

me. I can get a very good dinner at a hotel for fifty cents or half a dollar. I go to my friend's to see him and have half an hour in his company; I go for a certain quality of welcome that comes from his personality, not from his food"—Alice I. Eaton, in the Woman's Home Companion.

The Right to Labor in Joy.

Out on the roads they have gathered a hundred thousand men,
To ask for a hold on life as sure as the hold of the wolf in his den
Their need lies close to the quick of life as the earth lies close to the stone;
It is as meat to the slender rib, as marrow to the bone.

They ask but the leave to labor, to toil in the endless night
For a little salt to savor their bread, for houses water-tight;
They ask but the right to labor, and to live by the strength of their hands
They have bodies like knotted oaks and patience like sea sands.

And the right of a man to labor, and his right to labor in joy—
Not all your laws can blot that right, nor the gates of hell destroy.
For it came with the making of man, and was kneaded into his bones,
And it will stand at the last of things on the dust of crumbled thrones.

Edwin Markham.

Watch Your Mood When Letter Writing

Much depends upon the mood in which one sits down to write a letter. It is a good rule never to write unless you feel like writing. If it is a blue day with you, you could sit down and order a dozen lead pencils, and the stationer be none the wiser, but beware of writing to a friend in such a mood.

If you were talking to him, he would know by your expression, by the tone of your voice, that you were not yourself, and would make allowances. But in a letter he sees only the coolness, and not the reason for it. Again, it is not well to write when under great excitement. At such times you say more than you mean.

If you spoke these things, your friend, seeing your agitation, would understand that what you said was not your sober judgment. But when it is written in cold black and white, and read by some one a hundred miles away it has quite a different effect. We have all, I suppose, written letters at such times. Wait for calmer moments—your friends deserve your golden hours.—The Churchman.

A Prayer for Children.

The following beautiful little prayer Mr. Dickens wrote out for each of his children, and taught them to repeat it night and morning as soon as they could talk:

"Pray God, who has made everything, and is so kind and merciful to everything he has made who tries to be good and to deserve it.

"Pray God bless my dear papa, mamma, brothers and sisters, and aunties, and all my relations and friends.

"Make me a good little girl. Let me never be naughty or tell a lie, which is a mean and shameful thing. Make me kind to my nurses and servants, and to all poor people.

"Let me never be cruel to any dumb creature; for if I am cruel to anything, even to a poor little fly, Thou, who art so good, wilt never love me.

"Pray God to bless and to preserve us all

this night, and for evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Now, the boys need not think that this prayer is only for girls. They can substitute the word "boy" for "girl," and use the prayer equally well.

Many Appetizing Dishes.

Can be made doubly delightful and nutritious by the use of Borden's Peerless Brand Evaporated Cream, which is not only superior to raw cream but has the merit of being preserved and sterilized, thus keeping perfectly for an indefinite period. Borden's Condensed Milk Co., proprietors.

Guard your Conversation.

I wonder whether we realize how much of our ordinary talk consists of criticism? There is no doubt that it is immensely interesting to watch people, to study their characters and ways, and to communicate our impressions about them to others. Take away the element of personal criticism, and conversation, one must admit, would lose a good deal of its interest. Yet is it not a little disturbing sometimes to reflect, after leaving a house where you have been entertained for half an hour by sprightly and witty comments on mutual acquaintance, that in all probability your own personality is furnishing a text for a similar entertainment with the next group of callers? After all it is better to be kindly than to be amusing: it is better to pass over a good deal that does not quite commend itself to us (so long as no principle is involved) than to be always making a fight for one's own way of doing things at the cost of friction and disagreement. Hundreds of years before the Christian era, when an Eastern poet wished to sum up his impressions of perfect womanhood, he closed his ideal portrait with these words: "She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Schemes of the Church.

As the time is approaching when many congregations and missionary societies distribute the money collected during the year, I have prepared the following table showing (1) the amount required this year for each scheme; (2) the average rate per communicant, and (3) the amount each scheme should receive of every \$100 to be distributed:—

	Amount Required	Rate per member	Proportion of each \$100
Home Mission.....	\$110,000	61 cts.	\$32 60
Augmentation.....	30,000	17 "	8 90
Foreign Mission....	99,825	56 "	29 58
French Evangeliza- tion	36,000	20 "	10 65
Knox College.....	12,000	08 "	3 55
Queens College....	5,500	04 "	1 63
Montreal College..	5,000	04 "	1 50
Manitoba College .	2,500	02 "	77
Widows' and Orp- hans' Fund	15,000	08½"	4 45
Aged and Infirm Ministers	14,000	08 "	4 15
Assembly Fund.....	7,000	04½"	2 22
	\$337,425	\$1.93	\$100.00

The congregations in both the Eastern and Western sections of the Church contribute for French Evangelization, Manitoba College and the Century Fund. The amounts required for the other schemes have to be got from the Western section alone. As the Church is alike committed to the amount required for every one of the schemes, it is hoped that the allocation of

missionary funds will be somewhat in accord with the requirement in each case.

The several funds are, at present, largely in debt, for, although about ten months of the year have elapsed, less than one fifth of the amount required has been received.

The receipts to this date, for Home Missions, are about \$8,000 less than at the corresponding period last year. The receipts for Augmentation, French Evangelization and the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund are also considerably behind.

So far as one can form an opinion at the present time, the schemes regarding which there is the most room for anxiety are, the Foreign Mission Fund, because of the fact that its requirements are nearly \$35,000 in excess of the revenue of last year, and the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, because of the increase in the number of annuitants and the lessened contributions received to date.

The books of the Church close promptly on Saturday, 27th February, 1904, and only those contributions that reach the church office here by that date, will appear in the accounts for the year, and in the detailed statement of receipts to be submitted to next General Assembly.

ROBERT H. WARDEN:

Toronto, 23rd December, 1903.

Brief Hints for Bright Girls.

Someone has suggested fifteen things that every girl can learn before she is fifteen. Not everyone can learn to play or sing or paint well enough to give pleasure to her friends, but the following "accomplishments" are within everybody's reach:

Shut the door, and shut it softly.
Keep your own room in tasteful order.
Have an hour for rising, and rise.
Learn to make bread as well as cake.
Never let a button stay off more than twenty-four hours.
Always know where your things are.
Never let a day pass without doing something to make somebody comfortable.
Never come to breakfast without a collar.
Never go about with your shoes unbuttoned.
Speak clearly enough for everyone to understand.

It is while you are patiently toiling at the little tasks of life that the meaning and shape of the great whole of life dawns upon you. It is while you are resisting little temptations that you are growing stronger.—Phillips Brooks.

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Interest paid or compounded half-yearly at..... 3½%

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