

THE RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER.

The influence of a good religious newspaper as a constant visitor in the family, we think is greatly underrated. It is regular food for the mind, and is a constant invigorator of the family thinking.

In a well-conducted religious newspaper there are many points discussed in brief articles, and much information communicated from sources to which few of the readers themselves have access. It may require only ten minutes to read and possess what a day to produce. What an amount of labour is thus represented in a single sheet! Can such a collection of valuable matter be read, week after week, without exerting a very decided influence on the reader?

Making all allowance for any indifferent matter which even a religious paper may contain, there is enough of a truly valuable character furnished during the year to render it cheaper, in a pecuniary point of view, than any similar amount of matter contained in books. While the paper should not set aside the use of books, its value ought not to be overlooked, as it ministers to our ever-recurring wants, and refreshes the mind in those hours that lie between business or more systematic study.

It is not a fanciful idea that a difference is discernible between a family in which a religious newspaper is well and regularly read, and one into which such an educational messenger never enters. It may not be always easy to describe the difference, but it is felt in many ways to exist. In regard to the operations of the Church especially, you feel a wideness and freshness in such a family which you find not where the paper is absent. How can it be otherwise? The very selfishness which excludes a religious paper from the family is already a sad contraction. The absence of the information which such a paper alone can give, makes the narrowness which you feel to exist still more oppressive. All pastors know what this contractedness is, though it may be difficult to describe it.

If any have been tempted by the severity of the times to dismiss their newspaper, we beg them to consider the matter. However much you may feel the necessity of economy, you cannot afford to suspend your Church paper. What you save by it in money, you will certainly lose in that which is much more valuable and precious.

The great design of a religious newspaper is to do good, not alone by publishing what everybody believes, but what only a few may believe; publishing the latter because the few may possibly be in the right, and if they are not, their utterances will at any rate serve to awaken thought and elicit profitable discussion; thus helping it may be, to preserve religious opinion from the dangers of stagnation. It is probable, therefore, that now and then we shall insert an article which some subscribers whom we esteem, and whose favor we desire to have, will not like; and we believe that we can afford to trust to the good sense of them all for the continuance of their kind regards, even though we may have inadvertently trodden upon their tenderest corns. They want a paper that shall reflect all shades of view which are consistent with charity towards God. They wish to know what other men are thinking, as well as to see reflected their own pet thoughts. They are accustomed to suppose that there may be good in things of which they themselves had never thought of, or thought of only crudely; and are therefore willing to be enlightened by candles which are not of their own dip.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

In a well considered article in its last issue for the old year, the St. Mary's Journal offers the following timely suggestions to its readers:

But it is the future which presents the real problem. After all, our study of the past is only of value as it shows us mistakes, and sins of omission and commission, to avoid for the future. What do we intend to do with our lives this next year? That is the crucial question. If we merely intend to live, we might as well belong to the vegetable kingdom. The elm that shadows your porch will do as much as that. If we only intend to enjoy the golden bubbles of the moment, without plan or thought, we might as well have been born butterflies or song birds. Human beings, however, are expected to do more than drift with the breezes of chance that blow upon them, no matter how softly they fall upon the cheek.

The person who plans the campaign of the future is far more apt to achieve than the careless-minded who lets each day solve its own problem. We set a task to children, for we think that if they do not work by programme they will not accomplish much. Now, if this is a good rule for the child who is distracted from more serious things by play, why is it not a good rule also for the adult who is equally distracted from mental enrichment by work? Most of us have to give a great deal of our time and strength to making a living; and it is easy to persuade ourselves that this is all that is necessary to remain alive; but we shall be in the same position as the child which spent all its time in play.

The people who are at this season looking back upon the last year with the greatest satisfaction are those who said to themselves at the beginning that they would do thus and so during the next year; and then set out with determination to keep their word. They may have mapped out a course of reading. They may have determined to learn a language not their own. They may have taken up the history of some epoch and familiarized themselves with it. They may have learned something new about their profession, be it farming or what not. But they have done something definite, with the result that they are better equipped this New Year's than they were the last.

Mr. Chen, a Chinese student, when on his way to the convention of the Student Volunteer Movement at Rochester last week, was turned back at Windsor. The Canadian authorities demanded the \$500 poll tax before he would be permitted to pass through, although he was accompanied by the Rev. Dr. King, of Peking University, who had assured him there would be no difficulty. Mr. Chen is a post graduate student at Ann Arbor, Mich., and according to the Rev. J. Goforth, our Canadian missionary, one of the finest Christian men China has produced. He was at one time tutor to the sons of Li Hung Chang. When the Windsor authorities turned him back, Mr. Chen exclaimed: "It must come to this, China must have a great navy and army of her own. Only then will these Christian nations respect us."

Mr. Goforth, who has been many years in China, says such incidents are deeply resented by the Chinese people, and do much to harm Canada's influence and trade in that Empire. Later, in response to an urgent telegram from Mr. Mott, chairman of the convention, Mr. Chen went on to the convention via Toledo.

LITERARY NOTES.

We have received from Messrs. S. W. Partridge, of London, the January issues of The British Workman and The Family Friend, both full of useful and entertaining reading, fully illustrated. In the latter publication are given the opening chapters of a new story, "Roden's Choice," by Annie S. Swan.

From Messrs. Cassel and Company (Toronto and London) are received the December numbers of Cassell's Magazine, the Quiver, the Girl's Berlin and Little Folks, all richly, suggestive of the holiday season, and all beautifully illustrated. The periodical literature sent out by this old established house can be recommended without reserve. Secure sample copies and then make choice of the ones best meeting your taste and requirements. Ask from your bookseller, or address Cassell Co., 42 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

The Canadian Almanac for 1910, sixty-third year of publication, contains so much useful information as to make this valuable annual quite indispensable to every professional and business man in the country. Indeed, if given a place in the home of every farmer from the Atlantic to the Pacific our rural friends would find themselves in possession of a book of reference worth many dollars instead of 50 cents. With every copy of the Almanac is given a map of Nipissing District, showing the famous silver region in Ontario. 496 pages. Toronto: Copp Clark Co., Limited.

During the past year each succeeding issue of "The Studio" appeared to be an improvement on the preceding one; but the December number, in several important respects, is better than any of its predecessors. The Publishers know how to make a fine art magazine and readers get the very best that their skill and experience can give them. Go to James Hope & Sons for the December Studio, and at the same time leave your order for 1910. During all the months it will be to you "a thing of beauty"—a constant source of pleasure. 44 Leicester Square, London.

Current Literature begins the new year with a January number in which all the departments are well-sustained. The principal articles are: Live Wires in the President's Message; Future of Standard Oil: The Lords' side in the Budget case. The World's Most Difficult Problem; and the Latest Triumph of the Mono-Rail. In "Persons in the Foreground," a readable paper on Premier Asquith with a portrait; also The Peer who put the Budget out of the House of Lords, with a portrait of Lord Lansdowne. The articles on "Is Roman Catholicism Declining" and The Real Issue in the Christian Science Controversy will have many readers.

The Winnipeg Free Press gives polyglot New Year's greetings to its readers in three different Indian languages, English, French, German, Italian, Gaelic, Danish, Swedish, Icelandic and Polish, as follows:

Mino-oski-pipon.
Happy New Year.
Buon anno d'anno.
Glædeligt Nigt Aar.
Bleadhna Mhàith ur.
Glückliches Nena Jahr.
Ayakarsi-norketjurtoeyh.
Iey orka krk Lukkellig Nig ar.
Une bonne et heuruse annee.
leg Duke De en Lukkellig Nhye Mar.
Ki-ka-wi-miwo-ayan oma ka wiklitt-waur-ts-kiwlick.
Winszuję nowęgu szczęśliwego roku.