

in thus coming here, week after week and year after year, is wonderfully impressive. It is indeed one of the strange sights of this strangest of cities. A nation is mourned for, and other chants which they utter contain expressions such as the following: "We pray thee have mercy on Zion; gather the children of Jerusalem together; may the kingdom soon return to Zion; comfort those who mourn over Jerusalem; may peace and joy abide with Zion, and the branch of Jesse spring up at Jerusalem."

CHILD LIFE IN THE CHURCH.*

IT has been well said by a modern divine that "the world has tried every possible recipe for its ills, save one, and that is no longer new, even the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Mankind is bound to find out that what Christ said is true,—that there is no help for it but spiritual help, and that even the problem of man's earthly being is at the root, not merely a financial problem, nor an educational problem, but that it is first and last a religious problem, with its starting point in the golden rule "Do unto others as ye would they should do to you." No man has obeyed, or ever will obey consistently, that rule, except from religious motives, and the only sufficient religious motive wherein to meet the dangers and difficulties of the 19th century, is the motive Christ presented for the similar conditions of civilization when ancient paganism was waning. All other systems have been tried and found wanting. But there ever stands over and against them all in quiet and eternal protest the religion of "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day and forever." There are many agencies at work to promote love to God and love to man, and from these we shall now single out just one branch of service, which is perfumed with sweetness and light, full of present usefulness and future hope—that of "child life in the Church." The past centuries have almost overlooked the invaluable help of children in the building of the temple of God, valuable, not so much in the actual money raised, though that is proved to be very considerable also—but that an early dedication of their gifts and talents of time; opportunity and money launches them on the voyage of life, freighted with the eternal riches. Having learnt the principle and habit of giving freely and generously of that which has cost them *something*, they will naturally become in future years the supporters of missions, and standard-bearers in the service of God. There is, however, needed a close and earnest training for this youthful soldier. Let us not imagine that the signing of the cross on his brow is all that is needed in order that he should conquer the world for Christ. No, he must be taught and led, his heart must be

touched, his affections captivated, his faith strengthened, his knowledge deepened and widened, and all his powers trained in view of a hoped for end.

Do we expect our boys in college to attain to excellence in science and art without discipline and effort, and apart from skilled teachers and professors? Do we not give them a particular training, and expect therefrom a certain result? Why then should we be surprised if boys who are left a prey to every wandering influence should fall into fatal indifference for want of systematic training in the spirit and work of Christ? "As we sow so shall we reap." These little ones are offered to God in baptism, with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. The Heavenly Father admits them into His family, and their new position in His household now calls for a special training. It is as if God said at each individual baptism "take this child and nurse it for me." And so the parents are in God's stead, and their words and looks help to mould the young soul for eternity. The tremendous responsibility rests with the parents to train their child in obedience, thus leading up to his following the commandments of God; they must inculcate principles of truth, honor and generosity; of love to God, which develops into love to all His creatures, and the duty of self sacrifice, which is the essence of all true love; this with prayer for the beloved one is the first and surest method of success from the beginning to the end of life. This is the Christian soldier's drill, which, faithfully carried out, must result in devotion to God and zeal for His service. May we not hope that we have here in our own diocese young hearts bright with hope, well trained and ready to take up the Cross of Christ when we are called to lay it down? Yes, there is here a little army of girls and boys who have started in the race; God grant that they may continue to the end.

I shall now review the work carried on especially in Ottawa, without referring to what is being done in the other cities of the diocese.

The report of 1889 of the "Children's Church Missionary Guild," which had its commencement about the year 1885, and of which there are now eight branches in this diocese, all working in co-operation with the Woman's Auxiliary, shows that there were last year about 250 children devoting their spare time and energies in the missionary work of the Church; and that the sum of not less than \$500 was, that year alone, devoted by them to Mission work, to which the boys have contributed largely. Then the Ministering Children's League, organized about 1887, by Lady Meath, has already in Ottawa three branches, those of Christ Church, St. George's and Billing's Bridge. As the main object of this league is to induce the children of *all* denominations to bind themselves to do each day, at least one act of kindness to others, we hope to see all the churches in our cities forming an active branch of their own, thus

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