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# Editorial.

—"Interest in missions," said Dean Farrar, "constitutes the difference between a dead and a living church." The church which is not a missionary church will ere long be a missing church.

—The world which we see is largely the reflection of our own personality. Many of the faults which men behold in their neighbors are but the specks on their own glasses. The age which is purest is sure to see the most of good. It is the pure eye which sees God.

—Significant indeed is the statement that not a single school house was erected in Porto Rico during the 400 years which Spain held sway. Since American occupation nearly a quarter of a million dollars have been spent for school houses alone, and 125 American and a large staff of native teachers are employed. Already it is said that 40,000 scholars are speaking English.

—Some of the things which ailed the missionary meeting in another country may have spread throughout our own land. Following is a list of diseases which are both contagious and fatal: "It began late; it lacked terminal facilities; it never was planned, it just happened; the facts presented were old; the geographical fiend held sway; the interested man talked too long; it lacked spiritual vitality."

—The removal of the time limit for pastors in the Methodist Episcopal Church is not working as satisfactorily as was hoped. Instead of longer terms, as was expected, the average is less than five years, and is likely to be less. A feeling that it would be better to return to the five-year limit is beginning to find expression. At a recent session of a Pennsylvania Conference a resolution was adopted asking for a return to the old plan. This feeling is likely to grow.

—Happiness, which all men seek, is from within. It radiates from the inner life as light and heat radiate from the sun. It consists not in what we have but in what we are. For what a man has he may be dependant upon others or upon circumstances; what a man is nobody can take from him or no environment can materially change.

"The mind is its own place, and of itself
Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

—The book of the Acts is the authority for the story that Peter's shadow exerted a healing influence over many sick folk in Jerusalem. But Simon Peter had no monopoly of shadows. There hangs about us all a sort of penumbra—that strange indefinable something we call personal influence which has a healing or harmful effect on every other life upon which it may chance to fall. It is not something we may put on as a Sunday garment. It is the expression of the inner man as the perfume is the expression of the rose.

—Next summer a great international congress of representatives of the Salvation Army is to be held in London. It will be the third meeting of the kind held by the Army, the two previous ones having been in 1883 and 1893. The one now being arranged for will be on a larger scale than the others. It is expected that between five and six thousand officers—white, brown and black—from all parts of the world will be present. The most important feature of the meeting will, it is understood, be the statement of General Booth's plans for the Army's future. He is getting well along in years, and is, doubtless, maturing plans for the continuance of the great work he has inaugurated.

—It was good advice the "Self-made Merchant" gave to his son when he wrote: "It is all right to say nothing about the dead but good, but it is better to apply the rule to the living and especially the house which is paying your salary." The clever author might have gone further and advised his son ever to speak kindly of the church with which he is connected. If it be dead it certainly needs charitable treatment, and if very much alive it is surely worthy of all the good things that may be said about it. It would be a good thing for every father to teach his sons to be loyal to that institution which God has given for the developing and moulding of spiritual life.

—The one encouraging feature of any public sin is that it carries within itself the elements which ultimately make for its own overthrow. The increasing intemperance of Germany has long been deplored. The imperial health officers of Berlin have recently organized a campaign against the excessive use of alcoholic drinks. That important body has issued a pamphlet endorsing total abstinence as the only hope of the health of the German nation. They announce that a bill is being prepared to be introduced at the next session of the Reichstag restricting the sale of intoxicants throughout the German Empire. Saloon keepers will be required to keep on sale such non-intoxicants as lemonade, milk, tea, coffee, and also cold foods. The number of bar-maids is limited and the credit system prohibited. That the imperial health officers should take the lead in a temperance crusade is a stinging argument against the health-giving qualities of the products of German breweries.

—Many people in obscure places are prone to depreciate their opportunities. Their sphere may seem contracted and their work insignificant; but if it is Christ's work who can estimate the results? In the most isolated neighborhoods are found some of the most cosmopolitan men and women. Their sympathies extend to the uttermost parts of the earth. They are animated by the noblest motives and indulge in the one luxury of high thinking. The influence such people exert over others may stretch into eternity. They may be discouraged in failing to see results of good accomplished; but counting up results is often like David's sin of numbering Israel. To live in Christ anywhere—that makes life large.

—The present dispute over the Alaskan boundary reminds us of the endless discussion over the boundary line between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. Whatever the merits of the treaty which has settled the Alaskan boundary may be, it is a deplorable fact that many young Christians, and old ones too, surrender far too much when conscience calls its commissioners and seeks to arbitrate on moral border-land questions. By the surrender of two islands on the Pacific coast Canada loses certain advantages in the matter of military defence which it is feared may militate to her disadvantage in case of war. But that is a small matter in comparison with the concessions and surrenders made in things questionable in the social, political and business world. The men and women who move the landmarks by which their fathers stood in order that they may participate in questionable amusements, are sure to find themselves weakened in making a strong and victorious defence when the fight is on between righteousness and sin. If we would be strong in the day of battle we must surrender nothing to the questionable.

—Writing in the *Morning Star* of a visit to Aroostook, Me., where he went immediately after leaving the New Brunswick Conference, Rev. G. H. Hamlen says:

One who rides up from McAdam Junction to Houlton on the Canadian Pacific Railroad does not need to be told that he has crossed an international boundary. The evidence is very patent. When I asked some one why potatoes do not grow as well on the east side of the line as on the west of it, he replied that he supposed the soil is not so well adapted to them. Not being expert in that department of science I do not know about the truth of his answer, but I doubt it. There is probably some more potent reason for the thrift on this side, and the lack of thrift on that.

It is too bad that there is such a manifest "lack of thrift" on this side of the line. It had not occurred to those who live here that they are so far behind their neighbors. Perhaps if the writer had stated the "evidence" of thriftlessness which is so clear to him, and the "potent reason" for it, at which he hints, the unfortunate people over here might try to do better.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR WORK.

The time is passing. Already more than one month of the Conference year has gone. No doubt many of our ministers and churches are planning for special revival work. They are anxious that this year shall be the best in their history. We trust that it may be. The Bible, and also our own observation and experience afford some very necessary qualifications. It has always been essential that the soul-winner shall have, as a foundation, a devout and consecrated life. A life that is only professedly pure and devoted can never have time and continued success in soul-winning. The world is keen in discussing flaws in Christians, and even sin itself—though shut up in a professedly Christian life—is often quick to announce its presence. The case of Saul affords illustration of this. He declared to Samuel that he had fulfiled all the commandment of the Lord, but just at that moment the closed-in sheep and oxen—which he was not to take—announced their presence. Then Samuel said, if what you say is true what does this noise of the sheep and cattle mean in my ears. There is nothing that will so cripple one in this work as deception. May all Christian workers be truly out and out for God, and possess this very necessary equipment—*holiness of life and heart.*

Another indispensable acquisition is love for the work. Then it will be natural to engage in it, it will not be forced work. A feeling, a belief, an ambition, that the greatest achievement in this world is the winning of some precious soul to Jesus. Without this no one can succeed. He may present a charming appearance before men and have a blameless life, his utterances may be very attractive and eloquent, so that they will be listened to with delight, yet if love be absent, that is, true interest and anxiety for the perishing ones, it will not be blessed to the salvation of the people.

But, again, he may possess a pure life, and be filled with zeal and love for this greatest good, the winning of the perishing, but with all he cries out, "Who is sufficient for these things?" It is a pertinent question. No man or woman is qualified, no matter what else they may have, until the power of the Holy Spirit is upon them. He is for all. Christ said, "The promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off and to as many as the Lord our God shall call." Of the Spirit's work our Saviour said, "He shall glorify me," "He shall not speak of himself." A part of the Spirit's work is then to make Christ apparent to the people as one whom they need—to beautify, to glorify Him. One who has been in the forest in the cold, pale drear dawn of the morning when the trees were all stooped with their burden of snow and frost, and has watched the coming of the rays of sunlight, how they changed the dreary woodland to a thing of beauty; it seem-