

the material support of those who mould it. If this be admitted, I claim for our subject a foremost place in the problems presented for solution in the closing years of this century."

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### Wedding Bells.

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At St. George's, Winnipeg, on Oct. 30, Dr. Anderson, of Brandon, and Miss Holgate, of Winnipeg, formerly of Brandon, were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. Dr. McLenis, of Brandon, who acted as groomsman, took with him to Winnipeg, on the previous day, many beautiful wedding gifts from Brandon friends. The young couple spent their honeymoon in a ten days' trip to St. Paul and other southern cities, and have now taken up residence in Brandon.

On November 17th, Rev. M. Custance officiated at the marriage of Miss Annie Hill, daughter of Mr. Chas. Hill, East Brandon, to Mr. Richard Wayling. Miss Bessie Unicome acted as bridesmaid, and Mr. Arthur Wayling is groomsman. Mr. and Mrs. Wayling have taken up their residence on the Beaubier farm, which Mr. Wayling recently purchased.

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### A Sure Sign.

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"That woman is a good Churchwoman."

"Oh, no, she's not."

"Why, how do you know?"

"Because she doesn't kneel during the prayers. You thought her a Churchwoman because she used her Prayer Book in the service, but that's no certain sign. Plenty of outsiders who occasionally 'drop in' for a special service, or 'to hear the music,' have learned to find the Psalter and follow the prayers. It's becoming quite the thing now to own, and on occasion use, a Prayer Book, but to kneel right down on one's knees is an act of real worship to God that the outsider does not comprehend, or, at any rate, doesn't perform."

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### The First Stocking filled by Santa Claus.

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No Saint in the calendar receives as many honors, or honors so sincere, as Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, the patron of children. No other custom ever called for so much invention on the part of parents as the visit of Santa Claus; no other matter ever gave rise to so much doubt in the minds of those who receive his attentions. But Santa Claus was not a mere myth, as most believe when they leave the doubting state. In real life, he was the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. In his native town there was a nobleman, who, by force of circumstances, had been reduced to poverty so great that, unable to provide his daughters with

marriage portions, he was about to turn them out of the house to earn their bread as best they could. Bishop Nicholas heard of this, and, going to the house after dark on Christmas Eve, bearing with him a purse of gold, he was puzzled as to the best method of conveying the gift to the poor nobleman, without its donor being known. Looking through the window, he saw that the old man had taken off his cloth stockings, and hung them up before the fire to dry. After all was quiet Nicholas ascended to the



top of the chimney, an old-fashioned wide affair, and threw the purse of gold down with such precision of aim that it fell into the old man's stocking. On Christmas morning, the old gentleman rose, found the money, and with it provided a marriage portion for his eldest daughter. Similar presents followed for the two younger, the old man hanging up his stockings regularly after that. Thus, according to trustworthy accounts, originated the practice of hanging up the stocking to receive the presents of St. Nicholas on Christmas Eve.