

1. Worms and fish suffer very little pain. Indeed it has been maintained by some that wriggling and kicking are the worm's and fish's awkward methods of dancing for joy. But I don't quite go in with that. I am willing to admit that they suffer a modicum of pain. But it is only a modicum. How can it be more? Pain depends on brain and nerve. Worms have neither, and fish very little. That is an admirable quotation which "E. B." gives from Cowper, about not having a cruel man for a friend. I quite agree with him; I would'n't have such a man for my friend, neither would the C. C. M. P. A. have him for a member. Why we nearly expelled one of the fraternity for hooking a fish in the abdomen, though that was accidental, and not wilful, cruelty. I suspect that "E. B." while making that quotation, had another in his mind, viz:—

"The poor beetle that we tread upon,  
In corporeal suffering feels a pang as great  
As when a giant dies."

That's nonsense. Animal physiology proves it to be so. I maintain that worms and fishes undergo, and can undergo, but very little pain.

2. What little suffering they endure is vicarious, and results in great good. If by means of the fresh air, diversion and relief of mind, new flow of spirits, and general recuperation which result from fishing, a minister studies and preaches better, or a doctor takes a new lease of tender sympathy, perceptive insight into disease, and steadiness of muscle and nerve in surgical practice, what signifies the sacrifice of a few worms and fishes? Sacrifice, did I say? Why, it's glorification of them. A little worm or fish helps a minister preach! That's more than some church members do during the whole of their lives. Or the little creatures help a doctor cure a disease, or set a limb, or perform an operation! Fortunate little worms! Highly distinguished little fish! In the paradise John Wesley and others have dreamed of for the inferior creation, ye shall be exalted to honour, and take rank among the "weak things and things that are despised," which God hath chosen and made subservient to his glory!

The misfortune is that there are many

good people and some ministers, who are unable to appreciate the force of these reasonings. They cannot be made to see the need and utility of recreation. Real, downright, hard thinking is a thing they have never known much about. Consequently, they are ignorant of the nervous reaction, the sinking of spirits, the weariness of life, the utter exhaustion, which drives harder-worked men either to a premature grave or to some recreative expedient. The slow steady-going cart-horse is unable to understand why the high-mettled steed cannot go all the time, why he must have extra grooming, more care, and an occasional playful canter in the fields. But the owner of both understands the difference between the two cases right well. And if "E. B." is not satisfied with the foregoing defence, there is nothing more to be said, but in the words of Holy Scripture:—"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own Master he shall stand or fall."

W. F. C.

On board the *Frontenac*,  
CAYUGA LAKE, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1873.

## INDIAN MISSION.

MY DEAR SIR.—According to promise made in my last letter, I proceed to give you some details of this year's visit to our Mission fields on the Manitoulin Island and North Shore of Georgian Bay. We, i. e. Messrs. Keeshick, Barrel and myself, started in our boat on the 11th July from Owen Sound, and reached Cape Croker next day, intending to take George Richards thence as a teacher for Sheshegwahnung. By the kind invitation of Rev. Mr. Williams, Wesleyan Missionary, I preached in the afternoon of Sunday to about forty Indians, an audience orderly, attentive and apparently interested.

Enjoying Mr. William's hospitality, I could not but feel that a little more co-operation in the work of the Lord would surpass much controversy in dispelling denominational prejudices.

I think that the Methodists are doing a good work here; they seem to have thorough hold of the conscience and sympathy of the people; may the good Lord bless them an hundred fold. Even doctrinal differences of Christians grow