

A Wedding Incident.

A Toronto pastor contributes the following from his note book :

It was my first wedding, and took place in an Iowa farm house. When the ceremony was completed and the nervous couple seated amid the interested company, the father of the bride-elect told of hearing the minister put the following question to the bride at a wedding attended a short time previously, "And, madam, is this the first attempt you have made?" One of our company, addressing the bride said, "Well, the minister didn't ask you that question?" A kindly-disposed neighbor sought to relieve the situation for the nervous bride by saying, "O we know it's the first time for Gertie." At this the keen-witted "small boy"—a younger brother, who had hitherto preserved a most interested silence, startled the company with the voluntary information.—"Yes, there was another, but it didn't pan out."

I realized the discomfort of the situation for the bride, when I was informed afterward that she had been a self-proposed and persevering candidate for the affections of my predecessor in that field.

Altruism.

The power of being able to keep a household from fretting and complaining and from violent tempers; the power of being able to encourage, nourish, and stimulate the freedom and growth of others—is gained from there having been built up in the minds of all in the house, as the first motive of life, the great Christian law—Christian because entirely human—"Think of others more than of yourself, and of others' happiness more than of your own unhappiness." And of this law the best definition to remember is a word of St. Paul's, "In honor preferring one another." . . . This is true courtesy. It is its very flower; it is the essence of Christ's teaching set to music in daily life. It will bring out all the good in others and what is best in yourself; it will make your home like very heaven.—Stopford A. Brooke, in "Young People."

Dress.

There is a common saying, "Dress makes the man." Of course, it is only a half or quarter-truth, instead of a whole one, but there is something in it. An experienced educator, writing for the American Primary Teacher of the first day at school, says: "Wear your prettiest, daintiest dress. One teacher whom I knew always wore a white dress, with flowers in her belt, for the first day. She said she sacrificed it to the good of the cause, because white with flowers seemed to have a quieting effect upon the school." The fabric of the dress is a matter of seasons, but the general principle that neatness and good taste have a humanizing effect is of wide application. Extravagance and gaudiness are never in good form for church and Sunday-school. The majority of teachers have only a moderate amount to spend upon dress, but they need be none the worse teachers on that account, if they have good sense.—Sunday-school Helper.

We can only give what we have. Happiness, grief, gayety, sadness, are by nature contagious. Bring your health and your strength to the weak and sickly, and so you will be of use to them. Give them, not your weakness, but your energy—so you will revive and lift them up. Life alone can rekindle life.—Amiel.

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