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 one priest,
And many a traveller browned and tanned,
All pilgrims waiting for an hour,
Chatting in idle courtesy,
And yet amid the drifting talk
A little message came to me.

It happened thus a restless boy
Unto the dripping window went,
Whose gias, scarred with a thousand names,
His midd to the same fancy bent He sought and found a vacant spot, And took the diamond from his hand, But ere a letter had been formed, A voice accustomed to command

Cried, 'Philip, stop; before you write, Consider well what you're about."
"Father, why should I hesitate?"
"because you cannot rub it out."
These words fell on my idle ear;
I said them o'er and o'er again,
And asked myself, O who would choose
All they have written to remain?

Unto a loving mother oft

Ve all have sent, without a doubt,
Full many a hard and careless word That now we never can sub out, For cruel words cut deeper far, Than dramond on the window-pane, And oft recalled in after years, They wound her o'er and o'er again.

So in our daily work and life,
We write and do and say the thing,
We herer can undo nor stay We hever can undo nor stay
With any future sorrowing.
We carve ourselves on beating hearts,
Ah, then how wise to pause and doubt,
To blend with love and thought our words,
Because we cannot sub them out.

Harter's Weekly.

SOME OBSERVATIONS. By PHILO.

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 connec-

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 mini- lamented Rev. John Block (a sters of other Churches for baptism for their Moderator; Rev. Wm. Theseber, sters of other Churches for baptism for their children. These ministers are not one whit superior to our catechists in scriptural knowledge, Christian character, or preaching ability. Yet they have at authority our men have not. They are, as it is childed, ordained, and hence able to perform the children mentioned duties. Our people, in many cases, do not understand this mysterious rite, nor it is withheld from these men. And the result that a tate of things is that many families are our Church, our catechists' influence is weakour Church, our catechists' influence is weakand the cause of our Church hindered.

the last Assembly permission was given to Manufacture to ordain a number of men, no better mailed than some of these catechists for the work Comministry. No principle was decided on in the most arbitrary manner, and without much con-sideration. Would it not be possible to ordain such of these men as were suitable for the work, so that they could discharge these duties without placing them in the status of the full pastoral position? It is a pity that our Church should, with all its intelligence, be unable to deal adequately with our mission work. Vacant fields in winter, labourers that cannot dispense sacraments, men sent to fields for which they are totally unsuited, these are defects that a little wisdom might remedy, and that must be remedied before we can successfully compete with other Churches in the home mission field.

General Assembly can be very deeply impressed to o'clock, as we passed their home on our way to with the wisuom of that body. Matters of the the hospitable manse of the minister of Kildonan, gravest importance are decided without anything like adequate consideration. An illustration of out to the highway and gave the weary way-worn this is seen in the motion that was carried at last Assembly in regard to the mode of electing the Moderator. That motion was like one of the former year on the same question, unconstitutional. It will not be acted upon. Presbyteries are not going to yield their privilege on the ground of a vote snatched from the Assembly without consideration. The motion should have been ruled out of order, but it was not, and the Church is left in uncertainty on the subject. Such a method of legislation produces confusion in the Church, and in making arrangements to give him an oppor-contempt in the minds of thoughtful people. Other tunity to exercise his gifts in their mother tongue. matters, of even greater importance, are settled in the same hurried manner.

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. Ali attempts at guiding the action of the Assembly by ordinary pastors or elders, unknown to fame, are strictly prohibited. A motion, to have any chance, must have a dignified parentage—some doctor, professor, or principal. These eminent dignitaries would consult their own reputation if they would not insist on enjoying a monopoly of the blunders made in our legislation. Our kistory does not any and enters upon the work now can scarcely made in our legislation. Our kistory does not any and automathy with the first automathy with the first automathy. made in our legislation. Our history does not prove them to be the sole possessors of wisdom.

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. Wardrope, 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. This is an encouraging sign. Our committee work is too much done in secret. These bodies should be as open to the public as presbyteries are. Such publicity done in secret. These bodies should be as open tery. Cong'ns Cong'ns Cong'ns Groups. Stations, would have an exhilarating effect. Abuses would be remedied much more quickly, and greater interest in the schemes of the Church would result. The experiment of reducing the number of the Home Mission Committee has not so far been very successful. What is saved in the way of expense in one direction is lost in another. The expense of the Committee may be reduced and yet appointed for the committee may be reduced and yet appointed as the contrary, sho walked with remarkable clasticity, and greater larger committee.

**THE OLDER THE BETTER.—It is with much pleasure we hear that Mr. Spurgeon is enjoying to not senjoying the number of the pleasure we hear that Mr. Spurgeon is enjoying to not senjoying the number of the same that Mr. Spurgeon is enjoying to not senjoying the number of the larger committee has not so far been very successful. What is saved in the way of expense in one direction is lost in another. The expense of the Committee may be reduced and yet appointed to others the generous help given them in the beginning of their existence. Several of the sup-larger committee has not so far been very soon become self-sustaining and ready to extend to others the generous help given them in the beginning of their existence. Several of the sup-larger committee has not so far been very soon become self-sustaining and ready to extend to others the generous help given them in the beginning of their existence. Several of the sup-larger committee has not so far been very soon become self-sustaining and ready to extend to others the generous help given them in the beginning of their existence. Several of the sup-larger committee has not any of the neighbourhood of iron rallings. The charge the these she groped, and having found them, waked on for some hundred yards, keeping herself straight on for some hundred yards, keeping herself straight on for some hundred yards, keeping herself straight on for some hundred yards, keep

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 com-mittee can be wholly responsible either for the success or failure of our mission work. The Home Mission Committee does an immense deal of work. Alission Committee does an immense deal of work. It deserves all possible credit for what it has done. All the more should the Church guard against centralizing the work in the hands of one or two as it is now. Unless, indeed, the Church should think it wise to do away with the Committee, and appoint one man to supervise the whole, an old question still worthy of consideration.

ON LITTLE KINDNESSES.

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 inverse of his face of the seems to lack spirit and energy. received an unexpected visit from an important member of his congregation. When this triend was ushered into the study the minister was alarmed lest some unheard of difficulty had arisen about which his friend had come to speak. After some conversation, however, his mind was relieved. His friend proceeded to say in substance, "I have been under the impression for some time that you were rather depressed in spirits about the work in the congregation, and I thought it might relieve you to come and tell you how highly your work is appreciated by all the congregation. You are not aware, perhaps, how satisfied the people are with your labours and how anxious they are to Bustain you in anything you wish to undertake." This was not a great thing to do on the part of that member. But it was so unusual, so unexpected from him, and so timely a visit that the pastor resumed his duties very much cheered and encouraged. Our pastors receive few such visits, though we have reason to be thankful so many are so high-iy appreciated by the people. Let the people who complain of their minister's duiness try a word of encouragement. Any right-minded man will s-spond to this. This will make the sermons bright and fresh because springing from a hopeful and happy spirit.

But to be cheerful and spirited and hopeful it work, when labouring under constant discourage-ment 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 likel's after ine tion broke out, the first gracked by authority General Assembly of the late Canada Preside Church. Its ministerial merabers were second as the later of t at Portage la Prairie and the Rev. James Nisbet, militionary and Rev. John McNahl (who arrived that year). These brethrease their respective and the Mode sermon on the lam is which ism, in which

fact that the output throughout the world are gradually adopting into their systems the chief features of ours, and are thus gradually nearing one system, constituted in due form the Presbyter, of Manitoba. That sermon was worthy of the distinguished man who preached it. It should yet find its way into print, and would at this date be read with interest.

Rev. Mr. McNabb was appointed clerk, and the presbytery proceeded with its work. This was indeed of the formal things were at falls the statement.

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 causem this far West. The ven-erable Moderator had a heart too full to utter half his feelings. The writer can never forget the overflowing gratitude and joy of the two then surviving members of the little company that Lord Selkirk brought out from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and planted in Kildonan, four miles north of the present MASTY LEGISLATION.

city of Winnipeg, as these old men, with their locks white as the driven snow, met Mr. McNabb and Mo one who watches the proceedings of our myself on the night of October 24th, 1869, about These old men, as our conveyance passed, came out to the highway and gave the weary way-worn travellers a genuine Presbyterian welcome, and said, "We never thocht to live to see this day.
We'll hae a Presbytery noo." The old parish of
Kildonan was moved from end to end, and on the following Sabbath, long before the church-bell rang out long and loud the hour of public worship, the old church was filled—floor and gallery. Mr. McNabb preached in the A.M. and the writer in the P.M. And as Mr. McNabb was a Gaelic speaker, the lovers of that language were not long

tunity to exercise his gifts in their mother tongue.

The points occupied in the early days were Little
Britain, Park's Creek, Kildonan, Winnipek, Headingly, Poplar Point, High Bluff, and Portage la

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. The writer, when the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories was organized, on July 16th, 1884, could not help calling up the halcyon days of 1869 and comparing how great and how wonderful has been the growth of our Church in this new land. The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." The following table in connection with the foregoing will afford some idea of our growth :--

Presby Self-sus. Aug. Supple. Miss Preachtery. Cong'ns Cong'ns Cong'ns Groups. Stations.

plemented congregations are about ready to call a minister, and will thus pass to the list of augment-ed 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, and thus they will pass on to the list of supplemented congregations. 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. They in every case also want it, and are ready to do all they can to help to support it. If assisted for a short time more, these new settlements will have in them vigorous congregations. If neglected, one shudders to think of the results. They will lapse into spiritual deadness and indifference, followed by victous in-dulgences. All this can be more easily prevented now than cured in alter years.

Failis devensus Averni, Sed revocare gradum superasque evadere as auras, Un labor, hoc opus est.

The necessity and importance of Manitoba Coltege 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. White deeply grateful for all the sympathy and help received from abroad, let us develop our manhood by helping ourselves to our utmost ability both as regards the supply of money and men We greatly rejoice at the pros-perity of the college We hope the day is not far distant when the professional staff will be increased and the present over-burdened teachers be relieved. We believe every year will show an increasing number of students attending it. May Heaven's best blessing descend on the college and its professors and students.—Rev D. B Whimster, in Manitoba College Journal.

BOOKS.

A DISTINGUISHED clergyman once remarked that f he were to be imprisoned for ten years with only two books, he would select Shakespeare and Mat-thew Henry's Commentaries on the Bible. While Brank Power, the correspondent of the London Times, was shut up in Khartoum, he wrote home that the three most welcome books they could send him would be Shakespeare, and the "Professor" and "Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table."

Kossuth, during his imprisonment in Turkey, studied two books, Shakespeare and the English

Bibl: When he went through this country delivpresent, and slare asked in men free market English so

> lart of selecting Quincy calls useful, as But the

of what many do brace the o toss off the how the hawk, that it starts in a career from which it may return exhilar-ated with fresh and beautiful thoughts. 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 assimiate." Many readers are reading more than they 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 know little as to their meaning. A reviewer, whose duties obliged him to keep up with current publications, and not to let go his hold upon cid books,

cations, and not to let go his hold upon old books, can tell as soon as he hears these persons talk what books they have read during a month.

It may be that a young man fond of reading is bewildered when he stands amid a great library. He will speedily recover himself, if he reflects that thousands of volumes are for specialists; and that other thousands are for the antiquary or historian hat whole alcoves are curious books of no mental use, and that only a few hundred have any relation to his culture and work.

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. Here is where much of the strength of the "Salvation Army" lies. We may object to their methods; but their spirit is what we all need. We who preach the truth ought to appeal more than we do to the heroic and soldierly and noble spirit of self-sacrifice in redeemed human nature; and our people, our young people especially, ought to respond. "Ye that are men, now serve Him, against un-numbered foes." We need not ask our young friends to put on uniform, but we do ask them in Jesus' name to show the same spirit which leads so many in the Salvation Army to brave the scorn of those who despise Christ and mock at all that is holy. We do ask them to take their stand as followers of Christ, whatever their companions may say, and however much any craven spirit there may be in them may try to hinder them. We ask them to sacrifice their laziness and love of ease, their selfishness, whatever there be that hinders them from joining themselves to Him who is the Grandest Hero of all history. Come, and confess Christ, and take a share in the great enterprise of helping in the name of Jesus to save men, women and children from their sins!Rev. J. Munro Gibson, D.D.

Our Story.

BARBARA STREET, A FAMILY STORY OF TO-DAY.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "OUR NELL," "A SAILOR'S DAUGHTER," STC.

CHAPTER L

IN A LONDON 10G.

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 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. She laughed, and the sound striking on her ears eerily, she realised with unpleasant force the peculiar loneliness of her position. It was an uncanny sensation, that of being able to laugh sloud in Regent Street, without a breach of the conventionalities. By these walls of fog that were shut down upon her, she was as isolated from any one who might be near as though she were on the top of Snowdon. Now and then some passer-by knocked against her, and the contact, though rough, was re-assuring, accompanied as it usually was with the tones of a human voice uttering apology. The sounds that reached her were mainly like those of an Inferno, into which she, had been thrust down from the upper world. Her, active brain suggested that Dante in far blue Italy would have had a new idea had he experienced a situation like this. Hoarse cries, shouts and objurgations, and the slow rumbling of invisible wheat whereal through the thick are consideration the fact that her lungs were to be objurgations, and the slow rumbling of invisible wheels, vibrated through the thick air. The lamp-post under which she stood bore aloft a futils yellow dot. But the street urchins, rejoicing like tadpoles in a pond, darted here and there with hills bride and flow and the sand there with

sadpoles in a pond, darted here and there with shrill shrieks, each flamling torch and small dusky person the centre of a travelling disc of light.

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. Upon one arm hung a beather bag, whose protruding sides indicated a plethora of contents, and a weight out of propertion to so slender an arm. She had deposited a tion to so slender an arm. She had deposited t tion to so slender an arm. She had deposited a draper's parcel of no mean proportions against the lamp-post at her feet. Clearly, one would say, an object for pity, since she was thus undoubtedly shabby, frail, heavily weighted, and, worse than all under such circumstances, unprotected. But us at once disclaim any such demand on her behalf. Physically, there was remarkably little of her; but he that weighed Gruce Norris by flesh, blood, and bones, and reckoned with her accordingly, would find himself in the wrong. But though we may not pity her, it is allowable to question how she is to get home to Lowerbury, seeing that she has at to get home to Lowerbury, seeing that she has last ascertained that the omnibuses have ceased run. She is very tired, having, before this plate of darkness fell on the city, been engaged in we is to the feminine mind the pleasing toil shopping.

She halled the driver of a hansom cab, we 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 Lowe

bury?"
The man turned, and descried a little femining figure dimly.

"Well, miss, I'd say a sovering to oblige a lady." "Thank you; then you may drive on," the lade replied calmly, and then her courage, which had been secure so far, began to leak a little; and the find herself frightened, frightened her still more. However, the happy thought struck her that she would engage a link-boy, and she became quite gay on the instant. Brelong, succeeding in arresting one of these fog-meteors, she put to him the enquire.

Grace surveyed doubtfully the wild-eyed tattered urchin, and asked-

"Are you a good boy?"
"Ain't I?" replied the youth, with a re-assuring

"I don't think you look it. No; I'll carry the parcel myself."

Far from resenting this criticism on his appearance, the urchin, with a chuckle and a caper, remarked, admiringly—

You are a sharp 'un !" Proceeding up Re; ent Street, towards the North, Grace, with her bag on one arm and her parcel under the other, followed swiftly in the wake of the flaming torch. Her spirits kept at a fine level, At this rate, she would soon be home, and would nave an adventure to relate. As they turned into Great Portland Street, she awoke to the fact that the torch was all but burnt out, and that no method of replenishment seemed at hand. She called out to her guide-

"Boy I how long do you think the light will

"It'll be out in a jiffy now, lady," cheerfully.

"And what shall you do then?

"But, you naughty boy !" exclaimed Grace, in dismay, "I asked if you knew the way to Lower-

"And I didn't tell yer no lie."
"Why, of course, I meant you to take me there."
"But yer didn't say so; you weren't quite so sharp, arter all," with a diabolical grin, succeeded have all the protection of his few sharps.

by a solemn contortion of his face, as he continued; "I don't live no ways that way, lady; and my mother don't know I'm out.

In another moment Grace had parted with her shilling, and with the implish 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