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Help The Ministers.

The world owes a great debt to the helpers, that is to the people who are willing to be followers rather than leaders, who are willing to be counted among the non-commissioned and the rank and file, to speak by way of a deferential suggestion rather than with the voice of authority, to utter a word of encouragement in the ear rather than the ringing word of command. Blessed are the men and women who are ready and eager to do good for the sake of a good cause, without any purpose of winning fame by their deeds. Such helpers are the meek who shall inherit the earth.

There are generally a plenty of people who are willing to lead and to direct affairs. The late "Artemus Ward" finely satirized this vanity of leadership when, during the civil war in the United States, he proposed to raise a regiment in which every man should be a brigadier general. To most men it is a much more attractive thing to be a Field Marshal or a General than to be a sergeant, a corporal or a full private who counts merely as one unit of his company. Yet there is much truth in Kipling's remark that

"The back-bone of the army is the non-commissioned man."

Not infrequently there are too many would be leaders, so that they get in one another's way, trample upon one another's toes and hurt each other's feelings. But there is room in the world for an unlimited number of helpers, and there never can be too many so long as their energies find wise direction.

We must not indeed be misunderstood as seeming to undervalue leadership. On the contrary, the genuine leader is beyond all value. Everywhere, in war or in industry, in state or in church, in things temporal or things spiritual, wise, inspiring leadership is absolutely essential to great results. There must be leaders of higher and of lower degree, captains of thousands, captains of hundreds and of fifties. But the highest powers of leadership will avail little if there be no following. It is through the brave and loyal hearts of his soldiers that the great general wins the battle. It is through the strong and willing hands of the humble toilers that the great captains of industry bring things to pass.

Every minister of the Gospel is by virtue of his office a leader and commander of the people. The modern pastor is indeed expected to be a many-sided man, and probably too much is expected of him. Like his Lord and Master, he is a pastor, a shepherd But Christ is not only the Great Shepherd of the sheep-He is a Warrior, a Conqueror, a Captain of Salvation, - and His redeemed are not merely sheep to feed in green pastures and grow fat, they are militant host who are to conquer the world in the So the minister is name and power of their Lord. not a pastor merely, charged with the duty of feeding the flock of God, but a spiritual captain, the leader of a company who are to labor and to do battle in the name of Christ. And the individual Christian, if he understands and magnifies his vocation, is not merely a babe in Christ, to be spoon-fed by the pastor with the sincere milk of the Word, but a laborer in the vineyard, a soldier in the army of his Lord, a faithful helper and coworker with his pastor in every good work

The minister needs helpers. No man is so great and strong as not to need the inspiration and encouragement which the heartfelt sympathy and co-operation of his brethren can give. How gratefully Paul recalls the help which came to him through Aquila and Prisca and many others who co-operated with him in the work of the Gospel. And if Paul felt the need and appreciated the value of helpers, the same is certainly true of the ministers

of our own day. There can be scarcely anything so disheartening to the pastor as to feel that he is praying and working alone, with no one to sympathize heartily with his aims or to second his efforts. And on the other hand there can be scarcely anything more inspiring for the minister than to know that there are men and women around him full of prayerful sympathy with him and eager to join their hands with him in the work.

There are many ways of helping the minister, which will readily suggest themselves to the willing-hearted. He can be greatly helped by being relieved of all anxiety respecting his temporal sup port. It is impossible for a minister to give his best service to a church if his mind is constantly troubled with the question of providing for the needs of his family. Churches can greatly help their ministers by relieving them of care as to all church finances. Some ministers who are endowed with exceptional ability in financial matters will naturally take the lead and render importance service in that department but in general this ought not to be expected. If a church is to be built or repaired the burden of planning and financing the work ought not to fall upon the minister. Generally there are men in the church with the ability, if they will, to take such burdens upon themselves and leave the pastor free to minister to the church in spiritual things. It has become almost a proverb that the minister who builds a church does not remain long to preach in it. Does this indicate that when such burdens are assumed by the pastor it is too often at some sacrifice of the value of his ministration in spiritual things? Quite possibly pastors do not always do as much to encourage and develope the helpfulness of their people as they might do. The pastor has often a large field for the exercise of generalship. Was it not Mr. Moody who said that it is much better for a minister to set ten men at work than to do the work of ten men himself? To be able to make the conditions favorable for helpfulness on the part of his people, to set them and keep them at work without friction, is for the pastor one of the highest tests of ability. But it should not be forgotten that, whether or not the pastor possesses large power of generalship, there will always be many opportunities of helping him and serving the cause which the great Captain of our salvation is the Head and the Inspiration. Whoever breathes a heartfelt prayer for the pastor helps, whoever speaks a cheering word or lends a brotherly hand to the discouraged, whoever reclaims an erring brother or wins an unbeliever to Christ greatly helps. Whoever gives sympathy and prayer and money according to his means, in aid of Christian Missions far and near, helps. There is indeed with us so much ability and on every hand so many opportunities for helpful service that for no Christian life can there be excuse for being found barren and unfruitful. There is no investment which yields so rich return as the efforts we expend as helpers of Christ's ministers. No gift-not even that of a cup of cold water in his name-shall fail of its reward.

Editorial Notes.

—The article by Rev. J. H. Saunders, which appears on our second page, respecting the Baptists of Yarmouth, will be followed next week by a second and concluding article. Mr. Saunders' long and intimate connection with the Baptist cause in Western Nova Scotia, his literary ability, good judgment and ripe Christian experience enable him not only to present a very interesting historical sketch, but also to draw from the records of former years valuable lessons for the present.

—In estimating the value of a victory in either physical or moral warfare, some account needs to be taken of the conditions under which a man has fought and the strength of the forces against which he has had to contend. Sometimes there are natural conditions which severely handicap the fighter, and sometimes the odds are overwhelming. Many a brave man has gone down in a struggle after having resisted ten times more strongly than has another whose victory under easy conditions has won him fame. But what the world takes account of mostly is the mere fact of success or of failure.

In view of the many different and more or less conflicting reports which press despatches have sent abroad respecting Mrs. Nation's career as a saloon-smasher and the condition of the temperance cause in Kansas, the letter of our Kansas correspondent, Rev. W. B. Hutchisson, which appears in another column, will be read with interest. Mr. Hutchisson is one of our Maritime

men, well known to some of our readers. He is a man of high character and sober judgment, and his residence as a pastor in Topeka for the past eleven years, during which he has taken an active part in temperance reform, should enable him to write with accurate knowledge concerning the temperance situation in that State and especially in Topeka.

The Jubilee Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association of North America is to be held in Boston. June 11-16. The first Young Men's Christian Association was organized in London in 1844; the first in North America in Montreal in November, 1851, and the second in Boston in December of the same year. Convention to be held in June will be a legislative body, and about 2,000 delegates are expected to be present. The meetings of the Convention will be held in the largest auditorium in Boston, the Mechanic's Building, which has a seating capacity of 7,000. Among the who are expected to be present are President McKinley, Lord Strathcons and Mount Royal, and a large number of prominent educationists and other public men from the cities of the United States and Canada. Railroad Presidents and Army and Navy officials are expected to be present in large numbers, with more than a hundred gentlemen who are deeply interested in the Association work, from Europe, Asia, Australia, South Africa and South America.

-Bishop Sweeny, of the Roman Catholic diocese of St. John, who for some time had been in failing health, was stricken with paralysis last Saturday night and passed away at about nine o'clock on Monday morning. The Bishop was in his 80th year, and for about years had presided over the diocese. Sweeny was a man of peace, and his Bishop Sweeny irenic temper has doubtless done much to promote the friendly relations which for many years have existed between the Protestant and Roman Catholic elements in the city. In municipal and political matters the Bishop was remarkably unobtrusive, though it is said he was by no means an uninterested observer of of public affairs. His thought and course labors on behalf of his people have been incessant, and his fitting monument are the religious, educational and charitable institutions whice have been established and fostered by his hand. Bishop Sweeny whose unobtrusive worth and unselfish labors for the welfare of his people had won the high respect of all classes in the community, and Protestants will unite with Roman Catholics in sincerely mourning his decease. Bishop Sweeney's successor will be Bishop Casey, a comparatively young man, 38 years of age, who, a little more than a year ago was appointed Bishop Sweeny's coadjutor.

-The telegraphic reports respecting recent popular demonstrations in Spain and Portugal, growing out of attempted abductions on the part of persons connected with certain religious orders, have aroused a good deal of interest in this country. These reports have been confirmed, with more explicit statements as to the facts, by the foreign newspapers. Alluding to the subject, The Outlook says: "The foreign papers inform us that the Senorita Ubao, a rich young Spanish girl, was induced to leave her home and become one of the 'Slaves of the Heart of Jesus' in Madrid by a representative of that order. He began working on the girl's romantic nature by claudeatine correspondence, after the parish priest, an honest man, had discovered his intentions. The girl's family appealed to the Courts, the great republican lawyer and statesman, Senor Salmeron, being their advo-cate. He won his case and the girl was restored to her family, but not until the occurrence had fanned into flame a popular passion for liberty. Thousands of Span ish students escorted Senor Salmeron from the court to his house and turbulently acclaimed him as a national hero. . . . In Portugal the case was that of the abduction of a daughter of the Brazillian Consul at Oporto, and serious political consequences may follow. . . . Not only at Madrid and Oporto but throughout the Iberian peninsula there is now a state of unrest boding no good to the Vatican. Spaniards and Portuguese are undoubtedly more devoted to the Roman Catholic form of religion than ever before, but they are now awake to the evils lurking in the quite arbitrary course of the monks and some priests.

—It is a cause for gratitude that our brother Morse, who about a year ago returned from India in broken health, has so far recovered his strength that he is able to go about among our churches and speak to the people in the interests of our mission work in India. Mr. Morse is a man of consecrated spirit. His speech in public and in private impresses one as that of a man who lives near to God. The cause of India lies on his heart and his great desire is to help us, who have not seen India as he has, to comprehend as he does, the need, the opportunity and the reward of effort on behalf of its perishing millions. Our brother is something of a seer in the Old Testament sense. He is a man of vision—vision which comprehends more than the present with its sadness or its brightness, and takes account of the things which are not seen. In a sermon which the writer was privileged

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