

be clothed and fed by the same protecting power?

"Behold a sower went forth to sow," the Master began one day, and then followed the wonderful parable, so true in every detail, showing such clear-eyed observation as must appeal to every man who has sown the good grain, and because of poor soil, or the birds or the weeds, has failed to reap a full crop, or, perchance, has harvested thirty or sixty or a hundredfold on that new rich soil. And the law of growth, of development and increase in stature of the human being He likens to the corn—first the blade, then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear. The law of justice He exemplifies when the tares sowed by the enemy among the wheat are gathered in the harvest and burned, when the wicked husbandmen who beat the servants and killed the son are miserably destroyed and the vineyard given unto others; when on that last dread day the sheep shall be divided from the goats.

And to the world of the farmer He turns when He shows us the law of love—the love of God to man. Does not our imagination show us clearer than others can see the shepherd leaving the ninety-and-nine safe in the fold and seeking the one lost lamb in wilderness and over rough mountains until he finds it? Who should know better than the man who has cared for the downy chicks what Christ meant when in that yearning cry of love over the beautiful but wicked city. He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

To Himself the contact with nature brought all the bodily rest and ease He knew on earth. "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest awhile," He said to His disciples; and in the mountains He drew near to God and received strength for the duties of the coming day; peacefully he slept in the little boat upon the sea. And when the fulness of time was come, when the shame and pain of the cross was almost upon Him, to the garden His steps turned, and among the gray-green olive trees angels came and ministered unto Him.

"A Chance to Exchange News."

The subject of our picture, by Robt. F. Gagen, A. R. C. A., Toronto, represents a sloop on its way to the fishing banks of Newfoundland, meeting a schooner homeward bound. Across the waves comes the hoarse voices of the men, eager to hear and impart the latest tidings from home. The waves are choppy and innocent enough, though the greyiness of the skies may spell mischief presently. Mr. Gagen's is a familiar name in artistic circles. He is not only an Associate Member of the Royal Canadian Academy, but also a member of the Ontario Society of Artists, and the secretary of the same for the last twelve years. H. A. B.

Domestic Life.

I have noticed that a married man falling into misfortune is more apt to retrieve his situation in the world than a single one, chiefly because his spirits are soothed and relieved by domestic endearments, and self-respect kept alive by finding that, although abroad be darkness and humiliation, yet there is still a little world of love at home, of which he is monarch. Whereas a single man is apt to run to waste and self-neglect—to fall to ruins like some deserted mansions, for want of inhabitants. I have often had occasion to mark the fortitude with which women sustain the most overwhelming reverses of fortune. Those disasters which break down the spirit of man and prostrate him in the dust, seem to call forth all the energies of the softer sex, and give such intrepidity and elevation to their character that, at times, it approaches sublimity.—[Washington Irving.]

The Ontario Women's Institute Convention.

By Laura Rose, Guelph.

On December 13th and 14th the Annual Convention of the Ontario Women's Institute met at the O. A. C., Guelph. The sessions were to be held in the Macdonald Institute, but to accommodate the 300 delegates and the many visitors, it was necessary to adjourn to Massey Hall.

Mrs. Jas. Gardner, who presided at the first meeting, said it was a grand outlook for our country when so much thought and money were spent on home economics. Nothing would do more good or was more needed than the properly directed study of homemaking and housekeeping, for many a woman could scoop out with a spoon as fast as a man could scoop in with a shovel. The motto of her own institute was, "If you know a good thing, pass it along," and that was the true spirit of the institutes all over the Province.

President Creelman, of the O. A. C., welcomed the ladies. Speaking of the Macdonald Institute, he said that the future filling of its halls with young women would largely have to be done by the field work of the women before him. He asked for their kindly criticism, and said the first aim of the institution was to give the girls a good working knowledge of cooking, laundering and sewing. The women in the splendid gathering before him should sound the bugle-call to have manual training and domestic science introduced into all the schools.

Dr. Annie Backus, Aylmer, in replying to the kind welcome, said it was customary to pat each other on the backs on such occasions; but we should rather seek out our mistakes. Our greatest danger at present was in selfishness. Both in the world of fashion and business, self-interest seemed paramount. Things of the material world were too much worshipped instead of the higher attainments, only possible from an education which did not mean mere learning, but the principle of intellect and regulation of the heart.

Mr. G. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Farmers' and Women's Institutes, in beginning his address, said he thought that one of the best features of such a gathering was that all parts of the Province were represented by the women before him, and that it enlarged the sympathies and

tended to a unity of ideas regarding home conditions. Our greatest peril was in the fact that our home life was in danger, and was gradually slipping away. We must do all in our power to keep this stronghold safe. Our responsibility in this respect was great. The flourishing condition of the Institute Mr. Putnam showed by giving the increase during the past year. It had grown from 149 branches to 208, and the membership from 5,400 to over 8,000.

Miss Laura Rose gave an address on the "Womanly Sphere of Woman," dealing with the subject in such a plain, practical manner that she won the nodding approval and warm applause of her audience. The prevailing idea of her address was that, so far as possible, man should be the producer, and woman the dispenser; man the breadwinner, woman the homemaker. Many women, from force of circumstances, have to earn their own living, but let it be in such vocations that will rob her of none of those gentle traits which are her chief charm. Our first and last thought should be, "Let us be womanly." By doing for themselves, girls, to a certain extent, lessen their chance of marriage, for being able to support one's self engendered a feeling of independence in woman not conducive to matrimony, and often hindered a young man's approaches. Many married women were falling far short of filling the ideal sphere. Their extravagance, discontent or selfishness drove men to the brink of bankruptcy or suicide. How a mother could willingly leave her little ones to the mercies of hired help or deprive herself of the good-night kiss and hug was hard to understand. A woman who is being a true and loving wife, a devoted, intelligent, righteous mother, need have no regrets that high social position, academic honors or political privileges have been denied her—she is filling the womanly sphere. The eyes of man and of the God above rest with favor on her, and her reward is sure.

Stay, stay at home, dear heart, and rest.
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,
For they that wander, they know not where.
Are full of trouble and full of care.
To stay at home is best.

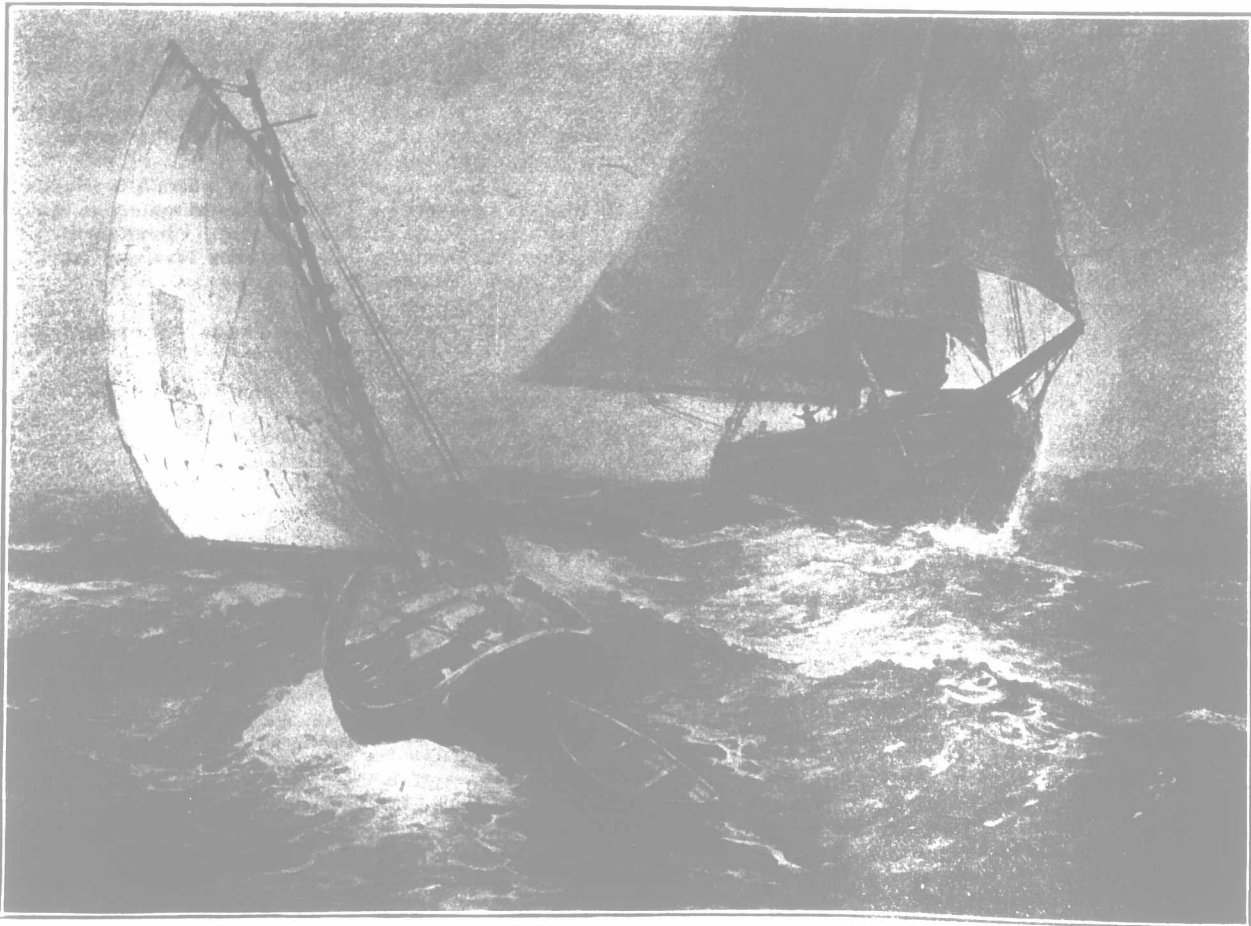
The ladies had the pleasure of a few very encouraging words from the

Hon. Nelson Monteith. After expressing great sympathy with the Women's Institute, and the noble work they were doing for the homes of Ontario, he assured them of his heartiest support, and would grant them all the Government assistance in his power. He received a vote of thanks for the increased grant already given to Women's Institute work.

Dr. Helen McMurchy, Toronto, revealed much that was to be deplored in her forceful and convincing address on "Patent Medicines." Ill health was largely due to eating too much and too fast, and to lack of exercise. To overcome this self-imposed sickness patent medicines were largely resorted to, with the result that often the constitution was further abused. Patent medicines may be divided into two classes: Very dangerous, those containing cocaine, strychnine, opium; secondly, not very dangerous. None of them contained anything but ordinary drugs, in spite of their foreign and high-sounding labels. All drugs advertised to relieve pain contained morphine, opium or some other heart depressants. The amount of alcohol found in all tonics was appalling, very often a higher percentage than that found in the best brandy or whiskey. The unscrupulous methods of obtaining testimonials were disclosed. All civilized countries, except Canada and the United States, have laws restricting the sale of patent medicines. Dr. McMurchy brought out the fact that before a doctor could write out a prescription he had to study medicine five years, but any old fake without any qualifications whatever could put on the market the most dangerous concoctions.

A resolution asking the Government to look into this matter was carried by the convention.

Dr. J. W. Robertson brought before the Convention the necessity of improved rural schools. His hope was to see them so good that parents would bring their children from the cities to the country to be educated. Better-equipped schools and better-qualified teachers meant increased taxation, but a higher and more practical education for our boys and girls, especially along manual art lines, would result in a finer class of goods of all kinds for export, and the extra money invested would return to us with good interest. The main thing that is worth while in this world is to give the children a



From painting by Robt. F. Gagen, A. R. C. A. "A Chance to Exchange News."