

many as the flattest heresy, and the contravention of what is one of the fundamental canons of clerical success. Isn't a good wife, it might be indignantly asked, as essential to a clergyman's success as to any other man's? How many men every day are marred or made by their wives, and why not a clergyman? Can a clergyman, in fact, without a suitable wife, hope to attain success at all?

All very true, and something that defies the first breath of contravention. Most undoubtedly a clergyman's well-being and success is as dependent upon the sort of wife he gets as is the lawyer's, doctor's, shoemaker's, and hedger and ditcher's. But what do we consider the ideal wife in these latter cases, the woman who can engross her husband's deids, or mix his draughts, or stitch his uppers, or handle a spade, or she who can make his home bright and attractive, bring up his children in the way they should go, and play the woman in every respect. What would be the fate of the doctor or lawyer, whose wife systematically meddled with his patients or clients, and why, I ask, therefore, should a clergyman be regarded as exempt from the working of this otherwise universally applicable rule. Why should it be considered as so vitally essential to his success that his wife should occupy a position that, with any other man, would ensure his complete and speedy failure? Why indeed?

In my humble opinion the clergyman's wife, "who rules well her household," and efficiently fills and beautifies that sphere of which women alone of all created beings are qualified to fill, and beautify is infinitely more of the true helpmate, and sets to the parish by far the most edifying example, and is in every sense more the model clergyman's wife than she who, in any degree sacrifices her well being to the exigencies of parochial claims. As a motto for women in all ranks, spheres and conditions of life, nothing can approach the old saying, "charity begins at home," and no woman, be she clergyman's wife, or premier's wife, or hod carrier's wife, who ignores this, can be anything else than a failure as a woman. She may be a brilliant success as a parish administrator, a novelist or a salvation army captain, but not as a woman, and will therefore be as far as nature is concerned a failure. And to take higher grounds, a woman having taken upon herself the duties and responsibilities of wifehood has no more right to subordinate these duties and responsibilities to any secondary object, however excellent and laudable, than the clergyman has to make his legitimate work a side issue. Wifehood, like any other profession, demands entire self-consecration to ensure success or to avoid failure, and a woman who in any degree permits exterior objects to interfere with her wifely duties, is more or less guilty of a breach of contract, and is inflicting a serious injustice upon her husband and family, and in a sense living upon false pretences.

A clergyman to succeed, must like any other man, have a good wife and helpmeet, but good and helpful in which respect let me ask, in tramping about the parish and leaving

babies, shirts, and dinners to take care of themselves, or in making home a haven of rest and recuperation, and sweet feminine companionship and sympathy.

And so I may, I think, fairly conclude with the assertion that the clergyman's wife has no more laid upon her, as of necessity, to do than any christian gentlewoman, and that she is no more bound to destroy her husband's creature comforts, and therefore happiness and possibly usefulness for the sake of the parish, than is Mrs. Churchwarden, or Mrs. Lay Delegate, or Mrs. Prominent Supporter.

Of other aspects of the subject I intend speaking next week.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

ONE of the principal objects of Sunday School Libraries should be to supply, not only innocent and healthy literature to the young, but also literature that may instruct them in the principles of the Christian Faith, and to make them loyal and intelligent Churchmen and Churchwomen. The great difficulty in forming such Libraries is created by the very abundance of the material which is offered for selection. The result is, many books are taken on trust, and many are found to be valueless, either as a means of sound instruction, or even as a sure source of amusement, and many more, it is to be feared, wholly fail to carry out the principle we have laid down.

In Cambridge, Mass., a Church Library Association has been formed for the express purpose of examining and critically reading books with a view to their recommendation for Church Sunday School Libraries. The Association is composed of forty ladies and gentlemen, all of whom are communicants of the Church, who are divided into reading committees of eight members each. Every book presented for consideration is read by each member of a committee, who gives a written opinion regarding it. If a majority of these opinions are favorable, the book is then brought before the monthly meeting of the association, the opinions are read and a discussion is held upon the merits of the work. A vote is then taken, and if one-fourth of the members present object to the book, it is not placed upon the list. It has been found that only about one-third of the books examined are, as a rule, considered eligible. The clergy of Cambridge constitute a committee of advice upon doctrinal and learned works.

This Association has recently issued a new catalogue, a copy of which can be obtained on application to the "Secretary of the Church Library Association, Cambridge, Mass.," enclosing the necessary postage to pay for its transmission. This catalogue is not a mere list of names of books, but also gives information as to the publishers and price, and in most cases the names of the authors.

Some such work, we think, might be advantageously undertaken in Canada. A Church Book and Tract Society, we believe, was formed with some such object some years ago, but we do not think, beyond the publication of a

few tracts, that it can be said to have otherwise accomplished the work it laid out for itself.

A catalogue, such as that we have referred to, would be useful, not only in the formation of Sunday School Libraries, but also to enable parents and others desiring to buy books for family use, judiciously to supply their wants.

#### Home & Foreign Church News.

From our own Correspondents.

#### DOMINION.

##### MONTREAL.

*Annual Synod.—First day.*—At the first business meeting of the Synod, at the Synod Hall, under the presidency of Bishop Bond, the following officers were elected: Rev. Canon Empson, clerical secretary; Dr. Alex. Johnston, lay secretary; Mr. James Hutton, treasurer; Messrs. G. W. Simpson and S. C. Fatt, auditors, and Mr. L. H. Davidson, church advocate. The usual standing committees were renamed.

Rev. Mr. Stone then moved, seconded by Rev. Canon Norman, "That this synod now assembled, send its kindly greetings to the Presbyterian General Assembly now in session in this city, and that it commend their deliberations to the guidance and blessing of Almighty God."

The resolution was passed, and Canon Norman, Rev. Mr. Stone and Mr. L. H. Davidson were named as a committee to carry it into effect.

Rev. Canon Anderson, seconded by Mr. Charles Garth, then moved the following resolution, which was carried and referred to the same committee: "That this Synod of the diocese of Montreal sends its loving greeting to the honored Bishop and Synod of the diocese of Huron, now in session, and pray God abundantly to bless their deliberations to His own glory and to the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven."

A letter from Sir William Dawson, extending a cordial invitation to members of the Synod to visit McGill University, was then read by Rev. Canon Empson.

His lordship Bishop Bond, then delivered his annual charge to the Synod. In the course of his eloquent and impressive address, the Bishop alluded to the period of excitement and anxiety through which they had passed since their last gathering. That they now met in times of peace, when so lately the war news was the first question of interest in their daily life, was, his lordship said, a matter for grateful acknowledgment to the Almighty, for national satisfaction and for mutual congratulation. Still, anxieties were too real and too recent for unmixed complacency, and the almost universal depression in business having had its effect upon the church's funds, they could say that they had not been without their troubles. The Bishop spoke earnestly and forcibly to the assembled clergy on the importance of promoting the peace and loyalty of their congregations, exhorting them to avoid strife, self-will and prejudice. Men, he said, must naturally differ in opinion. They were not alike in form and feature, in mind, taste, or habit, but they might and ought to be alike in the exercise of charity, forbearance, and Christian courtesy. After touching upon a number of subjects, all of much importance to the work of the church, his lordship announced that, in response to the expressed wishes of some of the leading clergy and laity, he had arranged to hold a church congress in this city on the 20th and two following days of October next. Prominent church members, clerical and lay, from all parts of the Dominion, as well as from the United States and Mother Church, had, he said, been invited to assist, and there was every reason to hope that the congress would be an occasion of profit and blessing. In conclusion the Bishop said, that in the course of the year, he had visited 107 parishes, missions and mission stations, and administered the rite of confirmation in 81 churches. He had admitted 7 persons to the office of deacon, and promoted 5 to the priesthood. In addition, he had laid the foundation stones of two new churches, one at Thorne West, and one at St. Lambert, and had consecrated the new church at West Broome, and the new burying ground at Sorel.

Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay having presented a memorial from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, protesting against the recent action of the Senate in mutilating the Scott Act, Rev. Canon Norman read the report of the committee on education, which drew attention to the resolutions passed at the last meeting.