

Thomson, taking as his subject, "My Last Summer's Work," told of his labours among the miners of Southern Alabama, pointing out what might be done to improve the moral and social life of these humble toilers. Gleams of hope, indeed, and not confined to the negro race and its physical and moral education.

The Passing of the Sailing Ship.

Under this heading the "Spectator" of the 7th May published an article by Frank T. Bullen, suggesting that our sailors had ceased to be capable, fearless men. It seems that the typical vessel which was lost, while German sailing ships at the same time made the voyage successfully, was probably undermanned, still the fact is grave and disquieting. A "seafarer," while noting this success of foreign shipping, quotes a long article from the "New York Shipping Illustrated," in which occurs this paragraph; "English sailing ships appear on the missing list, or have to put into Montevideo or the Falkland Islands for shelter, more often than French or German ships, and this not at all because they are always carrying too heavy a press of sail. French and German ships make far quicker passages than do English, and accomplish voyage after voyage with the regularity of steamships. This obvious backwardness of the English ships is undoubtedly bound up with the character of the sailors who man them. Their crews are in the main an awkward squad of foreigners, with no idea of seamanship." There must be something wrong which sends English ships to sea undermanned, or with inferior foreign sailors, as the Swedes and other northern sailors are as good as the best. The boys from the training ship "Conway" are admittedly excellent, but it is charged that the average school boy now considers himself educated for being something superior to a sailor. It is to be hoped the matter will be looked into.

The Princess Mary Village Homes.

The name of Queen Mary recalls that of her mother, the Princess Mary of Cambridge, whose character won for her the love of the people, and who was the model of the young English girl of forty years ago. As an instance, we are tempted to recall the homes founded in the village of Addlestone, in Surrey, of which the Princess was patroness, and took a strong personal interest in their welfare from the beginning. These homes were an off-shoot of the then refuge for female ticket-of-leave convicts at Vauxhall, and were founded in 1871, for the infant daughters of persons convicted of crime, and the class of children exposed to the evil associations of the criminal haunts of London. The first cottage was opposed at first by the villagers, and very naturally, but the care and training, and the judicious employment of the respectable women won their favour, and in a few years some eight cottages, each accommodating ten children, were erected. Our notice is taken from a report written eight years after, and full of the good results. From such a mother our Queen Mary has inherited a training and disposition, which earned her on her journey round the world a few years ago the warmest greeting in all parts of the Empire.

Heredity.

We have recently been informed that the children of intemperate parents are free from any hereditary taint. This is contrary to pre-conceived opinion, and the result of early observations. Possibly the changed habits and the discipline of prevention adopted during the last generation may have some effect. At the time in 1878 when the report on the Princess Mary Homes was compiled, the careful moral training resulted so well that out of the many girls who had ob-

tained situations in private families only two had turned out morally unsatisfactory. Association and training had been patent elements in this result. At the time these homes were founded the atrocities of the Commune in Paris occurred, and the most vicious were a band of five hundred boys from nine to fifteen years of age. These were sent to a reformatory at Rouen, and three hundred and thirty-seven were found to be stunted and physically delicate, and the worst of the gang. All these were children of drunken mothers.

Statistical Returns.

The Diocese of Edinburgh has as much difficulty as exists elsewhere in getting the clergy to forward returns. The suggested remedy is the appointment of Archdeacons, but in Canadian dioceses where the Bishop has these aids, he has too often to make the same complaint. From our experience the proposed remedy would fail. The Synod clerk in Edinburgh reported a difficulty as to the numbers in the parish. Apparently each clergyman drew his own conclusions on a different basis. One clergyman would give 1,000, 1,500, even 2,000 members, while another with a church of apparently the same size would give only 400 or 500. Some took seatholders, others those who stated they were members of the congregation, some counted infants. In fact, there was no universally recognized system of estimating numbers.

The Country Parson's Persecutor.

Many a country parson could apply to himself the acute comment of the Policeman in Pinafore, that his lot "is not a happy one." And Church-people who are gifted with impartial or judicial minds, and a due sense of fair-play can well agree with him. One of the prime causes of this undesirable state of things is the village gossip. This remorseless being is not unlike, as regards the pain inflicted and injury done to the subject of its attentions, the remorseless fly that pursues the parson's horse, as he journeys along the country road, taking his master from service to service on Sunday, or from house-to-house on his round of visits during the week. And the pity of it is that the gossip sometimes thinks that the rumours, reports and confidences about the parson, scattered by the busy tongue, are not only acceptable but beneficial, in some mysterious way to the parish. We beg to differ from this view. We candidly believe that the true scriptural representative of the "Village Gossip," to whom we have referred, is the enemy who slyly sowed tares amongst the wheat. We venture to say that were the motives and character of the "Village Gossip" but partially as pure and good as are those of the man maligned, the cause of God in the parish would be strengthened and advanced instead of being weakened and hindered by idle and harmful talk.

Notoriety for Criminals.

As the reading of sensational dime novels has been the means by which many a lad has become a criminal so we believe the practice of giving prominent publication to the deeds of criminals in newspapers has been the means of promoting, rather than repressing, criminality. It certainly must be flattering to the vanity of the criminal class to have portraits of some of their leading and notorious members, and detailed accounts of their injurious and often despicable conduct presented in striking fashion to the public. Is it within the province of reputable journalism to cater to the tastes of that class, and by doing so, to add to its vanity, maintain the attractiveness of the vocation of its members, and indirectly to influence possible recruits to enter its ranks? Can it fairly be urged that in any way the publication of these portraits and details about men, who

have disgraced their names, helped to degrade the community and dishonour the fair name of their country, has a refining or beneficial influence on the readers of the newspapers in which they appear? If not, it is a sad commentary on a religious civilization that men who profess to be Christians can allow themselves to be parties to such publication.

Japan Church Literature Fund.

We have just received a report of the Japan Church Literature Fund for 1909, showing great progress in this interesting and important work which has been noticed before in these columns. Eleven publications were issued last year, and seventeen books are now in the course of preparation. These include a number of standard works, such as Bishop Westcott's "Bible and the Church," Jeremy Taylor's "Holy Living," Bishop Hall's "Self-Discipline," Moberly's "Atonement and Personality," Kirkpatrick's "Divine Library of the Old Testament." The work has now become representative of the whole Church in Japan in as much as all six Bishops are on the committee of the fund. In order to carry out the plans which the committee have in hand much more money is needed and we trust that this deserving work will receive the sympathy it deserves. Donations and subscriptions may be sent to the General Treasurer of the M.S.C.C., Confederation Life Building, Toronto, or any treasurer of the W.A. In the country where one hundred new books are published every day, there are almost unlimited opportunities for the use of literature in the missionary work of the Church.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

It is beginning to be apparent that the higher education of women is entering, or will shortly begin to enter, upon its third and last stage. Co-education still holds the field, but it is becoming discredited in the estimation of the more thoughtful and progressive educationists of both sexes. Under any circumstances, except in the case of very young children, say under ten years of age, co-education, in our opinion, is undesirable. As was recently said by some prominent authority, the standpoint of the boy and the girl in regard to their teacher, is fundamentally different. The boy regards his teacher as his natural enemy, the girl as her "friend, philosopher, and guide." The normal boy is consequently amenable only to discipline with force behind it, the girl to persuasion. The management of a mixed school, therefore, necessitates the application of two distinct methods or systems of discipline which everyone who has ever taught such a school, knows to his or her, principally her, cost is a serious inconvenience, and sometimes a positive hindrance to the efficient imparting of instruction. Mixed primary schools, however, are likely to remain indefinitely a necessary evil, for the country is scarcely rich enough, even if the desire to do so existed, to provide separate schools for boys and girls. It cannot even provide male teachers in the rural districts. The anomalies and evils of co-education naturally become intensified with advancing years, and the consequent advance and development of sex differentiation. Very young boys and girls certainly differ, but still they have much in common. After a certain age, however, sex cleavage becomes pronounced, permanent and impassable, and differences, previously apparently accidental and temporary, or functional, as it were, become fundamental, essential, organic. Each sex finally "finds itself," settles down into its respective groove, and adopts its permanent outlook upon life, which is radically and eternally opposite, if