

house brought a wife to reign there by his side, but she had a thread of philosophy in her composition, and consoled herself with the reflection that as Sir Giles proposed to take his wife to India, it would be some time before they finally settled down in their English home. And meanwhile, she and Sylvia would enjoy the loveliness to their hearts' content, and with only each other for company. Miss Stansdale's one regret in leaving her brother's house had been the thought that she was leaving her sister Marion alone with Robert. But Marion's last letter had removed that feeling of compunction, for it had overflowed with expressions of admiration for the German lady, who by Robert's wish, had come as a paying guest.

"Miss Muller is quite charming," so ran the letter which lay in Helen's lap whilst Sylvia talked to her, "she is very good looking—I think I might call her handsome, and she is so kind and interested in everything and everybody. She makes a delightful companion, and never lets me feel dull for a moment. How I wish you and your dear little charge could come over in the motor one afternoon and see her, that is, if Sir Giles would not object."

(To be continued.)

Recreation for the Pioneer

MR. EDWARD GURNEY, the well-known Toronto manufacturer, recently contributed the following letter to The Christian Guardian, making some suggestions as to improving social conditions in Western Canada:

Dear Sir,—During a recent visit to the West, I had an opportunity of hearing the question of isolation discussed suggestively by a member of the Laymen's Association of the Manitoba Conference. Subsequently the social condition of the West was kept prominent during my visits to other towns and cities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. I found that the people I met were unanimously in favor of Church Union and that without exception as to denomination. This led me to some constructive thought, assuming Union as a basic proposition. What is needed is some social outlook for the women and young people, especially the women. One man whose wife was in an asylum remarked that he could not understand why, "as she had never been out of the kitchen for years."

Now I suggest that the country of Manitoba and Saskatchewan be divided into social districts corresponding in area with the conferences, that the abandoned churches not needed for church purposes be used as social clubs or meeting places, that as rapidly as possible libraries be established therein, that a regular systematic provision be made for old-fashioned tea meetings, the most welcome social gatherings that we have known in the history of our church, that equal attention be given to musical, literary and other valuable and wholesome entertainment, among which I would suggest selected moving picture shows. Some of these entertainments would be provided by local talent, perhaps at a later date all might be so provided, but immediately we should have to employ entertainers and this would involve somewhat large expenditures. As to this, I would say that we could depend on the man in the street to be as free a subscriber as any of us; he would understand this while he might be a little obscure as to spiritual appeals. Now as to the benefits.

- 1st. The women and children would have something to look forward to.
- 2nd. The men would have a centre of social interest far more wholesome than the tavern or grocery.
- 3rd. We should add vastly to the power of the church as a centre of moral influence.

If undertaken it should be done by authority of the United Church. It should be entered upon after grave consideration as a department of church work, and should be controlled by the regular officers of the church.

I have been requested by many people in the West to suggest this outline of a plan to you and your readers.



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