

The Family.

THE NAME UPON THE WINDOW PANE.

In the old Scottish Inn we met, A motley group from every land, Scholar and artist, peer and priest, And many a traveller browned and tanned,

It happened thus a restless boy Unto the dipping window went, Whose glass, scattered with a thousand names,

Cried, 'Phillip, stop! before you write, Consider well what you're about, "Father, why should I hesitate?"

Unto a loving mother oft We all have sent, without a doubt, Full many a hard and careless word,

So in our daily work and life, We write and do and say the thing, We never can undo nor stay

SOME OBSERVATIONS.

By PHIL.

OUR CATECHISTS.

DR. McRAE, of St. John, in the January number of the Record, calls the attention of the Church to a matter worthy of immediate attention, in connection with our catechists.

These agents of the Church, however gifted, have not the power either to baptize, dispense the Lord's Supper, or perform the marriage ceremony. Consequently, not a few of our people apply to ministers of other Churches for baptism for their children.

The last Assembly permission was given to presbyteries to ordain a number of men, no better qualified than some of these catechists for the work of the ministry. No principle was decided on in favour of these cases. They were dealt with in the most arbitrary manner, and without much consideration.

HASTY LEGISLATION.

No one who watches the proceedings of our General Assembly can be very deeply impressed with the wisdom of that body. Matters of the gravest importance are decided without anything like adequate consideration. An illustration of this is seen in the motion that was carried at last Assembly in regard to the mode of electing the Moderator.

This arises very much from the seeming determination of a few men to allow no motion to pass, if possible, unless they have a hand in it. All attempts at guiding the action of the Assembly by ordinary pastors or elders, unknown to fame, are strictly prohibited.

COMMITTEES.

We did not expect to have our sentiments so immediately endorsed by a convener, to which expression was given in your last in these notes. Dr. Wardrop, in the Record, expresses the desire that our people could listen to the discussions of the Foreign Mission Committee, in order to learn how much exercised the Committee is, in distributing the funds entrusted to it.

would not be made, and which eventually cost more to the Church than the meeting of a full committee. And further, it is a mistake to imagine that a committee can be wholly responsible either for the success or failure of our mission work.

ON LITTLE KINDNESSES.

Our people in many instances fail to recognize the pleasure and benefit they might enjoy by occasionally indulging in little acts of kindness toward their pastor. They complain sometimes of his dulness. He seems to lack spirit and energy. A pastor in such a state of mind on one occasion received an unexpected visit from an important member of his congregation.

But to be cheerful and spirited and hopeful in work, when labouring under constant discouragement and frequent fault-finding, is more than can be expected of ordinary men.

THE GROWTH OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN MANITOBA.

In the year 1869, just after His Majesty's proclamation broke out, the first Presbyterian congregation was founded in the North-West. It was organized by authority of the General Assembly of the late Canada Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Mr. McNabb was appointed clerk, and the presbytery proceeded with its work. This was indeed a day of small things, yet we all felt that it was also a day of vast importance to our Church, and one which would wield a mighty influence on the future of our cause in this far West.

One who enters upon the work now can scarcely enter into sympathy with the feelings of those pioneers of our Church, or form a just conception of the steady and rapid development of our cause in this country.

Table with columns: Presbytery, Self-sus. Cong's, Aug. Cong's, Supple. Cong's, Miss. Stations, Preach. Stations. Rows: Winnipeg, Rock Lake, Brandon, Regina, Total.

plemented congregations are about ready to call a minister, and will thus pass to the list of augmented congregations. And what is very encouraging, not a few of the mission groups have attained such vigour as to require ordained missionaries as soon as we can secure them.

New fields are opening up every year. New cries for help are made. Our country is filling up, and it will continue to attract to it settlers from the older countries. A large percentage of these is Presbyterian. Where they settle, they need a Presbyterian church.

Facilis desuntur Auri. Sed recurre gradum superaque exatere as auris, Illi labor, hoc opus est.

The necessity and importance of Manitoba College in carrying on our rapidly increasing home mission work in this country are becoming year by year more evident. Upon Manitoba College we must depend in a very large measure for material to man our work.

BOOKS.

A DISTINGUISHED clergyman once remarked that if he were to be imprisoned for ten years with only two books, he would select Shakespeare and Matthew Henry's Commentaries on the Bible.

Young men are sometimes ambitious to devour many books—they might as reasonably be anxious to eat the contents of a market. The dead hero wrote a few days before his departure, "Doctor, I am taking too much food, more than I can assimilate."

Not what a person reads, but what he inwardly digests, makes him stronger mentally. There are scores of learned parrots, who are ignorant and erudite. They are crammed full of facts, but they know little as to their meaning.

CHRISTIAN HEROISM.

It may be that the too great prominence given to the softer sides is one reason why many young men hold aloof from the cause of Christ. It may not be the want of manliness on their part after all—it may be because they have not had sufficiently brought before them the manliness of Christ and the supreme need of strength and courage on the part of His followers.

THE OLDER THE BETTER.—It is with much pleasure we hear that Mr. Spurgeon is enjoying remarkably good health, indeed, much better than he has for years. This is ascribed to his adoption of a vegetarian regimen in his diet.

Our Story.

BARBARA STREET.

A FAMILY STORY OF TO-DAY. BY THE AUTHOR OF "OUR NELL," "A SAILOR'S DAUGHTER," ETC.

CHAPTER I. IN A LONDON FOG.

A YOUNG lady stood one January afternoon on the pavement in Regent Street, striving to discern by use of eye or ear the familiar Lowerbury omnibus. It struck her with some indignation that senses specially adapted to the occasion were required, and that Nature should have taken into consideration the fact that her lungs were to be called upon to breathe, her eyes to penetrate, and her ears to hear through a London fog.

Grace Norris had been standing here for a considerable length of time. It is hardly a favourable opportunity for describing this young lady. She was small and pale, and was somewhat shabbily though carefully dressed.

She hailed the driver of a hansom cab, standing behind his splash-board, was slow guiding his horse by the line of the curb-stone. "What would you charge to drive me to Lowerbury?"

"Well, miss, I'd say a-sovering to oblige a lady." "Thank you; then you may drive on," the lady replied calmly, and then her courage, which had been secure so far, began to leak a little; and to find herself frightened, frightened her still more.

"Do you know the way to Lowerbury?" "Yes, lady." "Then come with me, and light me, and you shall have a shilling."

In another moment Grace had parted with her shilling, and with the impish countenance of her guide, and found herself alone. Before the light went out, she remembered to have seen that she was in the neighbourhood of Iron railings. For these she groped, and having found them, walked on for some hundred yards, keeping herself straight by their means.