

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1894.

WOMEN AND CHURCHES.

WILL CHURCHES GO DOWN IN THE COMING AGE OF WOMAN?

"Astra" Shows How Women are, Nowadays, the Churches' Chief Support: But Asks, Will the Coming Women, with Their Multiplicity of Duties, Have Time to be So?

I wonder if any of our "advanced" sisters have ever stopped to think how their progress towards entire emancipation is going to effect the church? Somehow I don't think they have, because up to the present time of writing I have not seen any remarks on the subject in the various journals I read, so I suppose I may fairly take credit for some originality in being the first, as far as I know, to suggest the relation between the two.

The opponents of higher education, and professional careers for women, have usually brought forward as their strongest argument, the disastrous effect such a course would have upon the home. The church would be deserted and the homes desolate because there would not be enough women left to guide the domestic machinery, and men would have to take to woman's occupations in self defence, since women had usurped theirs.

So far the prophecy has not been fulfilled to any great extent, the educated woman continues to make a fair wife and a reasonably good mother when she gets the chance; her hearth is neither unkept nor cold, except of course in warm weather, when she utilizes the knowledge of hygiene and chemistry she acquired at college, in order to obtain the same result from a red hot cooking stove; and with one-quarter the expenditure of vital force and fuel.

She has given her children the same care that the mothers in Israel gave theirs, and if she has exercised a little more wisdom in bringing them up, and shown a good deal more knowledge of their physical and mental needs than her great-grandmother ever displayed why her liberal education is largely responsible for the improvement, and, as I have said before, the children of an intelligent, highly educated woman have much to be thankful for, since it is a well established fact in physiology that children inherit far more of their mother's than their father's nature. In short, the home instinct has triumphed over the professional education, up to the present date, and the woman of to day does not show any marked deterioration, as a home mother, to be the result of a better cultivated intellect, the balance being rather on the other side of the sheet.

But when it comes to her church work, I am not by any means so sure. I think it beyond dispute that churches are supported very largely by the efforts of women, and that if they were to depend exclusively upon the stronger sex for aid, too many would be obliged to close their doors for want of money to light and heat the sacred edifices, not to mention the sum required to pay the pastor and the sexton, the organist and the choir. Lovely woman has always found her highest pleasure in working for the church. She has willingly devoted her time to working for bazaar, getting up teas, concerts, garden parties and amateur theatricals in order to raise money for the support of the church. The dainty woman and the fragile girl who are not obliged to work hard at home and who have servants to wait at their own tables will spend weary hours at the beck and call of every class of "customer" waiting at a table, at a church tea. She will get through an amount of work which would simply have killed her, if she had undertaken it at home, and she will spend her last cent of pocket money in buying useless trifles at a church bazaar, "just for the good of the church." While her husband or father finds himself far too busy engaged in earning a living to do more than pay the small subscription, which he gives rather grudgingly towards the keeping up of the church.

I don't think I am exaggerating, when I say that for every one man who teaches Sunday school there are ten women, and girls, just as there are nearly ten per cent. more women in the congregation of every church, than men. On our feeble shoulders rests the responsibility of seeing that church work is well and carefully done, and that the churches are supplied with sufficient funds to keep them up. Therefore it seems to me that the relation between the advanced woman of the future, and the work of supporting the church is a very important one. For instance—it is quite impossible that the trained stenographer, or telegrapher, who works for her daily bread, just as her brothers do, or the artist, the musician, or the teacher, whose hours of labor are the same as their male relatives, can devote the same time to church bazaars and teas, as she did when they were free! Already the difference is to be seen, and teachers and workers are growing more scarce every day, even in the attendance at the churches, it may be observed, and active as women are in charities, and all philanthropic works, they are no longer such rigid attendants at church as formerly. The woman who once thought it little short of a sin not to go to church twice every Sunday, now contents herself with attending once, and quite calmly gives you her opinion that the churches should be closed for three months of the hottest weather, and both clergyman and congregation given a holiday. If this is growing sentiment what is to become of the churches of the future when women, like men, are to much engrossed with their own concerns to have any spare time to devote to the support of the church? Will the need suggest a remedy, or will the day ever come when our religious welfare will be looked after by ministers supported by a sort of general assessment?

ASTRA

A CALL TO LIBERALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—Knowing your willingness to permit at all times through your valuable columns a free interchange of ideas between political co-religionists (whether liberal or conservative) I deem this an opportune time to draw the attention of the liberals of New Brunswick to a few observations, which I wish to make, relative to the standing of the party in this province. Believing as I do that a dissolution will take place before another session of parliament; and that before many months we will be engaged in the fierce conflict of a general election; and knowing that the liberal party labor under many disadvantages, I deem immediate organization to be of the utmost importance. The conservatives holding as they do fourteen of the sixteen New Brunswick seats, have one great advantage in already knowing who most of their standard bearers are to be in the coming contest; while it is a well-known fact that in each of several of the constituencies there are on our side a number of gentlemen deserving either from the certainty of a liberal victory throughout the Dominion or from the more laudable reason—a patriotic wish to serve their country—of becoming candidates for parliamentary honors.

Now, in order to reconcile these several aspirants and their adherents, county conventions in connection with political picnics should be held during the next six weeks throughout this province. I am aware that Restigouche has her liberal candidate chosen. So that these remarks will apply to the rest of the province. Manifestly would be the advantages accruing from the adoption of the course above suggested. In the first place the "hand of time" would do much to obliterate the ill feelings of the disappointed claimants and their friends; whereas if we wait until a few weeks before the election before choosing our candidates there may be many dissidents, who would not mark their ballots right on polling day. Again the candidate, knowing that he has been chosen by the party, will be anxious to commence work in the constituency: he will bring himself into closer touch with the electorate; and by means of his good looks, persuasive eloquence, charming manners and various other accomplishments contribute in no small degree to his own as well as to the general success of the party.

The time has come, when we want a literal verification of the injunction:—"O!ld men for counsel; and young men for war." We want men who can and will fight; we want a healing of all past local political differences. I am surprised that men, who helped to build up the liberal party, could on provincial issues allow themselves to be driven from their ranks. There must be no more of the shameful conduct of allowing a seat to go by default; and that too, when two conservatives were contending for the mastery. I detest the conservative policy, but I admire their spirit and pluck in contesting every constituency, whenever a vacancy occurs. My advice to the liberals is:—to fight whenever and wherever an opportunity offers, no matter how unfavorable the circumstances may appear. Let our motto be immediate organization for victory.

MICHAEL KELLY.

St. Martins, N. B., July 17th, 1894.

Many Resemble Daniel That Way.

The Kansas City Mail tells a story of a congressman who, having submitted himself to the manipulation of a venerable colored barber in Washington, was told: "Do you know, sah, you remind me so much of Dan'l Webster?" "Indeed," he said, "shape of my head, I suppose?" This staggered the aged colored man somewhat. He had not expected a question in reply, and had merely laid the foundation for his complimentary bluff, never thinking that there would be a call for an explanatory superstructure. "No, sah," he stammered to reply, "not yo' head, sah; it's yo' bress."

Cohenstien (to an officer, who is about to fire at fleeing clothing thief).—"Shoot 'im in der bants! Shoot 'im in der bants! Der goat and vest ish mine!"

Jack—If I ask you to be my wife if there wasn't such a distance between us. Jess, archly: "Then why don't you lessen it?"

HE WAS NOT KNIGHTED

BUT HIS SYSTEM OF SHORTHAND WAS A GOOD ONE.

The Excellent Scovill System, Which was Originated by a New Brunswick Clergyman—Mr. Scovill Never Received a Letter in His Shorthand that He Could Not Decipher.

In Scribner's Monthly of October 1878, there is an article on Neophonography by James Richardson. In the same year there was a book published with the following title:—A Shorthand legible as the plainest writing and requiring no teacher but the book. With a simplified system of Verbatim Reporting. By the Rev. W. E. Scovill, M. A. New York: H. Campbell & Co., law booksellers and publishers, 140—142 Nassau St. This book is entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by Henry B. Robinson in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D. C.

The author of this work was the rector of Kingston, Kings Co., N. B., Canada, and while he neglected no duties of his profession and was beloved and honored both by his clerical and lay brethren in the diocese of Fredericton, I feel confident in saying that this little book of shorthand was the work of his life; those who knew him (as the writer did) intimately, must acknowledge that he labored for years with unwearied patience in the formation of his system of shorthand. He had correspondence from all quarters of Canada and the States. He was ever prompt to answer those who solicited aid in their attempts to learn his system, and to show one amongst many evidences of his skill in deciphering (what to me seemed a hopeless task), the crude attempts of beginners with his book; I recollect him saying one day—"I have never yet received a letter or postal-card which I could not decipher, as I can tell from the context what the writer intends saying, even if he should write what seems exactly the contrary; it is just as easy for me to read these imperfect attempts at shorthand, as it would be to a scholar to read a letter in longhand written by an illiterate person."

Mr. Richardson, in the article above referred to, gives ten conditions that any system of shorthand should have before it can be considered perfect, and five conditions in addition it is highly desirable that such a system should have.—Now I firmly believe that Mr. Scovill came nearer to the first ten conditions, and also approximated more closely to the additional five, than any systematizer of shorthand in the world, in spite of the knighthood of Sir Isaac Pitman.

It has been a matter of surprise that reporters generally have not seized upon the many excellent qualities of this system: for it certainly fulfils the provinces of its title page. First:—"It is legible as the plainest writing." Second:—"It requires no teacher but the book." Third:—"After a short acquaintance with its stenography, his 'simplified system of verbatim reporting' can be written as rapidly as any other, with this advantage:—that it never loses its stenographic character, but can be read years after it has been written without much difficulty.

The book contains many testimonials from men "of known character and position," both in Canada and U. S., of which I shall only trouble the reader of this article with one from the Hon. W. E. Curtis, LL. D., Justice of Superior Court, New York. "I take great pleasure in recommending your system of shorthand reporting, as the simplest and most accurate in use. It should be taught in our leading schools, and known by all students."

I do not know whether the book is still in print; if not, it should be. I have a copy of the twelfth American edition before me as I write, and I think the work deserves a greater attention to its merits than it has yet received. It can be acquired by anyone of ordinary intelligence in one month, by giving half an hour each day to its lessons, so far as the stenography is concerned; and, even this, as Mr. Scovill said in his first edition, is such a gain of speed as may be compared to a good roadster and a dray horse; while in a year's time of half an hour each day, the speed would have to be compared to a fast trotter and the dray horse.

I have not and never have had any pecuniary interest in this work of Mr. Scovill, but my own personal interest happened when he was bringing out a new and larger edition of his work, and I was an eye-witness for some time of his energy, patience and concentration. I was then a firm believer in his methods, and time has only confirmed my faith, for I have neither heard, seen or read any other system since that time which contains any better conditions of what ought to be an universal system of shorthand: one easily learned by any intelligent scholar of either sex, and which would save years of labor to the student in college, the clergyman in his study, and the lawyer at the bar;—and is adapted to every employment where writing is needed in the English tongue. If I shall have increased the fee v.



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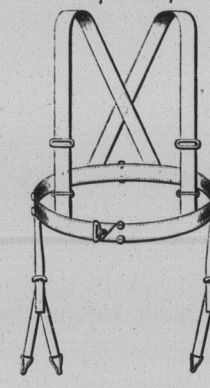
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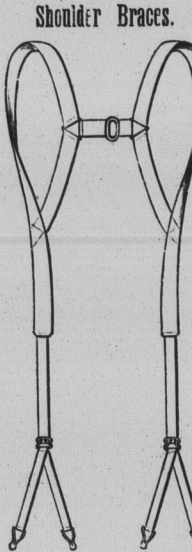
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those who already know its merits, or awakened the curiosity of the ignorant to an acquaintance of it, I shall rejoice in having had the privilege of rendering a tribute to one whom I loved and revered, and of pointing the way to a successful system that never fails its followers.

CURSOR.

"KEEP OFF THE GRASS"

How a Modern Captain Kidd Unexpectedly Heard the Familiar Words.

Colonel Aleck Smart, U. S. A., while not a great inventor, has a creative imagination which he has applied to the ordinary affairs of life with remunerative results.

Colonel Smart conceived the idea of introducing the phonograph into a government fog-horn, by which ships many miles out at sea should be made to listen to official warnings.

Colonel Smart recently induced the United States to place an Edison phonograph in one of its largest steam horns located on the pier outside the lake-front at Chicago, in order to enable vessels more easily to make port through the smoke which floats out from the city.

The other day the good lumber-lugger Star, Captain Kidd, was feeling its way toward that port. Captain Kidd had previously made the harbor by the odor, color and density of the Chicago river water, which sweeps out into the lake for miles. He had not heard of Colonel Smart's adaptation of the phonograph. Having entered the great black cloud which hides the city, Captain Kidd was exerting his olfactory organs to strike the trail when a distant voice said in tones of thunder, "Keep off the grass!"

"Hard starboard the helm!" roared the captain. "They've sealed the Chicago river."

It Was Safe.

Clerk—"There has been a mistake made, and your package has gone to Milltown, New York, instead of Milltown, New Jersey. I will have it forwarded to the right place."

Disturbed Foreigner—"Perhaps some one has been and got it already."

Clerk (patiently)—"You know that no one but your brother could get it."

Foreigner—"But somebody of the same name might."

Clerk—"What is your brother's name?" Foreigner—"Vassili Ozeretzkofsky."

license and maintained a bar for the use and convenience of their guests. A veteran Indiana editor says that he was present at one of the seven meetings which was held during the Lincoln and Douglas senatorial campaign, in 1858, and that on that occasion Lincoln publicly acknowledged that he had been an inn-keeper and all that implied. Douglas having made playful allusion to Lincoln's practice at the bar, the latter retorted that it was true, but that it applied with equal force to his distinguished opponent, "for while I have practiced behind the bar Douglas has practiced before it."

Calling up Another World.

He was one of a number of drummers sitting in the hotel office, and he stepped up to the telephone with the remark that he was going to spring a little joke on the girl at the central office.

"Hello!" he called through the 'phone; "give me St. Peter, please."

"Then he listened; and as he listened, his face took on a queer expression. After a minute he signaled that he was through with the wire, shrugged his shoulders and sat down.

"What did St. Peter say to you, Bob?" asked a friend.

"She didn't give me St. Peter," said Bob; "she gave me the devil."

He Was Allowed to Come Down.

"Now, my dear," said the fond mother, as she put her little son to bed on the evening of the party, "be a good boy while mother goes downstairs to see the company. God and the angels will be with you."

During the evening a call was heard from the upper room. The mother hastened to her child. "What is it, dear?" she anxiously exclaimed. "Mamma, don't you want to stay up here with God and the angels, and let me go downstairs just a little while?"

Labor Note.

Mrs. Mulvany (the eminent washer-lady)—"An' that did yez all do at the matin', Denis?"

Mr. Mulvany (the well-known coal-heaver)—"Yez will have to ask for an advance of seven cents on collars an' two cents on shirts, Mrs. Mulvany, for yer husband has gone out on a sympathetic strike."

A Division of Responsibility.

Her father—"What, you want to marry my daughter? Why, sir, you can't support her. I can hardly do it myself."

Suitor (blankly)—"C-c-can't we chip in together?"

Politics is the child of civilization, but offences one would think it had no mother at all, so dirty gets its face.

MOTHERS.

Physicians will tell you that more than one-half the troubles of children are caused by worms; The following are the symptoms:

The countenance pale; eyes dull and pupil dilated; picking at the nose; occasional headache, with throbbing of the ears; slimy or turbid tongue; foul breath generally in the morning; appetite changeable; belly swollen and hard; a gnawing or twisting pain in the stomach, or about the navel; the bowels constipated or purged, not unfrequently tinged with blood; stools slimy; urine turbid; uneasy and disturbed sleep, with grinding of teeth; starting up out of sleep; generally with hiccough; temper changeable, but generally irritable.

Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist

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