

SIR,—I am pleased to see your remarks concerning recreation for clergymen; and the beneficial results which may arise from their mixing in innocent sports. There is not the least doubt, their presence would tend to elevate both the sports and the young men engaging in them. Exercise leads to health and good health is conducive to strong, clear thought, an element very necessary to a clergyman who is expected to prepare every week two original sermons, besides performing his other duties, such as visiting the sick, burying the dead, attending church meetings, delivering occasional addresses, and lectures, calling upon the members of the congregation &c. And since you call for some suggestions may I be allowed to offer just two upon work for members which I think would relieve much labour from clergymen, and prove a bond of sympathy among the members of churches.

That out of the congregations certain members should be chosen whose duties would consist in occasionally visiting the different members of the church.

When first arriving in Montreal, as a stranger I felt this want. I attended a church, partook regularly of the sacrament. Yet not one member of that congregation seemed to care whether I ever entered the portals of the church. One kind word, or one friendly hand held out in greeting I looked for in vain; I naturally drew away from that church. I know that some may be inclined to lecture me upon the approval of my own conscience &c., but it is easy to answer this.

There is much study to be found among the different actions and bearing of a congregation, and easy to store away a few facts which will not perhaps stand the test of Christian love. Again another committee might be formed for occasionally visiting the Sunday schools.

It seems to be a belief among many members of churches that their duty is done when they pay for their pews, and subscribe out of their abundance to the salary of the minister, and condescend to go and hear him preach upon Sunday. Would not an occasional visit to the Sunday school, a little encouragement and sympathy extended to the teachers and pupils help to advance the work. Many of those teachers are young and also human, and liable to feel discouraged. Clergymen and members of their church complain "that it is hard to get good Sunday school teachers." It will be until there is a greater bond of unity among us. Members of churches are too apt to think they pay their clergy to see to all this, but have they no duties?

The particulars of Mr. Tom Hughes's scheme for settling Tennessee are out at last, and one can hardly help feeling astonishment that a man who has won a reputation for common sense could lend his name and influence to such a scatter-brained idea as this. It is an effort to transplant English notions and customs into an entirely new country. Stores are to be conducted upon the co-operative plan; towns are to be provided with places for lawn tennis, cricket, and English gardens and parks. This is exactly answering to the average Englishman's notion of a new country. He expects to find everything ready-made, and all possible comforts supplied. What a mighty fine thing it will be? A farmer may go to the Tennessee highlands, get a plot of fifty or sixty acres, put up his canvas tent, and while he looks over his newly-acquired territory, his sons and daughters can have a game at lawn tennis or a stroll in the park. Capital, indeed! But Hodge will require time to take in the notion.

I have no hesitation in saying that the scheme is not half so practicable and possible as, for example, that of the Dominion of Canada Land and Colonization Company. Tennessee, a considerable distance inland, while the Canadian Colonization Company offer fine grazing and dairy land within one hundred miles of a seaport. Those who go to Tennessee may have a remote chance of a game of cricket, or tennis, or a ramble in the English-like gardens, but they will have to put up a tent until a house is built, and cater for everything except said cricket ground and tennis lawn, while those who take farms of the Company mentioned will find a furnished house and a stocked farm. Mr. Hughes will require his settlers to pay for the preparation of the tennis lawn, and cricket ground, and English park, whereas those who fall in with the idea of the Canada Land and Colonization scheme will only pay for the clearing of land and the building of houses. The British farmer will find it easy to discriminate between visions of pleasure and facts of business. Mr. Hughes is bringing "Tom Brown" into practical life, but the trouble is that he has chosen a new set of circumstances for an old set of ideas. It can only fail, and the happiest man will be he who has least money in it.

At last the Sultan of Turkey shows signs of giving way. The firm attitude maintained by England and Russia has convinced him

—or the men who govern him at Constantinople, that although not much reliance can be placed upon the concert of the European powers, it is certain that sufficient force can be brought against the Turks to reform them out of Europe. France has declined to take the initiative, but has plainly intimated that it has no objections to any other power taking it. Austria plays fast and loose—as is the way with Austria,—and Germany still offers a mild protest against hasty measures of coercion, but neither Austria nor Germany would involve itself in trouble to favour the Turks. So there is no fear that the Sultan will be able to put off the day of reformation and continue longer his reign of dissipation and tyranny.

The policy of Mr. Gladstone for dealing with this Eastern question is now beginning to be approved. Lord Beaconsfield let the Turk understand that he would be petted and protected by the British people—whereupon the Turk defied Russia and entered upon a disastrous war. Mr. Gladstone advocated another policy, that of regarding Turkey as the enemy of all true peace and human rights, and insisting, by force of arms if necessary that the needful reforms be carried out. If that policy had been followed instead of the notions of Lord Beaconsfield and his Jingoese, the cruel Russo-Turkish war would have been spared and the Eastern complications brought to an end. The Sultan yields when he must and not until then. Mr. Gladstone would have had that must said and forced long ago, and it is plain that he was right.

Affairs in Ireland are assuming so grave an aspect that it is more than likely the Government will call parliament together soon to take counsel as to what shall be done to meet the emergency. One thing is certain, and that is that the Irish are pursuing a mad policy which can only lead to further disaster and deeper misery. When murder is openly advocated and secretly practised so that landlords have to flee for their lives; when all rights of property are denied and there are threats flung abroad of rising *en masse* to put down landlordism, it is impossible that the Government can even entertain the notion of introducing pacific measures in Ireland. If the Irish really desire Home Rule they should show that they would not abuse the power, instead of which they are making it palpable that any irresponsible agitator like Parnell can stir their worst passions and incite them to commit foul murder.

Parnell talks of again visiting America to raise more funds for his ungodly purposes in Ireland. If he is well advised he will let that matter end in talk; for he took so little—by way of credit to himself—during his last tour here, that it is likely if he came again he will perpetrate his own utter extinguishment. He impressed none by his oratory, or logic, or even earnestness, but almost all who heard or read his speeches, except a few fanatics, were satisfied that he was unscrupulous in word and deed. The majority of the American people refused to trust their money in his hands, and his agitation notions were considerably damped by the Press. If he should be foolish enough to come again—and this time he will have no tale of famine to create sympathy, but only his own evil mission to ruin Ireland—he will find scant courtesy and few dupes.

The United States Republicans are beginning to breathe more freely under the brightened prospects of the last few days. Garfield has carried his own State of Ohio and may well look for further triumphs. But Hancock's defeat, if defeat it be, will be an honourable one, for in spite of Grant's spiteful attack he continues to command the respect of all Americans. A few days now will close the exciting campaign and tell us who the next President is to be.

It is a mercy to all concerned that the issue matters but little to the world in general. Be it Garfield or Hancock the harvest will be the same—the condition of the general world will be in no wise altered, the ways of the world will not have to be changed; no revolution will take place; the universe will wag on in just the same old fashioned manner, and only the United States civil servants will be concerned. The mass of the people in the States can afford to treat the present political emergency with supreme indifference.

EDITOR.