

eve of the Great Reformation of the 16th century the corruption among the clergy was alarmingly great, and brought sadness to all Christian hearts. A great revolution then took place, followed by persecutions which acted as a purifying agent, and ever since, the clergy have been, as a rule, honest, earnest and godly men, working for the salvation of souls. If reasons are asked why this idea of the increase of crime among the clergy is gaining ground, the following may be given:—

1st. Clergymen are neither gods nor angels, but men. They are exposed to the same weaknesses, to the same temptations as other men; they are tried by the same devil, and sometimes are conquered by him, like other men are. When they do fail, they mourn and weep like other Christian men do, the only difference is, that the public is less willing to forgive them than ordinary men, because of the high position they hold.

2nd. The moment a clergyman goes astray the report is circulated the wide world over. Newspapers, as a rule, take more trouble in publishing such reports than in contradicting them, when they prove to be false. Even when contradicted, the bulk of men, who are more willing to believe the bad than is said of their fellows, than the good, accept the evil report instead of its refutation, and thus the world is led to imagine much more than in reality exists.

3rd. Just as a great many are led to believe that the children of ministers are, as a rule, worse than other children, because here and there one goes astray—while statistics prove this to be a pure assumption, wholly unsupported by facts—so the public, who read of this and that unworthy clergyman as having gone astray, runs away with the false impression that the number of such is very great, whilst statistics prove the reverse to be the case. As a proof of this, I may say, that no minister does anything wrong and unworthy of his calling, without being disciplined by his ecclesiastical body, and when such cases arise and come before church courts, the matter is made public, to wit, the action of one such body in St. John, N. B., last summer. Now such cases of discipline are comparatively rare.

4th. There are a few men in every community who, because of their unmeasured pride and conceit, and often because of the inherent wickedness of their heart, are filled with an insane hatred for the clergy, whose best friends they often claim to be.

They do not like those ministers who are brave enough to rap them on the knuckles, when they more than deserve it; who expose or bring to light the shallowness of their hypocritical religious pretensions, who show them that religion consists in deeds and not in words and pious phrases; who expose their meanness, their niggardliness and their sordid avarice. Vexed at those ministers who have the courage of their convictions and handle them thus without gloves, they do all in their power, by way of vengeance, to hurt the clergy; they are ever on the lookout to find a minister in fault; their would-be Christianity leads them to unbury every scandal, real or imaginary, which papers of the most questionable character are fond of publishing, and when they cannot find what they would wish to find, they simply invent. Many of the crimes attributed to the clergy, and which prove to be pure slanders, find their origin in the sick brain and wicked heart of the class of men referred to.

These reasons and others that could be given, will suffice to refute the statements made by the writer referred to.

C. E. AMARON.

Wanted!—A New Boy.

Mr. Editor,

It is extremely desirable that a liveried page should be added to our present staff of servants, for the convenience of visitors. I would suggest that he be stationed near the main entrance of the corridor. It is well known that strangers are always at a loss how to find parties whom they are seeking in the college. A recent illustration has come under my notice:—One morning a neighbor had occasion to send his coachman over on an errand. The messenger arrived in his shirt-sleeves, opened the door, and stood in the long corridor completely bewildered. Just then a student happened to pass by in haste, to whom he of the shirt-sleeves applied for information. He was told that if he would "ring the bell," some one would attend to him forthwith. The student vanished, and the intelligent groom, left to his own resources, looked about for the bell apparatus. He evidently failed to notice the handle of the door-bell outside, for clutching one of the ropes within, he rendered a startling peal of music on the three hundred-pounder hanging in the belfry! *Some one did attend to him, and speedily!* An examination was progressing in one of the class-rooms, and the pean being quite untimely, the examiner hastened down to discover the daring perpetrator of the performance. He found him with mouth wide open, and—well, things were finally adjusted. Let a bright boy be engaged for next session, and it is not likely such inconvenient mistakes will be repeated. V.

The Alma Mater Society.

THIS Society held its Annual Meeting on the 4th instant. In the absence of Rev. D. L. McRae, President, Rev. C. E. Amaron, M.A., occupied the chair. The ordinary business having been disposed of, and encouraging reports from the Treasurer of the Society and Business-Manager of the COLLEGE JOURNAL heard, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—

President—Rev. W. McKibbin, M.A.

1st Vice-President—Rev. G. D. Bayne, B.A.

2nd Vice-President—D. Mackay, B.A.

Secretary and Treasurer—R. Gamble, B.A.

Committee—Rev. J. Casey, B.D., G. Whillans, B.A., R. MacKnight, B.A.

The COLLEGE JOURNAL was placed under the care and management of Mr. A. Scrimger, B.A., Editor-in-Chief; Assistant Editors—Messrs. J. W. McKenzie, B.A., J. H. MacVicar; Business-Managers—Messrs. W. Fraser, B.A., J. C. Campbell, J. Higgins.

A vote of thanks was given to the retiring staff for their able management of the JOURNAL during the past session.

For the benefit of some of our graduates we subjoin the Constitution and By-Laws of the "ALMA MATER SOCIETY."

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE "ALMA MATER SOCIETY" OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL—APPROVED APRIL 1879.

CONSTITUTION.—1. Name.—This Society shall be