

For The Quiet Hour

COUNSEL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS SUCH AS THAT given the other day at Toronto by Canon Howitt is always particularly welcome, because it serves to remind many of what is only too often forgotten—the spiritual and personal nature of the work of the Sunday school teacher. While Sunday schools should have the best possible educational equipment, yet educational work, with only, at most, forty-five minutes available every week, can never produce purely educational results of any great moment. All the more necessary, therefore, to emphasize what the Canon so well put:

There were two things that the Sunday school teacher should seek to do. He should first win the children for Christ. Too often it was found that some teachers were simply content to teach the lesson, and then to think their work was done. The lesson, the speaker contended, should be made only the instrument to win the children to a definite acceptance of Christ as their Saviour. Nothing other than this would ever make the teaching of anyone a success.

It is obvious that to win children for Christ is far more and other than simple inculcation of truth. And it was on this account that Canon Howitt pressed upon his hearers the vital necessity of the teacher having a personal knowledge of Christ before he could hope to win others.

The High Cost of Sin.

A magistrate in London, England, has discovered that the cost of law-breaking has not kept pace with the cost of living. Fines have remained at the pre-war level while the cost of maintaining courts and police forces and jails has risen greatly. As a matter of economic justice the magistrate decided to double the fines imposed on offenders.

That is one way to check the lawlessness which has been rife in all lands since the war. A better way is to get at the sources of sin and crime, and correct them. Bishop Rhineland of Pennsylvania in a recent address cited immodesty in woman's dress and immoral literature and the depiction of bestiality and crime in the movies as the sources and the products of the anti-Christian drift of the times.

THE ANOMALY OF THE STATE CHURCH FINDS ILLUSTRATION this time in Sweden. The new Minister for Church and Education is as his predecessor, Socialist and atheist.

IN THE PROGRESS OF A RECENT TRIAL MR. CHARLES M. Schwab said this, in the course of his testimony: "I am sorry to say that nearly all my misfortunes in life have come from acts of kindness to others." On which The Christian Endeavor World makes this pertinent comment:

It is doubtless that many acts of kindness are repaid by ingratitude and sometimes by downright evil-doing. But what shall we do? "Stop doing good," the cynic replies; "take care of yourself and let others take care of themselves." But that would lead to a greater misfortune than any that others could bring upon us. It would make us selfish and self-centred, callous and indifferent, insensible to love, without which life itself is a wilderness. We must learn that kindness is its own reward. It is often vain to look for appreciation from those we help; let us look to God for His approval and rejoice in that.

ISLAM IS BACK OF EGYPTIAN HOME RULE, MUCH AS ROME is back of Irish. In the last Alexandria riots Egyptians paraded the streets with wooden crosses on which they spat contemptuously, crying out, "Down with the Nazarene!"

THE MORMONS ARE CONSTANTLY AT WORK COLONISING in the intermountain region and buying up rich farming valleys for their people. The Roman Catholic church in Quebec is doing the same thing in contiguous areas. Thus we learn from a pastor in northern Vermont that the Roman church has assisted French Canadians in buying farms in his neighborhood to the extent of almost \$200,000 in a single year.

The Mormon peril does not grow less. On the contrary, Mormons have increased in a more rapid ratio since the last census than any other religious body, there being now 403,000 as against 215,000 ten years ago. Their great growth is due to big families. A picture of their communities is given in a recent number of the Spirit of Missions. The Star Valley, Wyoming, consists of two valleys some fifty miles in length. Here are ten villages wholly controlled by the Mormon organization, and called "wards." Each has its Mormon meeting-house and its unending accompaniment—a dance hall. There are but 200 Gentiles as against 5000 Mormons. There is no library in the whole valley and no reading matter except newspapers and Mormon propaganda. The whole population is imbued and lacking intelligence, polygamy is practiced, the Book of the Mormons is taught in the public schools, stories of Joe Smith being interspersed with Old Testament ones. None but Mormon teachers are employed, and in general Gentiles are isolated and terrorised.

OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH

Thou art our Refuge, O our God!
When tempests wild surge round the soul;
We bide us 'neath Thy sheltering rod,
While raging seas around us roll.

Thou art our "Strength," when weakness holds
Our trembling frame in fetters strong;
A "present help," Thine arm enfolds
With tender succor, all day long.

When fear surrounds, as doth a foe,
And earth seems sinking 'neath our feet,
"God is our Refuge" quells our woe,
And calms us with assurance sweet.

"Be still, and know that I am God!"—
"The Lord of Hosts is with us still!"—
Yea, though we feel His chast'ning rod,
We'll trust His love, and fear no ill.

Our "God is in the midst," we know,
And, trusting, we shall not be moved;
Our "God shall help," as swift, as slow,
His word is sure; His promise proved.

"God is our Refuge and our Strength."—
Through blinding tears we sing this song;
His wisdom we shall prove, at length,
And praise Him with the Heavenly throng.

—Boston Transcript.

HERE IS A SUGGESTION THAT CARRIES ITS MESSAGE IN more than one direction: A well-known business employer in America used to select his workpeople solely by means of the voice. Sitting behind curtains in his private office, he caused all candidates to talk unseen and in this way he declared he was able to determine personality, character and even capacity. Some may recall the words of Christ, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

EAST BRUCE AND SOUTH GREY TEACHERS HOLD INSPIRING CONVENTION AT HANOVER

Hanover Proud Host To Over 250 Teachers.—Speakers Cover Many Subjects In Admirable Manner.

(Hanover Post)

With upwards of two hundred and fifty teachers in attendance, the joint convention of East Bruce and South Grey Teachers' Institutes held in the new High school here last Thursday and Friday was generally conceded to be the best yet. The weather was perfect, there was a large attendance, the two Normal school speakers brought interesting messages, everything passed off splendidly, and the meeting was a most successful one.

The following is a report of the proceedings, and much good material has had to be eliminated owing to the demands for space.

THURSDAY MORNING

The convention got under way at 9:30 o'clock on Thursday morning, with Rev. E. D. Becker of the Evangelical church and Rev. A. P. Latter of the Methodist church conducting devotional exercises. This was followed by an address of welcome by Mayor R. J. Ball, in which he extended a warm welcome to all and hoped they would have a good convention and a pleasant stay in town.

Miscellaneous routine business was transacted, and then Dr. S. Silcox, B.A., D.Paed., Principal of Stratford Normal school, delivered an address on "Teacher Training in the Normal Schools and in Service," reviewing the history of teacher training in Ontario from the establishment of the Toronto Normal School in 1847 to the present time. The speaker pointed out four defects in the system as at present constituted, partly due to overcrowded classes, limited time (one year instead of two) and too few practice classes for students.

When we consider, he said, that Normal students seldom teach thirty lessons in a year, which, in actual practice, does not mean a week's work, even in a graded classroom, there seems to be much to be desired in effective training.

In Manitoba, continuous teaching is secured, and Superintendent McColl of Saskatchewan intimated that improvement had been made in Saskatchewan.

In the United States, the Normal schools invariably provide for continuous teaching for weeks at a time usually in the same grade with only two or three subjects.

Teachers Must Continue Training

Teachers in service should continue their training. In cities, this can be done by a system of pairing teachers, one teaching for a period and then attending classes. This is done in Detroit, Boston, etc. Summer schools and night schools could be attended by teachers in service and the reading of professional literature should be encouraged, if not required. A lawyer or a doctor who ceased to read up his "modern cases" would soon cease to advance and would become a crank or a quack. What about quack teachers? asked Dr. Silcox.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Harry W. Alton, principal of Walkerton public school, and president of the East Bruce Teachers' Institute, presided over the Thursday sessions and opened the afternoon meeting with an address on "How a Teacher Should Spend the Summer Holidays." After arguing that the teacher's work requires short hours and frequent periods of rest, he went on to say that the teacher should come back to the classroom invigorated in health, with a mind more richly stored with facts, and with a broader outlook on life. He advocated a complete change of environment for at least a part of the holidays, and the various Summer Courses or Univer-

sity Extension Courses offered a wide field to improve one's mind. He also urged teachers to travel and said the week's trip through Northern Ontario at a cost of \$55 was one of the cheapest and best tours a teacher could take.

Rev. D. J. Lane of the High School Board then gave a short address of welcome.

An Outstanding Address

Dr. Silcox then gave his second address, taking for his subject "Canadian Literature," and it is well within the realms of truth to say that it was the outstanding address of the convention. In his most scholarly manner, he told of the efforts being made by Canadian authors to produce a distinctive Canadian literature, and appealed to the audience to support them, for they were producing works that ranked with those of foreign authors. Dr. Silcox showed himself to be thoroughly posted on his subject, and his address made a deep impression.

He opened by reading "The School Ma'am" and "He Sleeps in Planters" from Robert J. C. Stead's "Empire Builders," and remarked how true were Stead's words about the school teachers and how he wrote "Beware the man who leaves the farm to take up arms against the foe."

Literature, said Dr. Silcox, was (1) A record of the past; (2) A description of the present, and (3) A picture of the future.

Canada's record of the past was a rich source for general history or biography. Good literature pictured a better world; was beautifully expressed rhythmical, and conveyed an idea giving readers a different and better outlook on life. There was literature and literature, he said, but in real literature a villain was introduced only to show up the better side by contrast, and not to make the story centre around him.

As a man thinketh, so he is, says the Bible, and Dr. Silcox added: As we read, so do we think. What you are depends on what you read. Canadians should read Canadian literature above all else, for they could not be anything until they were good Canadians. If a man was a good citizen of Hanover, he would be a good citizen of Stratford, if he moved there, and so, if we are good Canadians, we would be good citizens of the world. As Tennyson said, "Love thou thy land." English literature was certainly good, but it didn't have the local touch of Canadian literature. Canadian literature was of a very high standard, and Canadians must buy it and read it in order to encourage the writers to continue to express purely Canadian thought. Who will read our literature if we don't?

Canadian literature is only fifty years old, and, while we have no Shakespeare or Milton, we have in Bliss Carman, Pauline Johnston, and about two hundred others, writers who have no present day superiors. He was very emphatic in the above statement.

Among the splendid Canadian-produced books were: Marquis's "Canada and Its Provinces," Hammond's "Confederation and Its Leaders," Ryerson's "Makers of Canadian Literature," and Locke's "Canadian Speakers." We have some wonderful writers: Ernest Thompson Seton, Charles G. D. Roberts, W. A. Fraser, Archie McKishnie, and Marshall Saunders, whose nature writing was the very finest, with nothing in the United States to beat it. Saunders' "Beautiful Joe" ranked with "Black

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Beauty and is known the world over. Francis Parkman was one of the greatest historical writers. Gilbert Parker's "March of White Guard" was well worth reading, also Roberts' "Cameron of Lochiel." Agnes C. Laut's books, Stephen Leacock's humorous book, "My Discovery of England," and his "Sunshine Sketches" and Stead's "Smoking Flax" with its wonderful analysis of the emotional state were a few of the books and writers mentioned by Dr. Silcox.

Urges Handicraft in Schools

Mr. Archie J. Stewart of Mount Forest followed with a paper on "Handicraft in Rural Schools" and had a fine showing of tables, chairs, gates and various animals made by his pupils. He strongly believed in this manner of fostering the constructive spirit in pupils, and, in answer to a query, said the girls take readily to such work and were just as well pleased as the boys to do it.

Inspector R. Wright of Hanover commended Mr. Stewart's work, not only in this regard but in its entirety and then proceeded with his subject, "Self-improvement of the Teacher." The teacher should have the proper attitude towards her work. She should understand rural life and its needs and help solve the problems. He urged the use of sand tables, dictionaries, maps and the library, and advocated the study of Freeman's "How Children Learn."

Inspector John McCool, Walkerton, drew attention to an exhibit in another room of handicraft made by pupils at the Bruce Indian schools, which was very attractive.

Interesting Reminiscences

Mr. Allan of Durham spoke a few words, saying that the teacher who got no good at a convention was no good herself. In 1871 at a convention he attended there were twelve men and one lady teachers, but things have certainly changed. He

believed the ladies were just as good teachers as the men, but were not so good at keeping order. He started at a salary of two hundred and forty dollars, as compared with the one thousand dollars scale now prevailing.

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JOHN MORRISON, Chairman.

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