CHILDRENS' CORNER.

The Turning-Point

A good minister had grown weary over his books and so threw them all aside for a brisk walk in the open air. Nothing rests body and mind like this.

As Dr. B—— was passing the corner of the park, he observed a lad with a valise in his hand, just turning into the street. He paused a moment as if uncertain which course to take. A moment's glance showed to the clergyman that the lad was from the country. Such ruddy cheeks and vigorous muscles did not grow in the shade of a city home. It flashed through the good man's mind, that this boy was leaving his early home as he had done some forty years ago; and in imagination he recalled that parting scene with a feeling of gentle sadness that made him at once feel an interest in the boy before him.

"Please, sir, will you direct me to Le Roy street?" he asked respectfully. The clergyman gave the desired direction, and then addded—

"You have come from a home in the country to find a situation in the city, have you, my boy?'

There was something so kindly in the tone that it went at once to the boy's heart. A moment before he had felt so utterly alone!

"My father died a month ago," he said, "and my mother has got a place for me at my cousin's store."

"Well, my boy, I trust you have a good mother; I can usually tell by a boy's looks what kind of a mother he has. Remember all her good counsels, and be especially careful how you spend your Sabbaths. If you begin by going out to walk for your health or pleasure, you will end in the liquor-saloon, and all the haunts of wickedness. Anchor yourself in the Church and the Sabbath-school. Here is the address of mine, if you would like to attend it. Our superintendent loves boys, and so do I. Remember that the way you spend your first Sabbath in the city will very likely be the turning-point of your life. Goodbye, and may God give you His blessing always."

The good man gave his hand heartily to the stranger-lad as he bade him good-bye.

"I'll walk the length of this city through to find that man's church and Sunday-school," said Robbie to himself, as he walked rapidly on, his heart cheered and strengthened by that little act of sympathy.

When the next Sunday came, however, it found him worn down with his unaccustomed tasks. A young man in the store, with whom he had formed a pleasant acquaintance, invited him to take a stroll about the city.

"I'll show you some of the sights, and treat you to a dinner of oysters down in a saloon I know of, where they keep open on Sundays."

Robbie felt lonely enough that day. The young man seemed so pleasant and friendly, he was just on the eve of yielding to his temptations "just this once." But then the thought of the good minister's words about this day being a turning-point in his life came back to him just in time. He politely declined the invitation, and found his way to the morning Sabbath-school.

Ever afterward he felt that he had a home in that great city. A kind superintendent, and a warm-hearted teacher, who welcomed him with a cordial grasp of the hand, effectually "anchored" him in the Sunday-school. His career in after-life was useful, honorable, and successful; a very marked contrast with the Sabbath-breaking boys, who ran rapidly down the scale of dissipation until they reached the level of the common drunkard. Sabbath-breaking and liquor-drinking are twin cousins.—*Youth's Temperance Banner.*

USELESS DAUGHTERS.—The poorest girls in the world are those who have never been taught to work. There are thousands of them. Rich parents have petted them; they have been taught to despise labor and depend upon others for a living, and are perfectly helpless. The most forlorn woman belongs to this class. It is the duty of parents to protect their daughters from this deplorable condition. They do them a great wrong if they neglect it. Every daughter should be taught to earn her own living. The rich as well as the poor require this training. The wheel of fortune rolls swiftly round—the rich are likely to become poor and the poor rich. Skill added to labor is no disadvantage to the rich, and is indispensible to the poor. Well-to-do-parents must educate their daughter to work; no reform is more imperative than this.

HOW TO WRITE FOR A NEWSPAPER.—Let your writing be plain without any flourishes. It is related of a once prominent New York journalist, that in order to increase his income while going through the trials of starting a newspaper, he established an evening school for the tuition of boys and among other things he attempted to teach was the art of writing. One evening he wrote a line in each of the boys' copybooks as follows: "Virtue is its own reward;" and requested them to follow it down the page, and show their books to him the next evening. The boys went home, but found they could not make out the words; and commenced going to one another's houses to ascertain if any had been successful. They eventually found out one boy who had made out the copy; and the next evening they all appeared before their teacher with their copy-books alike, reading as follows: "Washing without soap is absurd." A word to the wise is sufficient.

Two Stayner women, whose habitations are separated only by a high board fence, are not on the very best of terms. A cat was recently found dead in the yard of one of those enraged damsels. The next morning it was found in the other woman's yard. The next morning it was found in the other woman's yard. And we might repeat this for seven hours and we would not have caught up with the cat. It is worn down to about the size of an egg, however, and the play cannot last much longer—or the cat either—*Sun.*

The Premier's Letter.

MR. MACKENZIE'S LETTER AS READ AT THE ONTARIO REFORM CONVENTION.

MY DEAR SIR,—I regret exceedingly, that it is quite out of my power to attend the annual meeting of the Reform Association in Toronto on the 5th inst., as I cannot possibly be absent from the city on that day, for reasons which our friends will of course readily appreciate. Had it been found desirable to have held the meeting two or three weeks earlier some one or more of the Ontario Ministers might have been able to be present. I presume, however, that the committee fixed the date with a view to the convenience of members of Parliament on their way to the capital, and this is doubtless of more consequence than the pressence of Ministers would be.

It is of the highest importance that the Association at its present meeting should ascertain what steps have been taken in the various constituencies of the Province for effectively organizing for the general election, and where there has been a failure in this organization, measures should at once be adopted to make good the omission. With a good organization there can be no question whatever of the success of the Liberal party at the coming elections; but we must never forget that we have a most unscrupulous enemy in the Opposition leaders and Opposition press. It seems almost impossible to stem the torrent of falsehoods and misrepresentations with which the country is flooded, and the object of which is but too apparent. It is to endeavor by any and every means to poison the minds of the people—with the knowledge that the whole of them cannot be reached with the ample refutations that we have at hand. As Liberals we cannot resort to such dishonorable tactics, but we can adopt effective measures, if our friends are active enough, to counteract, by published statements of facts and figures the worst efforts of our opponents in this ragard. The late election at Halifax furnished a complete illustration of the system of which I have endeavored to characterize. It would be difficult to name a more upright, high minded man than Mr. Jones, the new Minister of Militia. It would be equally difficult to suppose anything more gross than the accusations which were invented against him to do duty at the election.

The enormous majority obtained by the Liberals in 1874 represented not merely the Liberal party proper, but many discontented Conservatives as well, who felt that their party chiefs had disgraced themselves and the country, and who in consequence withdrew from them their allegiance. It was not, therefore, surprising that when the Tories concluded to re-elect the hero of the Pacific Scandal as their leader, and resolved to forget the past, that the Liberals should lose some constituencies. At the same time the House of Commons gave a sense of strength and security to the party generally which caused it to relax the efforts which might otherwise have been put forth at many of the special elections.

There is, of course, more or less difficulty to be encountered by the Liberal party from the natural tendency of Reformers to press sometimes unduly their own particular views on public matters, in advance occasionally of the general feeling existing in the ranks. This is not an evil in itself, because there must necessarily be freedom of opinion amongst our people, and that freedom of opinion must often take the shape of public discussion; but we should always endeavor to avoid carrying such discussions so far in advance of possible practical results as to give an advantage to our opponents. The Liberal party in England and in Canada have repeatedly lost power whilst having the vast majority of the nation at their back in consequence of neglecting this wise precaution.

Many of the difficulties which the Reform Administration have encountred since their advent to power have been in consequence of Acts of State passed by the late Government, which imposed certain weighty matters upon the Dominion. The public expenditure on great works has been objected to by our opponents, but the present Government have not initiated a single public work involving heavy capital expenditure, while they have greatly limited some of the schemes propounded by the late Administration. The principal expenditure, in this connection has been that on account of the canal system. The present Administration has placed in abeyance the works from Kingston to Lachine until the Lachine and Welland Canals are finished, and time is given to consider how far it is essential at the present moment to complete these great works on the whole of the St. Lawrence River.

The expenditure on the Pacific Railway has of course been caused wholly by the obligations entered into by the late Administration, and considerable as the expenditures have been the Government have failed to satisfy the people of British Columbia. The early construction of the works on the part of the Pacific Railway lying between Lake Superior and the prairie region was undertaken with a view to open up the vast fertile belt for immediate settlement, and thus to largely extend the trade of the Dominion, and to facilitate the construction of the western portion of the line.

Although the population has largely increased within the last four years, the expenditure has been materially reduced when the sums required for payment of interest, the extinguishment of the Indian titles, and the outlays of the Government in the North-west and Prince Edward Island, are deducted. But details on this point are furnished so copiously by the Finance Minister in his speeches that it is needless to do more than thus briefly to refer to the fact.

I have only further to urge upon the members of the Association the necessity of looking closely after the voters' lists of this year, in order to prevent frauds in the introduction of names which have no right to be recorded, and the omission of names which by right should be on those lists. This is really one of the principal parts of the batt'e-field to be closely attended to.

I may say in conclusion, that I am firmly convinced of the soundness of public opinion generally throughout the Dominion. The recent desperate conflict in Halifax—conducted so unfairly by our opponents—may be considered the keynote to the coming general elections in Nova Scotia. In Restigouche the Opposition candidate presented himself, but seeing the utter hopelessness of the contest, even in that Tory constituency, he retired on the day of nomination.

The wicked attempts which have made in various quarters to start religious strife and disunion, particularly in the Province of Quebec, have, I am glad to say, entirely failed. It is the duty of Reformers, while giving fair play to all, to frown down attempts to introduce religious strife in political contests. It has always been our policy to secure entire equality to all classes of her Majesty's subjects, and if they now enjoy the rights which are inherently theirs, it is because of the zealous efforts of the Liberal party in that behalf.

Please convey to the members of the Association the expression of my extreme regret at being unable to attend the meeting and address them in person, and believe me,

Yours faithfully,
A. MACKENZIE.

G. R. PATULLO, Esq.,
Sec. Reform Association, Toronto.

TO CURE HOARSENESS.—When the voice is lost, as is sometimes the case, from the effects of a cold, a simple, pleasant remedy is furnished by beating up the white of one egg, adding the juice of one lemon, and sweetening with white sugar to the taste. Take a spoonful from time to time. It has been known to effectually cure the ailment.

"What is the best remedy," asked a preacher of a shrewd observer, "for an inattentive audience?" "Give them something to attend to," was the significant reply; "hungry sheep will look up to the rack if there is hay in it."

A great amount of nonsense about ministers' wives was summarily disposed of by the late Dr. Bethune, who, when the qualities of his wife for official duty were enquired into, he asked the brethren "if they intended to pay her a salary."

"Hurrah! hurrah!" cried a young lawyer, who had succeeded to his father's practice, "I've settled that old lawsuit at last." "Settled it!" exclaimed the astonished parent; "why, we've supported the family on that for the last ten years."

A dandy of twenty-six having been termed an "old bachelor," appealed to an elderly gentleman to decide whether he should be called old or not, giving his age. "Twenty-six," said the elderly gentleman, "it is owing to how you take it. Now, for a man it is young enough; but for a goose it is rather old."

See what the Clergy Say:

Rev. R. H. Craig, Princeton, N. J. says—"Last Summer when I was in Canada I caught a bad cold in my throat. It became so bad that often in the middle of my sermon my throat and tongue would become so dry I could hardly speak. My tongue was covered with a white parched crust, and my throat was much inflamed. An old lady of my congregation advised me to use the "Shoshonee's Remedy," which she was then using The first dose relieved me, and in a few days my throat was nearly well. I discontinued the use of it, but my throat not being entirely well, became worse again. I procured another supply, and am happy to say that my throat is entirely well, and the white crust has disappeared. I wish that every minister who suffered from sore throat would try the "Great Shoshonees Remedy."

Rev. Geo. W. Grout, Stirling, Ont., says—"Mrs George Francis was severely afflicted with kidney disease, and had been under the care of three physicians without any beneficial result. She has since taken four bottles of the "Shoshonees Remedy," and enjoys the best of health."

Rev. T. C Brown, Brooklyn, Ont. says—"My wife was very low with lung disease and given up by her physician. I bought a bottle of the "Shoshonee's Remedy," and at the end of two days she was much better By continuing the Remedy she was perfectly restored." Price of the Remedy in pint bottles $1; Pills 25 cents a box.

WHAT THEY SAY OF IT! A FEW FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.—There are but few preparations of medicines which have withstood the impartial judgment of the people for any length of time. One of these is Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. Read the following and be convinced.—Thos. Robinson, Farnham Centre, P. Q., writes, "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for the last ten years and have tried many remedies without any relief, until I tried Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, and since then have had no attack of it. I would recommend it to all."—J. H. Earl, Hotel Keeper, West Shefford, P. Q. writes, „I have been troubled with liver complaint for several years, and have tried different medicines with little or no benefit, until I tried Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, which gave me immediate relief, and I would say that I have used it since with the best effect. No one should be without it. I have tried it on my horses in case of cuts, wounds, etc., and think it equally as good for horse as man."—A Maybee, Merchant, Warkworth, writes, "I have sold some hundred bottles of Eclectric Oil, and it is pronounced by the public, 'one of the best medicines they have ever used; it has done wonders in healing and relieving pain, sore throats etc., and is worthy of the greatest confidence."—Joseph Rusan, Township of Percy, writes, "I was pursuaded to try Thomas' Eclectric Oil for a lame knee which troubled me for three or four years, and I never found anything like it for curing lameness. It is a great public benefit."

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS. Ask for Dr. Thomas Eclectric Oil. See that the signature of *S. N. Thomas* is on the wrapper, and the names of Northrop & Lyman are blown in the bottle, and *take no other.* Sold by all medicine dealers. Price 25 cents. NORTHROP & LYMAN, Toronto, Ont., Proprietors for Dominion.

Note.—*Eclectric*—Seclected and Electrized.

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Mount Forest—Third Wednesday in each month.
Hanover—Monday before Durham.
Dundalk—Tuesday before Orangeville.
Guelph—First Wednesday in each month.
Harriston—Friday before the Guelph Fair.
Drayton—Saturday before Guelph.
Elora—The day before Guelph.
Douglas—Monday before Elora Fair.
Hamilton—Cyrstal Palace Grounds, the day after Guelph.
Berlin—First Thursday in each month.
Brampton—First Thursday in each month.
Listowel—First Friday in each month.
Fergus—Thursday following Mount Forest.
Rosemont—Fifteenth of February, April, June, August, October and December.
Primrose—Wednesday preceding the Orangeville Fair.
Orangeville—The 2nd Thursday in each month.
Marsville—Second Wednesday in each month.

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