

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or expressions of any correspondents.

Rockwood's Recovery.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Dear Sir.—According to promise, I now take the liberty of using your columns to point out what I conceive to be a remedy for the evil complained of in the columns of the FREE PRESS. The origin of this evil may be traced, I think, to the want of proper home training. There is no doubt but the home wilds a powerful influence in forming the character of the young. The great philosopher, Locke, says: "Of all the men we meet with, nine parts of ten are what they are, good or evil, useful or not, according to their education." It is in the home that we must look for the first impressions. Here the foundation of the character of the future man or woman is laid. Here the parent exerts an incalculable influence on the offspring. What the father or mother does is not usually questioned. What the parent allows or sanctions is at once regarded by the child as just the thing to do. Just as the plant will be starchy or robust, according to the soil it grows in, and the atmosphere surrounding it, so the young of any community will be what the homes have made them. The old scriptural adage, "A tree is known by its fruit," is applicable here. We do not pretend to judge of the character of many of the homes in this community by actual insight, we only judge of the "fruit" which is seen on the street, in public gatherings, and elsewhere, and certainly if we make this the basis of our calculations, we may safely conclude that the standard of morality is fearfully low in many of the homes of this village, and the home training accordingly deficient. If the lives of parents themselves be immoral, and there be an utter disregard on their part of sacred things; or even if they are professedly christian, yet if they neglect to enforce their authority as priest and guardian of the home and family, and allow their boys and girls to do as they just as they please, and follow the natural bent of their will, the result will be evident on the side of immorality. As the twig is bent so the tree is inclined. It is true that some good parents have had children, but it is also true that where this is the case the cause is found in the absence of proper home training. If discipline is not enforced, and the children are allowed to be sassy, impudent and ill-mannered in the home, what can you expect from them on the street, in the church, or in the school? If in the home God's word is not read, nor his precepts taught; if there are no morning or evening prayers; if the young are not taught to keep holy the Sabbath day, but are allowed to break the Sabbath and spend their evenings the parents know not where, and to be on the street till midnight playing their pranks and working mischief, the result will be inevitable. And here we might speak of the education of the street. The good book says, "Evil communications corrupt good manners," and many a youth with all the advantages of pious parents and good home influences, and who would be religiously inclined, has been ruined by the associations of the wicked and the education of the street. Parents who have the welfare of their children at heart should see to it that they keep good company for one that boy will corrupt a whole neighborhood. They should see that their children are in the house at proper hours at night, and know where and how they spend their Sabbaths. There are some homes in every community that don't really deserve to be called by that worthy name, where the young eat and sleep and remain for a time, without anything being done for their better nature—the moral and intellectual. In common with other places, we have in this village a class of boys emerging from such homes as the foregoing, just coming into the "teens," who are fast graduating in the school of rovdism, and following close upon the heels of another class who have just sprung into manhood and are perfect in the art. If the parents of such boys will not take the oversight and control of them, then the civil authorities should, the christian people should organize themselves into a kind of Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of providing some kind of entertainment where the young might spend their winter evenings, and where their morals might be improved. What is being done for them in this respect? Absolutely nothing. What are the christian ministers of the village doing for the young? If the lamentable state of things is mentioned, they say, "It's too bad, something should be done, etc." but they rest. They preach a sermon or two on the Sabbath, it is true, but how many of them are directly to the point? Are the prevailing sins of the day denounced, and are the young men counselled to improvement? Are they not afraid to speak out on this matter, lest they might incur the ill-favor of the wrong-doer, and thus in some degree endanger their "bread and butter"? What are the christian people of this village doing for the young? If a mad dog entered our streets he would be pursued with sticks, stones and guns, to the very death; yet, moral evil—worse than a mad dog—can walk our streets unmolested and may enter our homes to the utter moral ruin of our young people, and yet no one, not even the christian people, appear to take sufficient interest in them to organize in their defence. They are the custodians of religion and morality, and ought to show a willingness to "rescue the perishing." The low, indiscriminate dance, seems to be the highest ideal of entertainment in the mind of the young, and in one sense they are not to blame. They see nothing better in that line—nothing better is provided. In towns and cities, and many rural villages, there is provision made to meet the moral and intellectual needs of the young, in the shape of social gatherings, evening lectures, reading rooms, young men's christian associations, etc. But here there is an utter dearth in this regard. What the christian people ought to do is to provide a one class of entertainment of such a character as will be refining and elevating in its tone, and will give them a taste for something more noble than the dissipated pleasures of the town and village. Such a

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Acton Free Press. PEARLS OF THOUGHT. Love is a religion of which the great pontiff is nature. The world is more apt to reward appearances than deserts. Men with few faults are the least anxious to discover those of others.

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W. H. LOWRY, M.B., M.C.P.S. Graduate of Trinity College, Member of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Ontario, and residence at the head of Fredrick St., Acton.

J. L. BENNETT, DENTIST, Georgetown, Ont.

J. H. RIGGS, L.D.S., of the firm of Riggs & Irons, Toronto. Will be at Campbell's Hotel on the first Monday of every month, in the practice of his profession.

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