sunday School, and talk with the sisters about the W. M. Aid Society. But when I have done these I have been only dealing with things that might occupy the mind of any zealous member of the church. What have I said that could be helpful to the soul of any man or woman? It seems to me that I am ordered to feed the lambs, to look after wandering sheep, to find out just where men are spiritually, to hold up a warning finger if I believe that one is in danger of any sort. Am I not told to "reprove, rebuke, exhort," to be "instant, in season, out of season?" I have come to feel lately that this is why I have been sent out, and to deplore the fact that I am not doing this. I do think about it; I even feebly determine on my duty, for I know that it is demanded of stewards that they be found faithful, but I am so bound by the old habit of reticence on matters of the soul that I hardly ever get into a soul-clinch with a man. Hardly ever, but there is an occasion when I do try, and that is when I talk to those who are evidently passing away from my charge. I endeavor to find out their condition, rather their position, and knowing that there is only the present moment, in a poor, official way I admonish them to repent and believe, and in praying with them I earnestly ask that they may be led to accept of the sacrifice of Calvary. But when all is said, the feeling comes back that I am neglecting the great business of the ministry. I am not drawing on the power that is provided for dealing with the fine parts of the human spirit. I am not cultivating soul athletics, for I rarely wrestle, soul to soul, with a man. You see my meaning, sir? he said, in a plaintive tone. You have been through all this. Did you ever undergo a trial like this—when you felt that you were a mere actor—well, almost a hypocrite?"

"Yes, brother, I know the ground, and have been on it many a time. It has taken a good many Divine pulls to draw me off it to the right way. Indeed, I may say, that with such a make-up as mine it needs constant warning from our Heavenly Helper, and now and then a little touch of the chastening rod, to make me keep my ear to men's hearts. I know how natural it is to go with the current, and how against the natural grain to pull up stream. But you are right in your perceptions; this difficult thing is what we are sent to do. In our private dealings with our fellowmen, in our ordinary contact, we should bear in mind that they and there we may impress a truth of God upon them,—may plant a word in their memory that shall be like a seed."

"I do think of it,—I know my duty," broke in Brother Bland, "but alas! notwithstanding, I let the occasion slip."

"Do not be too hard upon yourself," I replied. "I have heard of words of yours that were a source of help to those you had spoken to, and then I know that your influence is good. Your very presence always brings light, and do you not know that a good man cannot be anywhere without the goodness that is in him affecting more or less those he meets? Character, my dear brother, has a wonderful way of distributing itself, so that the man who has in himself a well of water, as the Lord of Wisdom has pointed out, will inevitably produce verdure in the barrenness around him. It is not all talk, my dear fellow—"

"Yes, but," says he as quick as a flash "it is to talk I am sent."

"Undoubtedly, but when your tongue is held quiet, as it will be from various causes, it is perhaps well to remember that the Holy One will work through what we are. I believe that if we with joy draw water from the wells of salvation, the gladness of our souls will communicate itself to others. 'Take heed unto thyself'; to thy own soul; ponder long and lovingly the messages of the Master; absorb their meaning; let their spirit transfigure itself through the chambers of your heart; and then, so saturated will you be that insensibility, here, there, everywhere, the aroma will be detected. People will hardly know what is the reason, but the youngest child, and

the hardest faced man, will understand that you are a servant of the King.

"Excuse me, my good man, but I must suggest to you to beware of the spirit of bondage. Don't let old Legality worry you until you are nervous. All you have to do is true enough, but it is true of us all—we are all failures to a degree. We are unprofitable servants also, but if we keep getting nearer to the ideal, nearer to Jesus himself, we must—because of the life within—say good things, and do good—more than we know. The day will show—not so much every aim and accent and act of our lives—but what the general tenor has been."

Pastor Bland had the look of a man who has been helped up hill with his load, yet who is not altogether reassured. Mere friendly advice may ward off his trouble, but the grand difficulties are not easily disposed of, especially with this kind of a man—who thinks for himself. Still it does us good to talk.—If you can get the right one to talk with. It did me good, I know, to see things from the standpoint of this honest soul. Maybe I was too easy with him, if so will some of our doctors in holy things, correct my leniency? I must own that I feel an intense sympathy with any one who is trying to deal fairly with souls. I who always am—

AN ELDER.

Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

This is a time of Forward Movements. It is reported that you Maritime people are raising \$50,000 from the churches for advancing the work, and \$75,000 for Acadia, and in this enterprise we of Ontario wish you well. On our part we are aiming at \$150,000 for Missions, \$35,000 for Grande Ligne, \$35,000 for McMaster University and \$30,000 for Manitoba and the Northwest. The Presbyterians are raising \$10,000 from the pastors, \$10,000 from the Sunday Schools and a larger sum still from the main body. The Methodists are working for a Twentieth Century fund of a million dollars. If, in addition to the money, there should result, as is confidently expected, a widespread revival of spiritual life, the results will be well worth the effort.

THE WAR

has come very close to us. We had a great demonstration in our town not long ago, when eighteen young men from this County departed to join D Battery of the Second Contingent. Intense enthusiasm was felt and manifested. Money was freely given and every man went away with a well filled purse and a policy of insurance on his life. This is a sample of the doings all over the Province. I need not write you of the Canadian and the National Patriotic Funds save to say that Toronto gave over \$10,000, Hamilton \$10,000, the Grand Trunk and Canada Pacific \$15,000 each, and every town and village sends a proportionate contribution. Is it not, however, fair to ask why this should be? Two facts seem evident to this scribe: First, that married men should not be accepted, nor men having aged parents dependent on them. There are plenty of unencumbered men ready to enlist, and the need is not pressing. Second, those who go should be so paid that there would be no need of charity for their families. Under existing conditions, however, it is well that the hearts and purses of the people are open. How this will affect missionary and charitable objects remains to be seen. In England the secretaries of the various benevolent institutions report that the war funds have seriously drained their ordinary sources of income.

POLITICS.

There has been a shaking up of late among our politicians, and not before time. Elections have been so corrupt in some constituencies that the decent men of both parties have been disgusted. It was good news to many when we read lately that the boodle brigade had been fined \$200 each with the prospect of a term in goal if the fines were not paid. The most effective penalty would be imprisonment without the option of a fine.

OBITER.

The semi-annual meeting of the F. M. Board was held at the Mission rooms, Toronto, Dec. 20th, 1899. A special feature was the appointment of Rev. Andrew Imrie, B. A., to India, and Rev. C. N. Mitchell, M. A., to Bolivia.

Pastor Gilmore, of Hamilton First church, has an appreciative people. He lately received a cheque for \$100 as a New Year gift, and a permanent addition of \$200 to his salary.

Pastor Parker, of First Avenue church, Toronto, has entered on the tenth year of his pastorate. In that time the membership has grown from 166 to 356.

The Calvary church, Brantford, has extended a call to pastor W. T. Graham, of Montreal.

The Talbot St. church, London, has been renovated at a cost of \$4,000.

Port Hope, Ont.

Note from Mr. Archibald.

DEAR EDITOR.—My wife and I were privileged to attend some of the sessions of the District Meeting at Lunenburg on the 9th inst. It was a great joy to meet pastors and other delegates from different parts of the County, and to observe their interest in the furtherance of the work of the Lord. The meeting of the W. A. Societies was one of special interest to us. We were greatly encouraged by the large and attentive audiences which gathered both at Lunenburg and Bridgewater to hear of our work in India. In returning to Halifax we spent a most delightful day in Wolfville. For the joy experienced we are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Archibald, who, knowing of our coming, had invited us more than twenty of our missionary friends. We have not spent a pleasanter evening socially for years. We were glad to meet at their own homes the venerable John Bars, Esq., and others who were not unable to be out. The doctor says that my lung has improved recently, but urges the importance of going West to avoid the trying spring weather.

Yours sincerely,

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 22nd.

I. C. ARCHIBALD.