

a position to change our method, and to carry the war into the enemy's country. Our opponents have taken their stand on science. Let us meet them on their own ground. It is the perpetual boast of science that its basis is *fact*—verifiable and undeniable fact. Its primary canon is that the theory must be fitted to the fact, and not the fact to the theory. Now there are various facts to be had in the region we are traversing. We take a group of them for examination. It is an indisputable fact, for instance, that every generation numbers in it men whose genius leads them to dwell and work mainly in the region of the spiritual and the invisible. While one group of men are busy boring into the strata of the visible world, discovering oil wells or veins of gold, these send their shafts into the depths of the unseen, and find their wealth and working powers there.

It is also a verifiable fact that these spiritual workers have been the centres of force, the creators of history in their generations. The life of nations is simply a crystallization of great ideas, and when you search for the origin of the ideas, you find it in the life and work of such men as these.

But now one other of our verifiable facts is, that these mighty workers all used prayer as their chief weapon. All their works were begun, continued and ended under this inspiration.

What is the scientific deduction from this? Can the weapon handled age after age by the giants who have ruled the world have been, after all, a broken reed? We press science for an answer. Let her stick to her law of cause and effect, and from the housetops she will proclaim the efficacy of prayer.

The doctrine here enunciated is not only on a sound basis, but it covers a wide area. There are now-a-days, professed believers who surround prayer with such limitations as take from it all practical efficacy. In their hands it is a titular sovereign who may be treated with lip-homage, but who is robbed of all his power and prerogatives. Under the guidance of such teachers we are, for instance, allowed to ask benefits for the soul, but it would be presumptuous to offer prayer for our bodily condition. It is a pity people do not see the absurdity of such a position. The veriest tyro in physiological science knows that no change can take place in the mind without a corresponding change in the brain and nervous system. On the plainest scientific grounds, then, if God answers prayer in the soul, He must answer it for the body. If it avails at all, and anywhere, it avails in the sphere of the physical and material, as well as in that of the mental and spiritual.

Scepticism, here, as upon other points, rests on an essentially shallow philosophy, and the instincts of the deeper spiritual life on this matter, as on all others, are true not only to that life itself, but to all the facts of the external universe.

A Word to Our Friends.

Complaints are sometimes made that this and that section of the field is not mentioned in the department of the GUARDIAN specially appropriated to news from the several dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province. If there be a failure to any degree it is because the clergy and officers of parishes do not send us items of Church news, or send them too long after the events to be of use. We sometimes think that we have cause for complaint in this respect. It surely is not asking too much to request our friends, clerical and lay, to avail them-

selves of the opportunity offered through the columns of the GUARDIAN of making known something of the work being done by the Church in the various dioceses and parishes. If the items are short, fresh, and practical, we shall do our best to give them early insertion, but it must be remembered that the field is *large*, and our space is *limited*—therefore, brevity is a necessity.

ANOTHER WORD.—We are sometimes asked if we have not *local* correspondents in each diocese, and we answer, *Yes*. It is not, however, fair to leave the securing and forwarding of items of news to these alone, and for two reasons: (1) they have not the time or opportunity of procuring *general* information, and (2) the GUARDIAN cannot afford to pay what they would be entitled to if *devoting their whole time to this work*, nor should it be expected. On the contrary, every Churchman should feel an interest in the *Church paper*, keep its success in mind, and aid, not merely by his own subscription and by securing other subscribers, but also by furnishing items of Church news—especially as the Editor receives not one cent of remuneration, and is under heavy personal obligations towards others in connection with this work, undertaken solely for the benefit of the Church at large.

A THIRD WORD.—On the first of April there was a very large number of subscribers to this paper in arrear. All subscriptions are payable *in advance*, and such payment is necessary if the work is to be successfully carried on. If the paper is valued—and we have received assurances from every quarter that it is—it should be supported; and we would respectfully urge each reader, if in arrear, to remit without delay.

Editorial Notes.

Affairs in the North-West are rapidly approaching the critical stage at which the insurgents must decide whether to lay down their arms and submit their cause to the merciful consideration of the Government, or by further resistance to lawful authority to bring down on their heads the punishment which is necessarily provoked by armed rebellion. We hope, although it is almost against hope, that the better feeling of these misguided men may lead them to adopt the former course, and that our common country may be spared the untold horrors of a prolonged civil war; but if the bad counsels which have hitherto been in the ascendant prevail, it will be incumbent on all loyal citizens to assist in crushing the rebellion by the most rapid and effective means, and, when that is accomplished, to insist upon a thorough investigation of the causes which have led to the rising, and a prompt redress of all real grievances.

The reception accorded by the people of Ireland to the Prince and Princess of Wales has, on the whole, fully justified the wisdom of their Royal Highnesses' advisers in promoting their visit to the Emerald Isle. The enthusiastic and spontaneous welcome of the Dublinites was a surprise even to those who knew the warmth and generosity of Irish hearts, and must have been especially gratifying to the Prince and his amiable wife. On the other hand, the unfriendly demonstration of a section of the population of Cork was so evidently "manufactured to order" by a political clique, that it does not seriously affect the general manifestations of good will which have attended every step of the royal progress.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The name of Correspondent must in all cases be enclosed with letter, but will not be published unless desired. The Editor will not hold himself responsible, however, for any opinions expressed by Correspondents.]

To the Editor of THE CHURCH GUARDIAN.

SIR,—In the office for Holy Baptism, the Church, through her ministering priest, solemnly charges those responsible, to train the child, not only in the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Decalogue, but also in "all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health." Here is enjoined a full and comprehensive training not restricted to the teaching of a few dry fundamentals, but intended to embrace a fair knowledge of the doctrines of the Church, her modes of working, and her weapons of defence. But without hazarding a comment on the interpretation *practically* given to this official injunction I crave permission to plead for what can render valuable assistance to its due observance.

We require more Church papers, simple in style, sound in matter, and written—if you will—expressly for the young.

We have indeed, in Canada, Church weeklies which in variety and ability compare favourably with others. This no reader of the GUARDIAN can honestly deny. But without disparagement we may contend that their very excellencies, adapting them to the tastes of the wise, lessen their value to those who heartily appreciate monosyllabic words, and an artless order of thought. This is confessed by the insertion of a seldom read "Family" department, which is an agreeable compromise, but fails in effecting the object in view. Nor can excellent monthlies, and very good localized matter, provided by our increasing spiritual energy, serve the purpose satisfactorily. With blessed results they minister to a particular class, and do their noble work in that. But entirely separate from these is a sphere of peculiar work which can be furthered astonishingly by the aid of a small, cheap *weekly* paper specially designed to meet the general requirements of the Church youth in Canada. This addition to our existing material should be taking in style, and simple in character. Not at all pledged to lengthy disquisitions on the fates and features of kites and dolls; but aiming primarily to guide the young reader by channeling his thoughts to relish and love the faith of our fathers in wording so appropriate that the Bible, the Church, and the Prayer Book brighten every page and fashion every line.

Now were our thousands of parents and sponsors cheered by the presence of such an auxiliary, which interferes with no legitimate course of instruction, immense encouragement would be lent their arduous labours. The diligent instructor would hail as a boon the assistance of its original method of imparting a knowledge of truth to those for whom he is responsible. It would comfort the conscience of the habitually negligent with the reflection that the sad consequences of his carelessness may be largely counteracted through the medium of this silent monitor. But on the young, awakening minds themselves, the extent of its influence would be almost incalculable. To them is a pleasing way of putting things might make attractive much that more mature and precise dogmatism renders at times to older heads repulsive. Then the expanding intellect would, with its years, gradually adapt itself to the wide circle of a faith whose holy teaching at once quickens a sense of error to be avoided, engrafts an appreciation of its high privileges, teaches its own phraseology, and stamps its spiritual influences on the soul. Besides, due attention to its matter would effectually bias the tastes against the pernicious trash too often readily welcomed, while in monopolizing Sunday-school lessons it would remove their task-like appearance by its weekly visits bestowing the charm of freshness, and constantly setting with happy surroundings. In short, it needs but a thought to recognize their bearing on the question of Baptismal obligation. Again, in hundreds of families, the young as well as the young prefer a sheet of this description.