

ABUSE OF THE MANSE BABY

(By A. Manse Parent.)

Everybody in the congregation is interested in the advent of the Manse baby. Bless their dear hearts! How thoughtful and generous they are! Loving gifts and the incense of flowers flow in lavish stream from warm, sympathetic hearts. For once at least the advent of a child is the birth in the pew of new tenderness and interest in the Manse. The way of baby and parents promises to be smooth and pleasant. Too often it proves the forerunner of battle—the clash of ideals, the wounding of sensibilities, the piercing of the sword of the tongue.

Manse parents believe the cradle an evil to be shunned. Some generous member of church society presents one to baby and it must be used or offense given. Other articles are bestowed upon baby which parents must use, against their better judgment, just to preserve peace.

Baby is such a dear little bundle of softness and smiles that he must be lifted up and hugged and kissed and bounced by every loving member who comes to call. If baby is asleep he is talked over to the disturbing of his slumbers, or he must be awakened to allow some sympathetic caller to see those wonderful eyes and sweet smiles. His cheeks are pinched, fingers are poked at him, grimaces and chuckles confront him. No respect is paid to his need of "regular hours" and quiet repose. Mother must worry with him when, nervous and excited, the big bright eyes refuse to yield to the sandman. But then the dear kind people have been pleased.

Thoughtless pew! The good Book says, "Bear ye one another's burdens," and here they come, piling up burdens of anxiety and care, when they really meant to be kind.

Not long ago I was talking with a paragon mother about her baby, and the heavy sigh when she spoke of broken rules and disturbed habits just to keep the affection and good-will of the pew, spoke volumes about her torture by those whose intentions were good.

Now, why does not grace make a Christian pew sensible? Gifts are appreciated by Manse parents. Money is never plentiful at the best. Baby adds to the already over-burdened expense account. But a gift of money for the purchase of loving tokens by mother would be most sensible, unless care be taken to discover what baby really needs or whether the gift meets with the approval of parents. That would avoid the many useless reduplications that so frequently occur. And Manse parents do appreciate the sympathy and interest of the pew. This can be shown by words and looks and deeds without making baby a bundle of quivering nerves and subjecting him to indignities which he is too little to resent, and which parents fear to resent. Too often the rights of the Manse are invaded by a thoughtless pew. And when parents, sensible of their responsibilities, attempt to a careful and gracious manner to preserve these rights inviolate, the pew develops a heavy frost.

If there is any truth in the statement that Manse children are worse than the pew children the fault lies with the pew and not with the manse. Give the Manse parents, who are responsible for the health, growth and character of baby, a little chance and, dear pew, don't get ruffled over it.

The vicar of an English health resort has issued the following notice—"To meet the convenience of visitors, arrangements have been made with the vicar of this parish for the burial of guests at greatly reduced fees. The privilege may be withdrawn if it is abused."

KNOX COLLEGE REVIEWELE

We append herewith a copy of a circular just issued by the College Board to a number of individual friends of the institution:

Presbyterian Church Offices,

Toronto, Sept. 11th, 1905.

My Dear Sir: The appointment of the new professors and the changes at Knox College necessitate an additional annual expenditure of nearly \$3,000. At the last meeting of the College Board it was felt that it would not be wise to depend upon getting this additional amount in the ordinary way from the congregations of the Church, and the undersigned were appointed a committee to raise specially \$3,000 per annum for a period of five years. One of the chairs in the Montreal College has been supported for the past twenty-five years by special annual subscriptions from a number of our people in that city, ranging in amount from \$250.00 to \$25.00 per annum, and we think that many of the friends of Knox College, now that the staff has been so greatly strengthened, will gladly come to the help of the Board by subscribing for a period of five years towards making up the required amount. Will you kindly take the matter into consideration, and return to Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, the appended slip, with the amount of your contribution. The subscriptions are payable annually in February, the first being due in February, 1906.

Commending the matter to your favorable consideration, and soliciting the favor of a reply before the meeting of the Board on the 4th October, we are, Yours faithfully,

WM. MORTIMER CLARK,
JAMES BALLANTYNE,
ROBT. H. WARDEN.

An appeal was also made to congregations asking them to subscribe annually for a period of five years, a specific sum for the maintenance of the institution. It is hoped that many individual friends, as well as congregations, will generously respond, and that their responses will be received before Wednesday next, when they will be reported to the meeting of the board.

It is a common impression that a good many cases of insanity are induced by religious emotion. That minds are unbalanced by undue attention to particular phases of religious experience is perchance true, but it is nearly always through perverted ideas of duty or excessive introspection. The Christian Intelligencer quotes the testimony of Dr. Theodore B. Hyslop, who is a brain specialist, as of value on this point. Dr. Hyslop was discussing causes of insanity before the British Medical Association, and combatted the idea that religious emotion leads to mental troubles or aggravates them. "As an alienist," he said, "and one who knows the sufferings of the human mind, I would state that of all hygienic measures to counteract disturbed sleep, depression of spirits, and all the miserable sequels of a distressed mind, I would undoubtedly give the first place to the simple habit of prayer. Let there but be a habit of nightly communion, not as a mendicant, nor repeater of words more adapted to the tongue of a sage, but as a humble individual who submerges or asserts his individuality as an integral part of a greater whole. Such a habit does more to clean the spirit and strengthen the soul to overcome mere incidental emotionalism than any other therapeutic agent known to me."

The Carnegie Library in Cork was opened on the 20th inst. At the close of the ceremony the Lord Mayor gave a luncheon. On finding that the toast of the King's health was omitted the Bishop of Cork left the table, and a number of guests followed his example.

HOME MISSION DAY

Editor Dominion Presbyterian: Will you permit me to state, for the information of those of your readers who do not see the minutes of the General Assembly that Sabbath, the 15th of October, has been named by the Assembly "as a day of special thanksgiving and prayer in connection with Home Mission work," and that on that day "ministers are requested to call particular attention to the magnitude of the task that the church in this new land is called upon to undertake."

Circulars have been sent to Sabbath school superintendents as well as to ministers, urging that the full advantage be taken of the opportunity thus afforded to deepen the interest in, and increase the contributions to, this supremely important department of the Church's work—supremely important because of its intimate bearing not only upon the future welfare of the country but also upon the ability of the Church in future years to prosecute with energy and success every department of religious and philanthropic effort.

E. D. McLAREN.

VICTORIA, B.C.

The meeting of the Presbytery on 13th inst., in the church Comax, marked a new departure, the practice hitherto having been to meet alternately in Victoria and Nanaimo. The delightful sail of 150 miles from Victoria and 75 miles from Nanaimo along the eastern coast of Vancouver Island and through the smaller islands of the Gulf of Georgia, together with the cordial reception and generous hospitality of the good people of the beautiful Comax valley more than amply justified the change.

The Rev. Thomas Menzies, minister of the church in which the Presbytery met, was appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. As usual the greater part of the time was devoted to reviewing the Home Mission work of the past six months in the nine mission fields of the Presbytery, and making necessary plans for the ensuing half year. While the supply for the summer has been full, and of good quality, inadequate supply is feared for the winter.

A large deputation from St. George's church, Cumberland, appeared, asking for a minister for six months or a year, instead of the irregular probationer supply of the past four or five months. This was granted. Cumberland for a young, unencumbered minister, is in many respects a very inviting field. A compact coal mining town of about 4,000 inhabitants, one church, in point of labor it is probably the lightest in the Synod. The congregation is suffering owing to the vacancy. Six months' service, mutually satisfactory, is sure to result in a call and settlement. Rev. W. L. Clay, Victoria, and Rev. T. Menzies, Sandwich, have charge of the supply.

A communication from Dr. Herdman, superintendent of missions, informed the Presbytery of an offer by Rev. C. W. Gordon, of St. Stephen's, Winnipeg, to donate \$500 towards providing for the equipment of churches for doing institutional work, where such work is demanded in the interests of young men, on condition that each Presbytery in the Synod raise \$15.00 for each church so organized. The Presbytery cordially endorsed the proposal and pledged itself accordingly.

The next meeting was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's church, Victoria, on a date to be fixed by the Moderator and clerk, after consultation with the superintendent.

Farmers in Northern New-York who have begun to dig potatoes, are alarmed at the prevalence of rot. The conditions are so serious that some farmers, whose yield gave promise of 225 to 250 bushels to the acre, have abandoned their fields entirely.