



Life, Literature and Education.

A New Book on Home Life.

Those of our readers who perused the "Redemption of David Corson," by Charles Frederic Goss, may have agreed or may have disagreed with the ideas advanced by him in that story, but whatever your attitude was, you could not fail to be impressed with the earnestness, sincerity and straightforwardness of the author in his treatment of the subject. The same qualities are to be seen in his latest work, "Husband, Wife and Home," and, as a result, a thoroughly satisfactory treatment of this most important of all subjects has been presented. It may be obtained from Wm. Briggs, The Book Room, Toronto, Ont., at \$1, in substantial, attractive, cloth binding. To all readers of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" who have read with interest or have taken part in the recent discussions in our columns on the home life of the farmer, and the question of marriage for the farmer's son, we can recommend this book as being a most helpful exposition of those questions of domestic economy which have arisen during these discussions. Here is no high-flown language, no sentimental phrasing which skims the surface and leaves the depths of the subject untouched, but practical, common-sense statements, clearly and pithily expressed, helpful to every one connected with the home. Here are portrayed the sacredness of home life—its responsibilities, its opportunities; here are its mistakes, its joys and its sorrows. The dangers that assail home life are fearlessly stated, and the author's eyes are not closed to the fact that modern business methods and modern social life are detrimental to true home-making, yet there is not a pessimistic or gloomy line in the book, but a joyful holding up of a standard high but attainable, and plain, simple directions as to reaching up to the standard. No dollar that you will spend this year will give you any greater cause for satisfaction than the one you exchange for "Husband, Wife and Home." Make it a wedding present to the autumn brides of your acquaintance, for its value is above cut glass, or pictures, or dainty furniture. Here are a few gems of the collection:

"It is the solemn obligation of men and women to marry, to rear children, to make their home an asylum for the helpless members of the family circle; to toil, to economize, to sacrifice, and, if necessary, to die for others."

"I maintain against all comers that it requires a greater endowment of soul to make an ideal home than to carve the Venus de Milo, to paint the Last Supper, or to build St. Peter's."

"If you wish to be looked up to and revered by your children to the very last, you must remain nobler and saner, and stronger and sweeter than they."

"If that good wife of yours wants you never to sit down at the table

in your shirt sleeves, don't you do it, even if you are parboiled before the end of the meal. If your husband is disturbed because you say 'seen' for 'saw,' and 'had went' for 'had gone,' correct your grammar at any cost."

Father Mathew's Birthday.

Many temperance societies have just celebrated the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the birth of Father Mathew, which occurred October 8th, 1790.

Poets, warriors and statesmen have crowned Ireland with the glory of their achievements in letters, in war and in political life, but none has added greater lustre than the brilliant, earnest priest, Father Mathew, the great apostle of Total Abstinence. In his labors in an Irish city he had become almost disheartened because so many of those he sought to help were victims of strong drink, either personally or through the falling of those upon whom they depended. He was seized with an inspiration—for these men whose will power was drugged and diseased, who could not partake in moderation of intoxicants, he would prepare a written promise, pledging them to abstain entirely from what was destroying them. He believed that in all of these men there was still manhood enough to prevent them from lying to themselves when the pledge was once taken, and results have certainly justified him in his belief. The experiment was crowned with success; the pledge-takers could be counted by hundreds, the pledge-breakers by units, for there was something in the force and earnestness and faith of the man who presented the pledge that proved irresistible to those who recognized their need of some strength outside themselves. Out of his efforts and those of others have come incalculable benefits through various organizations, of which total abstinence from alcoholic beverages has been a basic principle.

Canada and the West Indies.

That there will never be a federation of Canada and the West Indies is an unsafe prediction. That, if ever, such a federation will not be realized for many years, is more than a possibility, hasty action without due consideration being fatal to so important a decision. The settlement of such a union requires careful thought, and that thought has already been sown in the minds of the people of Canada.

The West India Islands under British control were once of great interest to British people, in the olden days when that whole region was debatable ground for French, English and Spanish vessels, but now that her other colonies have increased in number and power, these first possessions in the New World are not of first importance, and, therefore, receive somewhat less attention, though they are still governed by the Crown.

These islands of Great Britain cover a considerable area—from Kingston, Jamaica, to Barbadoes is a thousand miles. The population is composed largely of blacks, many of whom are illiterate and exceedingly

ignorant. Petty strifes and jealousies are common, and would prove an effectual barrier to a proposed scheme of federation among the islands themselves. If federated with Canada, the islands might be grouped into provinces, and with the Canadian influence and methods of government dominating, the union should prove a beneficial one to the island provinces.

Such a scheme of federation presents some advantages, which those arguing in favor of the step present with confidence. Without some stronger force to lean upon, the British West Indies cannot hold their own politically, commercially or industrially; but, strengthened by union with Canada, the British Empire would gain by having a strong link where now there is a weak one, and where strength may be particularly desirable when the Panama Canal is opened to traffic.

To Canada, with no provinces in a tropical climate, the carrying out of this plan would give a warm climate for those seeking pleasure and health, where they would be under British law administered by Canadian methods. It would give a new market for Canadian corn, lumber, provisions and manufactures, and a regular trade with two million people is not to be despised.

Greater than to Canada would be the advantage to the West Indies. Reciprocity of trade with a northern country would do much for them in giving them a market for their sugar, coffee, cocoa, bananas, oranges, drugs, dyes and spices. Now the white population is small and transitory; the change would mean an influx of white people as residents, as well as an increase of transients. New capital put into new industries, and these infused with good commercial common sense, could not help but give new zest to the business life of the islands.

The difficulties in the way of the realization of this scheme are also many and varied. There is the fear that the granting of a preferential treatment to Canadian goods in the Indies would be resented by the United States, and lead that country to retaliate by taxing fruit from the islands, and the West Indies cannot afford to lose their American market. It is believed that the Americans, with the idea of expansion now pretty firmly established, would not be averse to extending their influence to the West Indies as they have to Cuba, but even if there were no other obstacles to prevent, the American treatment of the negro would impose an insuperable barrier.

The distance between Canada and the Islands is also advanced as an argument against federation, but if it is allowed to stand it would also be an argument against any federation of the Islands by themselves, for, though it is 1,200 miles from Kingston, Jamaica to Halifax, N. S., it is 1,000 miles between Kingston and Barbadoes. Of course, in the event of union, there would have to be an improvement in the steamship service between the two, and someone has even suggested that an express steamship service from Great Britain to the Indies, connecting there with a fast line to a Canadian port, would be a feasible scheme

which would provide a fourteen or fifteen-day voyage by a much pleasanter route.

The negro problem, of course, is a matter for most serious consideration, as Canada has always been, happily, free from difficulties of that sort, and the experiment would be too costly if the responsibility proved too heavy for the Dominion to successfully undertake.

But feasible or difficult, advantageous or otherwise, the matter is one whose careful study will not hurt any Canadian interested in the growth and prosperity of his native land and of the British Empire. Indeed, the time will yet come when it will do our statesmen and Canada as a nation good to have to grapple with just such problems as the one under discussion will present.

On Country, Home and Duty.

The name of Theodore Roosevelt has of late appeared under one heading or another in nearly every daily paper in the land. Pictures of himself and his four boys are almost as familiar as the children of one's own family. Quotation after quotation from his speeches at this public function or at that greet the eye upon the pages of magazines, English and Canadian, as well as American, all joining, as with one accord, in recognizing the great service he has been so largely instrumental in rendering to humanity in bringing to a successful issue the conference between Russia and Japan. It is not, however, from his utterances as the head of a great nation I would quote to-day, but rather from those which show his keen sense of the relationship which should exist between any nation and the homes which are its foundation stones.

Like our late revered Queen Victoria, President Roosevelt may be said to have made "that dull old word 'duty' shine with a new lustre."

At the National Congress of Mothers, held in Washington early in the spring, Mr. Roosevelt said many things worthy to be remembered, words as applicable to the home lives of Canada as to those of his own country.

After alluding to the large extent to which the men who till the farms, the small land owners, and those who own the little homes, contribute to the lasting national life of any land, he says:

"But far more important than the question of occupation of our citizens is the question of how their family life is conducted. No matter what that occupation may be, as long as there is a real home, and as long as those who make up that home do their duty to one another, to their neighbors and to the State, it is of minor consequence whether the man's trade is plied in the country or the city, whether it calls for the work of the hands or for the work of the head."

"That nation is in a bad way if the family is not of the right kind; if the man is not a good husband and father, if he is brutal, cowardly and selfish, or if the woman has lost her sense of duty and has let her nature be sunk into vapid self-indulgence, both parents thus missing that great and beautiful development