

We must have a surer foundation for our faith; a rock foundation upon which we can build up a spiritual life, enlightened by a spiritual wisdom.

That foundation must be belief in the man Jesus Christ as firm as that which made St. Peter say, "We believe and are sure that thou art the Christ the Son of the living God."

Add to this belief these two potent, little words, "I want," and you have a faith which cannot fall, even if all the miracles in the world were proved to be mistaken or explained to natural causes. When you want a thing, it means that you are going to try to get it, and that your heart is enlisted in the cause, and hearts after all, not arguments, overcome the world. "I want for myself and all other sinners just such a Saviour as Jesus showed Himself to be." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God."

#### Church Bells says:

No doubt the custom of sending Christmas cards has in some ways run into excesses, yet it is a pleasing custom which we should not willingly let drop. Most of us have many friends whom we remember, and whom we should wish to remember us, at this beautiful season, but whom we can neither see nor find the means of sending substantial presents to. Now a Christmas card a card prettily designed and executed, a real little work of art, with words upon it that express some appropriate and kindly sentiment, exactly suits our purpose. It is a charming outward and visible sign of our friendly affection and remembrance. With a little trouble in selecting we may easily find such cards. The trouble is well spent, and few of us are so busy as to be unable to take it, if we have the time. Stern spirits may say that this is a very trivial matter, by no means worth writing a note about. But then life is very largely made up of things trifling in themselves, both in its duties and its pleasures, and he by no means leads the least commendable life who is careless over these trifles. To let small civilities and attentions droop out of fashion is indeed a pity. The world certainly would not come to ruin if no more Christmas cards were sent from friend to friend, but there is no reason in that for not sending them. At a season of goodwill and warm remembrance of one another they may be welcome messengers with discretion.

The Bishop of Malborough, speaking at the Anniversary service of the working lads, in Great Peter street, Westminster, related the following anecdote on the 15th psalm:

The Bishop spoke of this particular psalm as *the gentleman's psalm*; and said that he always had set it in the foremost place in the teaching which he gave to his own children. The reason by which he had been led thus to name it, and attach such value to it, was as follows:—Many a long year ago, when he was a young man not yet in orders, he had gone with a lady, the widow of an officer, to a flower show in Devonshire. There came up to her two officers of her late husband's regiment, and their talk got upon old friends. At last she asked about a certain captain so-and-so, a man who had risen from the ranks by distinguished service. 'Oh!' said one of the officers, 'I don't know anything about him; he's a snob.' 'A snob!' answered the lady, fired with indignation; 'I tell you he was the truest gentleman in the regiment.' 'Indeed!' said her companion, with a sneer; 'then, as you seem to be so conversant with the matter, perhaps you will kindly tell us what is a gentleman.' Quietly, and without a moment's hesitation, the lady, looking in his face, repeated the fifteenth Psalm. 'That is my definition of a gentleman,' said she. Her little boy, a mere child of eight or ten, happened to be by. A day or two after-

wards she happened to find in his pocket a piece of paper, on which was written out, in his childish hand, the whole of this psalm, and at the beginning it was headed, 'The Gentleman's Psalm.' Assuredly it is a fine title for it. 'The incident,' said the Bishop of Malborough, 'made a deep and lasting impression on me.'

A GREAT effort, which we trust will be successful, is being made in Victoria to secure permission for Scriptural teaching to be given in the State schools of the colony. A bill on the subject is now before the Legislative Council. It is asserted that the colonists were never in favor of the extreme secular system now in vogue, and never meant that system to go to the great lengths it has gone. The efforts to modify it may fail, but the discussion cannot fail to have a good effect on the public mind of Victoria. We commend the following words of the Chief Justice of the colony on this important matter to the attention of all those who have it at heart, as well as those who are indifferent to or oppose the principle:—'The drawing out in the mind of a child of a sense of its relations to God, and of the duties that flow from that relation—the inculcation by the words, as well as by the example, of the teacher of a reverent and truthful tone of thought, feeling, and expression—and the enforcement by gentle, yet constant, pressure of cheerful obedience and habits of discipline, are, we think, wholly distinct from the process of imparting mere intellectual knowledge on the one hand, and from instruction in dogmatic or sectarian theories on the other, while at the same time we believe them to be essential, and indeed by far the most important element in the education of a child and the formation of its character. Teaching of this kind, together with such religious exercises—for example, a prayer, or a hymn, or the reading of some version of the Scriptures—as may be calculated to give aid and effect, should be encouraged and stimulated in the public schools, instead of being forbidden.' There is even in this country a party who would, if they could, cut all religion out of education, and who would give for a text-book of English History, mangled fragments from which every reference to the part which the Church has had in building up the life of the nation had been carefully expunged. We are thinking that the day has not yet come when they can have their will.—*Church Bells*

#### DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

ST. JOHN.—The annual sale of St. Paul's Needlework and Woman's Aid Society was held on the afternoon of the 11th, and it was very successful. There was a large gathering of parishioners and friends. The sale opened at 2 p.m. and closed with a pleasant 5 o'clock tea. About \$230 were realized, including subscriptions. This Society is especially marked by the quiet and unostentatious way in which its work is performed. Established in October, 1866, it has held on the even tenor of its way for 23 years under the same President, Mrs. W. H. DeVeber, the Rector's wife. The modest sales are held in Canon DeVeber's house. We do not think that even those members of the Provincial Synod, who, during the late session denoted so severely this form of woman's work could find fault with the quiet endeavor of the St. Paul Society. Its efforts have met with marked success. During 23 years it has raised upwards of \$6,600, which have been expended for various parish purposes, and a spirit of sympathy and fellowship has been created and maintained among the parishioners. Two years ago the St. Paul's Needlework Society affiliated with the Woman's Aid Association then recently established in the Diocese. The names have been combined, and a yearly grant is made from the funds of the Society to aid Missionary work in the Diocese. The principal

part of the income of the Society is, however, necessarily devoted to the needs of St. Paul's Parish, which is self-supporting and unendowed. The church has recently been painted without and within, towards which St. Paul's Society contributed \$1000. A Junior Branch of young girls has lately been established, which promises to be very efficient.

#### DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

SHERBROOKE.—The annual meeting of the District Association was held in the Church Hall, Sherbrooke, on the 10th and 11th instant, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese presiding. Of the thirty clergy resident in the district, twenty one were present through the whole or part of the Session. There was also a fair attendance of the laity, especially on the afternoon of the second day. The Rev. Dr. Mountain, of Cornwall, the only clerical descendant of that venerable and venerated name now in Canada, favored the district with a visit at this time and added weight and dignity by his presence. The Rev. Dr. Morgan, of New York, preached the Anniversary sermon and addressed the Missionary meeting, which was well attended though the weather was unfavorable. The Rev. R. Hewton, of Megantic Co., was also invited to take a seat with the members of the Association and deliver a missionary address. The reports of the clergy were all interesting and to the point, showing good progress in every branch of Church work. The flourishing condition of Bishop's College and School, and also of Compton Ladies' College, was also encouraging. The papers read and discussion on them were able and instructive. That by Archdeacon Roe on Church work in the Eastern Townships enumerated some of the difficulties and trials of the first Missionaries at Melbourne, Sherbrooke and Stanstead, such as to break them down in body and mind, so that even instances of death in Insane Asylums was the result. Noble examples to the men of the present day, who are too ready sometimes to content themselves with a small and circumscribed district. This was followed by a very able paper from the present Rector of Sherbrooke, showing the necessity of aggressive work if the Church is to hold her own in the full tide of dissent that pervades this district. The offertory at the anniversary service and the collection at the Missionary meeting were for the Diocese of Algoma.

#### DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

TORONTO.—The following ladies and gentlemen, whose names appear in the order of merit, receive honors in the recent examinations of Sunday school teachers and scholars:—

The following teachers obtained first-class honors:—The Misses Farncombe, Newcastle, Ont.; Rebecca Church, Toronto; Mr. D. O. McDougall, Long Reach, N. B.; the Misses H. Sheppard, Toronto; Ida Hope, Belleville; Blanche Aylmer, Melbourne, P. Q.; Mrs. Charlotte Bell, Belleville; Miss Webber, Toronto; Mr. James W. R. Wood, St. Catharines; Miss Eunice Simpson, Richmond, P. Q.

Second-class honors were obtained by the following:—The Misses Alice Lister, Belleville; Mary Simpson, Richmond, P. Q.

The following scholars obtained first-class honors:—The Misses Mary Newton, Lucy McCuaig, Toronto; Miss Blanche Strey, Brockville; the Misses Hettie Dean, A. Newton, Annie Tennyson, Henrietta Jerrat, Toronto; Ethel Peverley, Brockville; Alice Twinning, Belleville; Agnes Waring, Mr. Carl Lynde, the Misses Rosa Warren, Toronto; Mary Macdonald, Belleville; Edith Dean, V. Berryman, Carrie J. Sturup, Toronto.

The following obtained second-class honors:—The Misses Maud Gibson, Belleville; Alice Fraser, Hortense Fraser, Melbourne, P. Q.; Mabel Hunter, Belleville.

The diplomas and certificates will be distributed at the January meeting.