

great and real as that satisfaction may be, but in the growth, through blade and ear, to the full corn, of thoughts, which, in their earlier and more elementary forms, have long been familiar.

One should cultivate the spirit of expectation and of wonder; and ever, anew, as he moves amid the common and familiar possessions of his mental environment, amid the pages of old-world and oft-thumbed volumes, and amid the ordinary lives of ordinary men around him, there will flash into his consciousness new understandings of truth, and in the progress of his life he will find, as a continuous experience, that old things are passing away and all things are becoming new.

Dunbarton, Ont.

Section Hands

By Rev. F. W. Murray

Of all the men on the railroad, none has a more important task than the section hand. If he does not keep the ties ballasted, and the rails straight, grief will come to the finest rolling stock, and to the passengers.

A good many people are doing section work of another kind. They are laying rails and keeping them in place, that fair young lives, and older ones, too, may make a safe run through life.

Temperance Societies, Sunday Schools, churches, etc., are really rail-laying and section-tending brotherhoods. Without wages, they work away at the old task of casting up the highways and gathering out the stones.

One gang cannot tend all the sections. But it can tend its own, so that there will be no wrecks on that part of the line. It is often a heavy enough fight to attend some sections. For there are a good many, in certain places, who will put obstructions on the track, rather than take them out of the way.

And "days off" from section-tending cannot be taken at will. It will not do to leave the rails unprotected. The worse the weather, the more the danger. So, of all workmen, section men need to cultivate faithfulness to duty.

Especially, the boss must be of the dependable kind. If any others fail, he must not;

for his spirit and courage are the support of all the hands. He will direct as to rails and wedges and spikes, here and there; but, more than all this, he is the moral force, without which the best equipment is mere scrap iron.

Some sections have to meet harder strains than others. Coal cars, ore cars, lumber cars, how they strain the rails; and then the great fast trains tearing around the curves: these, of all sections, demand the very highest degree of faithfulness. Neither boss nor hands must fail here. The harder the place, the stronger must be the men.

Amid the hard day's work, it is a great support to every "hand" to feel confidence in the supply department. One can go to his work confidently, when he knows that the bolts and ties and rails will be liberally supplied from a storehouse that is never impoverished. All the materials for the road-bed are abundant. There is not one wanting. The old hands have never complained of the supply department. And the hands who go there often enough, cannot fail to make a good name for their section.

Florence, Sydney Mines, N.S.

The Larger View

By Rev. M. A. Mackinnon, M.A.

Raphael had sketched the outline of a human figure upon his canvas. During a brief absence from his studio, Michael Angelo slipped in, and observing the work, he admired its symmetry and beauty. Underneath, however, he wrote the single word, "Amplius" (Larger). The proportions were perfect, but the whole figure was on too small a scale.

The same criticism could be made of many a life, institution and movement. There may be no positive defect; but the outlook is limited, the programme is too narrow, the ideals are not sufficiently high. Isaiah writes this criticism over the portals of the temple of hope in which his exiled people worship: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, Let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations, Lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."