

And just here I would strongly deprecate the use at these services of any mangled, garbled forms of the Prayer Book, with their omissions and interpolations and transpositions. If we see fit to use any of the so-called Children's Service Books (a custom in which I am having less and less faith); let them be strictly kept in the Sunday-school room. When the children come into the Church for their children's service, let them use no other book than the one the Church prescribes—the Book of Common Prayer. We may wisely adopt the shortened form of service, but until our Prayer Book undergoes a liturgical enrichment (which I hope may come), and there be special authorized forms for children's services, let us use what we've got, with the liberty, however, which I have no doubt would be granted by our dioceses, of introducing special prayers or collects adapted to children.

At these services let the preaching be not only plain and simple, but let the distinctive doctrines of our Church be kindly and persistently presented. Almost every venerable rector I have ever met has seen children of his flock grow to men and women and quietly go into some of the various religious bodies around him. Children, unless they are taught differently, grow up in the Church without knowing there is any essential difference between the Church and the hundred sects, each of which calls itself the Church. They are tempted "to hear" some sensationalist or controversialist. Men and women of one Church are heard to say "it does not matter to what Church you belong, if you are only good," and so they are captivated and are gone, not having been "rooted and grounded in the faith." It does matter to what Church you belong. It is well to be liberal—it is another thing to be lax.

One remedy for these defections is the "Children's Service," with the Bible and Prayer Book and hymnal in the hands of the children. They will not then be so ready in after years to cast the stigma upon the Church, "too much form, too much machinery," and go off and identify themselves with other religious bodies.

Children's Services will encourage the young in the habit of systematic giving. Under the Jewish system of worship, the service was not complete without a gift. The divine command was "They shall not appear before the Lord empty; every man shall give as he is able." Giving constituted an important part of worship at that time—surely it should be no less so now. Only one quarter part of the world to-day know anything about the Gospel of our blessed Lord. Parents and children should alike learn to give more for the spread of that Gospel both at home and abroad. Children should know how much they give and what they give it for.

Children's Services will keep the older scholars and not only keep them in the Church, but keep them in the Sunday-school. They will not think that they are too old, that the Sunday-school is for children, and that if they are to identify themselves with the young ladies and gentlemen [especially gentlemen] they must leave the Sunday-school. And when I say "especially gentlemen" it is not as a piece of sarcasm. The disproportion between male and female teachers and Bible scholars in our Sunday-schools is noteworthy, or rather notorious. "Where are the children?" we ask as we look over our church congregations. "Where are the men?" we ask as we look upon our Sunday-school sessions. I think about the average proportion is four or five women to one man. I think this shows an unbalanced and unhealthy state of things. God forbid that I should disparage the influence of woman in any department of religious teaching. What the Church or Sunday-school would do without her it is hard to see. But a Church or Sunday-school, where the influence of either man or woman is supreme is a perversion. God bless the women for coming to the help of the Lord where their husbands and brothers are lazy or

indifferent. Still the question comes up, can this state of things be remedied? I would ask, is there not a remedy, a restorative, in Children's Services? If we can hold and interest the boys and young men, haven't we gained possession of the husbands and brothers? and then our motto becomes: "Children in Church, adults in Sunday-school and everybody in both." If the home is the nursery of the state, the Sunday-school is the nursery of the Church. Canada's next generation in public life is already measured by what Canada's homes are now. The next generation in Canadian Church life is correctly measured by the devoutness, the earnest working purpose, the filial affection of the Sunday-school of to-day. The good pastor, the wise Church will devote much time to the Sunday-school. When Cataline would overthrow the liberties of Rome, he began with the young. When Voltaire would eradicate religion from France he began with the school and with the young. Every permanent reformation like every permanent deformation must commence with the young.

The Sandwich Islanders believed that the strength of the enemies they killed in battle entered into themselves. This becomes a fact in spiritual experience, for the strength of the scholars you win for Christ and His Church is imparted to you who win them, "A little child shall lead them." Are the children leading you, fellow-teachers, fellow-pastors? Are you gaining strength from them?

A godly woman, a teacher in the Sunday-school, once said:—"I hope there will be children in Heaven." Why? was asked. "Because," she said, "I so much love to teach them."

Let all of us, teachers and preachers alike, take that sentiment to our hearts: I hope there will be children in Heaven—I so much love to teach them, to preach to them.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

LAOULLE.—Service was held in St. Lavionie, on Friday evening, 3rd inst; being the first of a series of services to continue till Easter, the same as last winter.

MONTREAL.—St. Luke's Church.—The concert and social given by the Young People's Association of St. Luke's Church on Monday evening, 29th ult., was a very great success. The Rev. Geo. Rogers, B.A., occupied the chair, and the following took part in the programme:—Mr. Mansfield, a recitation; Mr. A. McAllister, a song; Mr. F. Graham, musical glasses; Mrs. H. Lamb, a song; Mr. Delaney, a song; Mr. Wilding, a song; Mr. Burns, a cornet solo; Mr. Bradshaw, a song; Mr. H. Lamb, a piano solo; Mr. Goldsack, a song; Mr. Burns, a song; the Glee also of the McGill students, led by Mr. W. Stewart, B.A., and accompanied by Mr. Evans, were highly appreciated by the audience. Refreshments were served by the young people during intermission.

Women's Auxiliary.—A meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Church of England Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions was held in the Synod Hall on the evening of the 2nd inst. under the presidency of the Bishop of the Diocese. Thirty or more ladies were present, and after prayer the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer, Mrs. A. Holden, submitted her report showing a balance to the credit of the society of \$128, but some of this was specially applied for missions in the Northwest. Mrs. Houghton, the Secretary, reported that a large box containing clothing and useful articles had been sent to the Saskatchewan mission and another would be sent this week. Mrs. Henderson read an interesting paper on "Mission work in China," showing the arduous task that the small band of missionaries have among such dense populations. Illustrations were

given of the manner in which missionary work was conducted, interspersed with anecdotes showing the marvellous influence exercised by spreading the truths of Christianity. A letter dated March 30th was read from the late Bishop of Saskatchewan appealing for donations of clothing, etc., both for the missionaries and the Indian population. Mrs. Brackenbridge reported that donations of clothing and useful articles of the estimated value of \$200 had been received since the previous meeting.

St. John the Evangelist's.—The Advent Services—at least, so far as those held on weekdays are concerned—are not nearly so well attended this year as they ought to be, the men being—as is unhappily too often the case in such matters—the chief derelicts. The congregation of such a church as St. John's should surely take more interest than it apparently does in special services at special seasons, and should be glad to assemble *en masse* instead of doing so merely in straggling numbers! The fault certainly lies in the members themselves, not in the clergy.

On Sunday morning the Rev. Dr. Wright, taking as his text 2 Cor. VIII 9, alluded to the various blessings derived from the Incarnation of our Lord, dwelling specially on that of Holy Communion. In the evening the Rector preached from Rom. XIII 12, and, in the course of a very earnest sermon, spoke forcibly but affectionately on people's besetting sins—or their "weak points," as some call them—and particularly on Spiritual Indolence.

At Dr. Wright's Bible class, in the afternoon, a second man "of mature years" took his seat among the younger hearers—possibly owing to the suggestion made in last week's GUARDIAN. "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," and that these extremely interesting classes may soon be composed of males of all ages is not only a consummation devoutly to be wished, but is exceedingly probable; especially if those who do attend try to induce their friends and acquaintances to accompany them.

Now that the choir stalls are finished and in place within the Chancel it is to be hoped that the proposed new rood-screen, as well as the Sanctuary's completion generally, may very shortly be *faits accomplis*. If we are correct in our belief that the greater part, at any rate, of the necessary money therefor is already in hand, there seems to be no valid reason for any further delay in the work's commencement.

The introduction into St. John's since last Sunday week of three large stoves, in addition to the furnaces in the basement is the means of diffusing a most grateful warmth in a Church which had hitherto been considered as decidedly too hyperboreal in its temperature during our Canadian winters.

The young folks of the "Guild of the Holy Childhood" are working hard for their bazaar, to be held (as mentioned last week) in Hall & Scott's rooms on the afternoons and evenings of Friday and Saturday (the 10th and 11th). As low prices are to be the order of the day success is pretty sure to crown the children's efforts.

The second of the winter series of entertainments given under the auspices of the men's association will be held at the Natural History Society Museum next Tuesday evening, the 14th, and will consist of a lecture by Mr. A. H. Mason, F.C.S., of London, on "The Chemistry of Burning."

St. Georges.—The 22nd annual celebration of the St. George's Y. M. C. A. held on the evening of the 29th ult., took the form of a social