



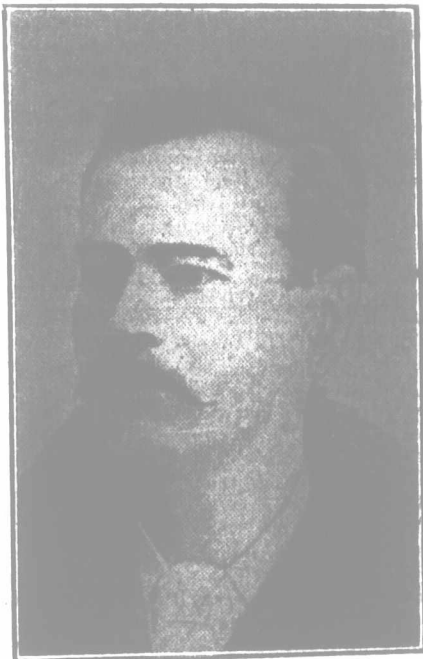
Life, Literature
and Education.

The Good Angel of the
Labrador.

A rough, rocky, forbidding coast, dangerous of navigation and out of the track of the world's traffic; unprotected by lighthouse or fog-bell, or floating buoy; open to the great bergs and ice-floes that drift down continually from the white Arctic seas—such is the coast of Labrador, and such the vast sea upon whose borders, day by day, all through the short Northern summer, creep out little scattered knots of frail, crude fishing-boats, which glean from the sea the livelihood of the people along the coast. A pitiful people they are—poor to destitution, ignorant, often degraded, cut off from civilization and from one another by huge headlands or wild wastes of water, living in huts filthy and unsanitary to a degree unimaginable in more favored lands. Yet, even ten years ago their condition was more pitiable still. To-day they have, at long distances apart, it is true, yet available for some small portion of the 8,000 inhabitants huddled in the sparse villages, hospitals at which modern treatment may be given; to-day they have, here and there, stores at which they may obtain goods at cost price, instead of buying everything from unscrupulous traders, whose system was to supply a meagre pittance of supplies at highest prices during winter, and mortgage in return the entire catch of each individual for the coming summer; to-day they have, at various points, little churches; and, here and there, saw-mills and fish-driers, at which the poorest may obtain employment. To-day, too, from time to time, there comes creeping along the coast, under the vast headlands and up into the fjords where clusters of huts cower away from the northern blasts, a little steam vessel—taut, trim and modern. When the people see it they run down to meet it, sometimes bearing their sick and injured with them, for they know that it carries with it the Good Angel of the Labrador—a tall, slight Englishman, who talks with the slightest English accent, and possesses one of the greatest hearts in the world, sole teacher, physician and magistrate of the coast, friend and benefactor of the Labrador—the one man, in short, who has accomplished every reform mentioned above—Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell. Yet, he has not worked single-handed, for he has been ably backed by one of Canada's greatest old men, Lord Strathcona, who has not only supplied the missionary doctor with the little steamer by which he makes his trips, but supplements the gift by an annual grant of \$1,000, which does much toward providing Dr. Grenfell with the means so urgently needed for carrying on his work.

It is not certain that to this young doctor the self-imposed banishment to the lonely Labrador is a sacrifice. He says it is not, and after thirteen years of toiling up and down the bleak reaches from Belle

Isle to Chidley, he knows whereof he speaks. Yet that such a man, friend of Sir Frederick Treves, Oxford graduate, citizen of London, metropolis of the world, should deliberately throw aside professional opportunity, social position, visions of affluence, hosts of friends, and choose instead oblivion, loneliness, comparative poverty, hardship, discomfort, danger, all for the sake of suffering humanity, surely bears witness to the type of man that he is. To-day the world rings with Togo's, Kamimura's fame, and bravery surely deserves its tribute. But there are heroes and heroes, and men and men. In the true balance of things, may not Wilfred Grenfell, and such as he, apostles of peace, ministers to the suffering, well stand among the world's highest and best. To those who would know more of Dr. Grenfell and his work, we would add that he has written a book, "The Harvest of the Sea," which will tell much more of him than we can



Dr. Wilfred Grenfell.
One of Canada's Heroes.

afford in our limited space. "Dr. Grenfell's Parish," by Mr. Norman Duncan, who has travelled much along the North-eastern coast, will also be read with much interest. A good many Canadians living in some of the larger cities, recently had the good fortune of meeting Dr. Grenfell and hearing him speak upon the platform.

National Security.

In these days of splendid progress in our industrial and commercial enterprises, our British connection, as described by the late Nicholas Flood Davin, whose silver-tongued orations were once the delight of the Canadian House of Commons, may be recalled with advantage. In one of his speeches in Parliament, Mr. Davin said:

Sir,—We in Canada occupy, in my opinion, the happiest position that a race of people can occupy. We have a strong executive, but we have boundless individual liberty. There is no country in the world where

the citizen is more free, and there is no country where law and order are so certainly and steadily maintained. Here in this country, therefore, Scotsman, Irishman, French-Canadian, Englishman, or German, whether he be born on the soil, or whether he has become naturalized, would be a dastard unless he felt grateful to the great empire that has conferred on him such priceless privileges. And there is this to be said in regard to our position—that we have certain material advantages, purchased at a very low price. We have behind us miles and miles of ships, the great 'sea-dragons' her sons have bred, of the empire; we have all her prestige and power. We have all this behind us, and every man, be he a settler of three years' residence, or be he born on the soil, wherever he goes, not a hair of his head shall be touched, for all that power and all that overshadowing prestige are behind him. For as the evening gun is fired on the Pacific waters and at Halifax the august mother puts her arms around her Canadian child and says: 'Sleep in peace, my invincible arms are around you.' It is because those arms are around us that we have that sense of security, that confidence in the present and in the future that belongs to us to-day."

"Useless" Knowledge.

Is there not a danger of running the technical idea in our educational system until it becomes a fad and works to the detriment of the coming generation of men and women? In swinging away from classical education and the study of Greek and Latin literature, is it not possible to go so far in quest of what we call the "practical," as to abandon altogether that wide and thorough reading which has been the distinguishing characteristic of many of the greatest minds of this and previous periods in various departments of human activity and progress. People nowadays are not disposed to take time to become "educated" in the old sense of that term. The N. Y. Independent, one of the most rational American weekly papers that we come across, is evidently impressed with this view of the situation in the Republic. We are getting highly-trained men, it declares, but narrow men, and every day the educated man, in the old-fashioned sense of the word, is appalled as he meets and talks with the younger fellows and discovers how amazingly little they know. They do not read; they have not time to read. They hurry and grind, and read the headings out of the newspapers, and from these superficial and often worthless impressions construct their opinions of politics, world tendencies, science, religion, philosophy and art. They have neglected knowledge for its own sake, and lack the mental basis for cool and rational judgment. They forget that the questions of to-day have been met with a thousand times before in human experience, and that human experience has already sifted folly from wisdom in dealing with them. The Independent quotes President Roosevelt as a marked exception to this rule, in the thoroughness of his general educa-

tion and reading, out of which have sprung, in large measure, his high ideals in life, the moral qualities which he possesses, and his power for leadership in the nation. We believe, declares our contemporary, that President Roosevelt is the man among men that he is to-day—the man of power and influence—because, like the great men of other lands and of an earlier day in our own land, like Bismarck and Gladstone, like Jefferson, Hamilton and John Adams, he has continued through life to drink of the fountains of what some people call useless knowledge.

Religious Education Association.

In an age of rapidly-multiplying organizations we do not wonder that some American mind conceived an association, designed especially "to reach and to disseminate correct thinking on all general subjects relating to religious and moral education, initiating and completing investigations of fundamental importance." One may ask, "Does not the Church and the Sabbath School, the Religious Press and Home Training sufficiently provide for the direction and culture of the religious element in mankind?" An unbiased examination of the proceedings of the second annual convention, held last year at Philadelphia, of the "Religious Education Association," will justify its existence. If it did but issue this splendid volume of 650 pages, we would not ask for further vindication. The theme of that great gathering of educationists, religious preachers and writers, was "The Bible in Practical Life." It was a recognition of the fact, that among the many possible and truly efficient means of promoting the responsiveness of the human soul to God recognized to-day, the Scriptures are pre-eminent, that the Bible shall continue to wield its Divine influence over the conduct and character of the people. The Association conducts its work under seventeen different departments: (1) Committee of Religious Education; (2) Universities and Colleges; (3) Theological Seminaries; (4) Churches and Pastors; (5) Sunday Schools; (6) Secondary Public Schools; (7) Elementary Public Schools; (8) Private Schools; (9) Teachers' Training; (10) Christian Associations; (11) Young People's Societies; (12) The Home; (13) Libraries; (14) The Press; (15) Correspondence Instruction; (16) Summer Assemblies, and (17) Religious Art and Music. In the addresses and discussions every department was represented in relation to the convention theme. Men and women of acknowledged authority contributed of their best thought, and the result was of the very highest character. Profound, practical and far-reaching subjects were presented, and yet the conciseness of the papers was remarkable. We doubt if its equal in that respect has ever been published before. Less pretentious bodies and individuals would do well to make it their model. The volume contains, likewise, complete information regarding the membership, constitution, officers and workings of the Association. The annual