

HOUSE AND HOUSEHOLD.

PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

People with children often contrive in little ways to make other people bear the burden of them. They prohibit them, for instance, from playing on their front steps, a practice provocative of dirt, if not of more permanent detriment. The result is that the children play on the doorsteps of childless neighbors. If the neighbors complain they are considered churlish and are looked upon as Herods in thought if not in deeds. Consequently, in some neighborhoods, scratched and dirty steps, with little foot-tracks over them, are proof not that the owner has many children, but rather that he is childless.

LIVING IN SUNSHINE.

I think the superb health of my family is to a great extent due to the habit we have of almost living in sunshine. Every bright day all of the shutters are open, and the entire house gets the benefit of the sunlight. It drives away dampness, mould, microbes and blue devils, and puts us all in good humor and health. I cannot imagine good sanitary conditions and darkness. Even my cellar is as light as I can possibly make it, and whatever fruit and delicacies need to be shut away from light I put in close cupboards or covered boxes. I have sheets of canvas that can be thrown over them before they are put away, and always take pains so to arrange my stores that nothing will be injured by an abundance of light. People who live in badly-lighted apartments have little color and less health. I for one do not intend to spend my days in an atmosphere of gloom.

TEACH THE BOYS TO SWIM.

Parents should teach their boys to swim. It is an accomplishment of which every boy and girl in the nation should be possessed. It would reduce more than anything else the number of reports of harrowing deaths by drowning to be found in the news columns daily after the opening of summer.

A NEW USE FOR ORANGES.

The housewives of Florida have found a new use for oranges. They scrub the floor with them. Go into almost any town in the orange-growing districts and you will see the women use the luscious fruit exactly as our housekeepers use soap. They cut the oranges in halves, and rub the flat exposed pulp upon the floor. The acid in the orange doubtless does the cleansing, but at any rate the boards are as white as snow after the application. I have often thought that lemons would be better than oranges for this purpose because of the additional acidity, but have never seen them tried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SCHOOL INSPECTORSHIP.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—I was much pleased to find by THE TRUE WITNESS, of the 26th inst. that one of my own sex had the courage to speak out plainly on the all absorbing question of "School Inspectorship," and thus set out an example to her sister teachers (however prudent), worthy of imitation. For my own part, I fully endorse every statement and point made in "Norah's" letter, and I am safe in adding, from casual conversations held with lady conferees on the subject, that she has expressed in the clearest manner, the feelings of one and all on this more than interesting feature of education. Hoping to hear from "Norah" again, and others of our sex, as deeply interested in the question at issue, and as ardent advocates for the fulfilment of a long felt want as she is.

MARIE.

Montreal, 29th July, 1893.

SCHOOL INSPECTORSHIP.

MR. EDITOR,—I crave the benefit of a small space in the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS, for reasons that will become apparent as you advance in the discussion on the School Inspectorship. I do not wish for the moment to touch on those points which have been so ably and lucidly handled by yourself and correspondents in former issues, as to the duties and acquirements of an Inspector of Schools. On these points we are all agreed, and doubtless, the same may be anticipated of all other points to be yet discussed in this connection.

At all events, we are agreed on the Cardinal point, viz., the absolute neces-

sity of the Government appointing an English Inspector of English Schools. This is the Cardinal point, and when conceded out of respect for our just demands, no doubt, a man can be found to give general satisfaction, and to practically meet the requirements of the position in scholarship and scholastic attainments. But, Mr. Editor, there are still a few points, or rather important links, missing in your chain of argument, which must be supplied—not implied, before it can be accepted as definite.

An Inspector on entering a school on one of his regular visits, should carefully examine the programme of studies and the school time-table: if, he finds anything redundant or wanting in either, he should at once report to the proper authorities, with a view to having the necessary changes made, and his recommendations carried out on the shortest possible notice.

In all counties having a regularly organized system of education, the Inspector is the link connecting all the arteries with the trunk. He it is, who brings them into touch with each other. His reports are succinct histories of each and all schools, teachers, and classes in his district. On his reports and suggestions the central authorities move and act. It will thus be seen, that being the chief medium between the trunk and its branches, his reports must necessarily carry great weight, and his suggestions command careful attention. He should also, be independent, and not easily influenced; strictly impartial in the discharge of his duties and permit no tampering with his position.

Thus, to the teacher and pupils the Inspector's report is invaluable, while, to the Commissioners or Trustees, it is a *vade mecum* of what they should know of the schools committed to their care and under their control. But, as this point has been so fully developed in THE TRUE WITNESS of a recent date, it might seem presumptuous and discourteous to the Editor for me to pursue it at greater length.

There are one or two other points at which I might glance with reference to the course of study, in which the Inspector should occupy a prominent place. For instance, he may find, if he takes the trouble to examine the "Course of studies," laid down by many schools and colleges, all *overcharged* with subjects and matters, never taught, never spoken of to the pupils in class. Now, here would be a rare chance for the Inspector to interpose his powers, by exposing to the proper authorities the mistake of schools and colleges advertising subjects never mentioned in the classroom, much less taught, just as the quack advertises his drugs. Again, the Inspector, from a survey of the locality, should be able to point out the dozen or more qualifications that a public school building, to be erected in a large and densely populated city should possess: 1, as to light and air; 2, as to the number of floors for class-rooms; 3, the number of square feet of floor area to each pupil; 4, as to window-space and height of windows, and the distance of the most remote desk from the window; 5,—the height of the class-room; 6,—the provisions for ventilation; Number of Cubic feet of fresh air per minute for each person in a class-room, amount to be introduced and thoroughly distributed without creating unpleasant draughts or causing any two parts of the room to differ in temperature more than—degrees F.; 7,—as to the velocity of the incoming air at any point where it is liable to strike on the person; 8,—as to the heating of the incoming fresh air, its continuity, distribution, and removal; 9—as to where the fresh air should be introduced, where and how the foul air should be removed; 10—as to W. C. their position, number, &c; 11—as to space occupied by the building compared with the size of the lot; 12, as to the other chief sanitary requirements in a city school-house.

From this it will be seen that the Inspector should be thoroughly conversant with the laws of school hygiene. He should direct his knowledge of the subject to heating and ventilation. The latter is still an unsolved problem, but, for this very reason, it should exercise his thinking powers, and if he cannot arrive at a correct solution, he has such guides to fall back upon, as the American, French, German, and, perhaps, the best of all, the Belgian system.

In concluding this letter, which has run to a degree beyond my anticipations, I shall merely add that the Inspector

should insist on the teaching of algebra and geometry in every school in his district, where the pupils are capable of receiving the first impressions of those most important subjects. This will form the basis of my next letter.

RESARTUS.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS.

SIR.—I see by your last issue that the Rev. Mr. Hoyt has been addressing the people of Hamilton on his way home from the convention, and that he not only condoned "Karmarker" but misrepresented events that took place here. That is nothing new amongst men of his class, for they can accommodate themselves to all circumstances. The language used in Montreal would not suit a Hamilton audience. The Protestant Clergy of this city do not preach such sermons as they do in other parts of Canada, simply because their congregations would not tolerate them. It is not the style here to abuse or misrepresent Catholics, because they are in such a majority, and so many of our separated brethren are engaged in the different lines of trade amongst us and do not wish to injure their business, but let one of their ministers leave here and go for instance to Toronto, all at once we find him a changed man. He attends all the Orange Parades and is sure to make a speech that will take well with the "boys," while here he might have been so mild that the Catholics might have expressed regret at his departure. Their positions were never better depicted than in the following lines which I once clipped from the New York Mercury:

THE WILL OF HEAVEN.

"Beloved flock" the parson said, then paused and wiped his eyes,
"As pastor and as people we must sever tender ties,
I've a call to go to Blanktown, and to be their chosen pastor,
A call so loud to disobey, I fear would grieve the master."

"Replied the spokesman of the flock though loud the call may be,
We'll call you louder to remain, an X for every Y,
Those Blanktown people offer you, we'll give to keep you here,
We trust you'll hear a voice divine, our calls so loud and clear."

With sobbing voice the parson said, "my duty's clearer now,"
I'll stay with you beloved ones, to heaven's will I bow,
So let us sing, "Blest be the Tie" and sing it clear and strong,
To leave you when you call so loud would be exceeding wrong."

Then in his study he sat down a letter to indite,
Unto the Church at Blanktown, thus did the parson write,
I've wrestled o'er your call with prayer, the Lord bids me to stay,
And consecrated to his work, I dare not disobey.

K. A. R. MARKER.

Montreal, July 23rd, 1893.

IRISH NEWS.

Sir John H. Scott, J.P., a Unionist, has been elected a member of the Harbor Commissioners of Cork.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Owen J. Kelly, Esq., of Mountain View, Blackrock, to the Commission of the Peace for County Louth.

Lord Mayor Shanks, of Dublin, was nominated for a second term of office on July 3. The Council was unanimous in making the declaration.

At the nomination of the candidates for the councillorship of the South Centre Ward of Cork, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. P. F. Dunn on July 1, Mr. Mungerton Arnott, was returned unopposed.

The Public Lending Library of Cork was opened on July 1, by Alderman Horgan. The portion of the building devoted to the newsroom has been in use six months. At the second ceremony the Mayor presided, but the library was declared open by Alderman Horgan, during whose Mayoralty last year the project was started.

Father Anderson, O. S. C. A., arrived in Cork from America on July 1. He returned via the United States from Australia, where he has been making a collection for the past eighteen months for the National Church of St. Patrick at Rome. On the voyage to the Antipodes Father Anderson visited Arabi Pasha at Ceylon.

Bishop Nulty met with a further proof of the deep regard entertained for him by the sterling Nationalists of Meath, who do not forget how brave a part their venerable Bishop played in darker days in defending the Irish cause. At Donore, where he had gone to administer

Confirmation on July 4, he received an enthusiastic welcome. An eloquent address was presented, which fittingly touched upon his past services at a time when Ireland's friends were not so many as now, and when those who dared to champion her rights had to face dangers that are at present fortunately almost unknown.

Mr. Colven, Superintendent of the Protestant Orphanage of Tralee, was drowned at Spanish Point on July 1. While bathing he seemed to faint, and Constable Porter swam to his assistance. The sea running very high, he was unable to rescue Colven, and in the attempt almost lost his own life. The body floated in a few minutes and was washed ashore.

At a meeting of the Corporation of Cork, on the 7th inst., a letter was read from the Limerick Amnesty Association, enclosing a copy of a resolution asking for a sworn impartial inquiry into the cases of John Daly and other political prisoners. The resolution was unanimously adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the Government and the members of Parliament for the city.

In the list of successful students at the recent Royal University examinations at Dublin for the degree of LL. B., was the name of Mr. John F. McAllister. Mr. McAllister, who is a son of Mr. James McAllister, T. C., of Ballymena, had a distinguished university career. He is an alumnus of St. Malachy's College, where he pursued his early university studies. Some time ago, having determined to enter on the legal profession, he became a solicitor's apprentice in the office of Mr. Alexander Caruth, Sr., solicitor, Ballymena, and we understand his period of probation will shortly expire.

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