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been much in demand, and probably some of his best work has been done in these spheres. He belongs to the growing body of "centrally-minded" churchmen.

A beautiful reredos has recently been erected in St. Anne's, Strathpeffer, Scotland, as a memorial to the late Lady Mackenzie. It is of alabaster and is handsomely sculptured and it is the gift of Sir Arthur G. R. Mackenzie Bart. of Coull, in memory of his wife. The reredos, which stands about eight feet in height from the altar steps, is very richly carved in detail, and takes the form of three panels separated by pillars of green Irish marble and in a massive framing of richly marked alabaster. The centre panel represents our Lord's Ascension with hands outstretched in blessing, while below are two of His disciples kneeling in adoration. In the panels on either side are represented two angels standing with clasped hands and gazing upward at their ascending Lord in the central panel. All the figures are in high bas relief, carved out of specially selected white alabaster, which gives a pleasing contrast to the fuller tones of the framing. The carving of the finials, caps, and crockets are all finished with the greatest care and skill. Below the retable the following inscription is carved in bold relief:—"In loving memory of Eva, wife of Sir Arthur Mackenzie, Bart. of Coull, A.D., 1910." The memorial is an exquisitely fine piece of art, and adds greatly to the adornment of an already beautiful church. The reredos was unveiled on a recent Sunday by Canon Hay Wilson, when a special service, especially appropriate to the occasion, was used.

Children's Department

THE ROOFER'S ROPE.

The steeple rears its slender height, sun-gilded, in the morning sky. A black and white swarm of swallows flutters around it, and through the glad cries with which they fill the air a human voice may be distinguished, coming none knows whence. The voice is singing in clear, resonant tones, to the accompaniment of brisk hammer-taps.

It is the voice of the roofer, suspended between heaven and earth, up yonder, a few yards from the cross. Mere looking at him occasions a shudder. One thinks of the yawning gulf below him, of all those stagings of columns and vaults; one thinks of the possibility of an accident—the horrible breaking of bones attending the fall of a body, dropping from cornice to cornice, striking against the angles, the gargoyles, and finally flattening itself upon the stones of the street. It makes one dizzy, and recalls the sensations of nightmare dreams, during which one clings to the eaves of some immeasurable high

edifice, mad with terror, about to drop into the void below.

The roofer seems free from all such thoughts. He proceeds untroubled with his work. The old stone saints, who allow the sparrows to nest in their beards and their sleeves, are not calmer on their pedestals.

Whence does he derive that sense of security? Clearly, from confidence. His life, no doubt, hangs upon a rope, but he knows that rope, and counts upon it as you count upon the solidity of the earth. He neither doubts nor trembles. He knows that when noon strikes at the church-clock, he will let himself down from knot to knot, will climb into the belfry, descend the innumerable stairs, and go home to his wife and children for dinner.

If we could trust the word of our fellowmen as the roofer trusts his rope!

The truth is that the life of each one of us depends, in large measure, upon the faithfulness of others. For how many beings does existence, as it were, hang upon a promise made them. Let the promise hold good, and they are happy, secure. But let the promise, like a rotten rope, part asunder, and behold them plunged lip-deep in sorrow.

Shall a man's word be less staunch than the flax of a rope? It should not be; it unfortunately is.

"I love you; I shall love you always; your life is my life; I bind myself to you this day by a sacred promise, and never shall my destiny, by my will, be severed from yours!" A man makes this promise to a woman, and trusting his word, she places her future in his hands. Her life, and the lives of innocent children, are suspended upon a word.

There are in the world too many men who fashion their Fopes out of damaged flax, or who allow them to deteriorate for lack of care. They are incapable of keeping in rainy weather a promise made when the sun was bright. In commerce, finance, friendship, love, politics, religion, there are too many unreliable ropes.

You say: "Who can be trusted? One is no longer sure of anybody!"—But, you who are speaking, can one rely upon you?

If you ask for a remedy to this evil, I will point one out with all my heart. It is condensed in the words "Be staunch!"

You will perhaps reply: "What is the use of one good rope among so many bad ones—of one solid man among so many hypocrites?" But I shall answer: "It is precisely because every one argues after that fashion that everything cracks and breaks beneath our feet, and that confidence, that basis of social life, is shaken. Be staunch, I tell you, be a man; have but one word, and long live the roofer's rope!"—S. S. Times.

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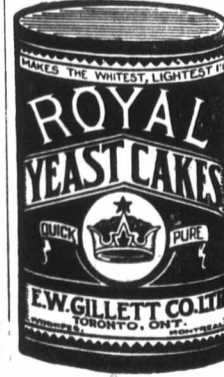
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mother's relatives send him presents of pork, eggs and vermicelli. One half of these presents is by custom accepted, the other half sent back to the givers. Meanwhile, the boy's maternal grandmother is making ready an ornamental centrepiece, so to speak, of a peculiar kind. She takes a pot with a spout, and puts

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