

be made, the continuance of the same combination. They are aided in their efforts by a large and influential section of the Free Church, chiefly the non-unionist.

Articles Contributed.

To Professedly Christian Mothers.

Under the shelter of "one of yourselves," I would like to give expression to a few thoughts on a subject of the greatest importance to every mother—how to train her children so as to help them to make "the best of both worlds." I do not write because I have anything quite new to say, but I am nearing the end of the journey which many of you are only beginning, and I would fain help you to avoid some of the pitfalls into which I stumbled, and guide you safely over some of the steps on which I tripped. The appearance of my children tells me that it is a long time since I was a young mother. I mean long from a young mother's stand point, but it looks to me as if it were only yesterday, that I was reading *Mother's Magazine* and asking help from older mothers to enable me to bring up my children "in the way they should go," trusting alas! too much to self and man's teaching, and too little to God and his teaching. A sin peculiar perhaps to the time of youthful energy, and one which I hope my young mother readers will shun. A young mother has cares and anxieties which no one can fully share, even the father can do little to assist her in the actual work of training her children, but he may do a great deal by upholding her authority in the nursery, by showing the children that he has such confidence in her judgment and affection, that her wishes and commands are unquestionably right, and from which there can be no appeal. I did not intend to say any thing about the *father's duties*, but since I have introduced the word, I may say that I have seen a great deal of good mother's work spoiled by the father indulging in an injudicious fondness for his children; he sees them perhaps for a few minutes only once or

twice a day, and wishes to make it a happy time, and is too apt to condone—by kisses and candy—all the offences committed in the nursery. I hope "the father" will pardon this degeneration, I know many of the mothers' will. A young mother generally begins her work by thinking that her one great duty is to care for the health, and watch over the religious and moral training of her child. And this a good mother seldom altogether fails in, but she is apt to forget another duty equally important, even as regards her child, namely, to take care of her own health, and watch over her own religious and moral nature, and the two are so inseparably connected, that there can be no successful child-training where either duty is neglected. It is doubtless owing to the neglect of this last duty that so many of the difficulties and so much of the worry arises in the bringing up of children. The mother thinks, in the excess of her love, that every minute taken for healthful recreation, or for reading, or even for devotion, is so much good taken from her child. The consequence is, that in a ceaseless round of seemingly trivial, but really important duties, her strength gives way, her spirits flag, and she becomes nervous and irritable. The children catch the infection, and become cross and difficult to manage, and the nursery thereby gets into a state of chronic rebellion, which makes it most unpleasant to all concerned, and it is well if it gets no further than the nursery. Let every christian mother remember, that she has a faithful, ever present Friend, who can sympathise with her in all her desires and feelings, and that she has the unspeakable privilege of committing her little ones to his care, and guidance, and protection, and more especially so when her duty takes her from them, either for recreation or rest. And here I would like to warn my young mother readers against imposing upon themselves burdens which God certainly never meant them to bear, and which their grandmothers knew little about. The rage of the present day for "the changeable suits of apparel" has been carried into the nursery, and instead of the two useful wearing suits and "a best," which former mothers had to provide twice a year—and that by parents who were