

COUNTRY TRAINING

The *Boston Herald* says:

A writer in the *Contemporary Review* calls attention to the fact that a very few of the leading men of New York city were born in the city. The great majority of them were born in the country, and a very large proportion emigrated from New England. This is not only true of men whose names are familiar to the public, but it is also true of successful business men whose names are not so well known. We suppose it is true of other cities as well as of New York. An examination of the leading men of Boston, in the learned professions and in business will show large majority of them came from the country. It is evident there is something in the country training which develops energy of character. Country boys learn at an early age to contend with opposition and to work for what they want. They naturally form habits of industry and economy, and these tell in the struggle of life. It is true, the world over, that cities need to be recruited by fresh blood from the country.

HOW TO PRAY.

An article found among the unpublished papers of the late Dr. J. A. Alexander, on "Circumlocution in Prayer," closes with the following "practical suggestions to young men who are forming their habits" in respect to prayer. They are equally applicable to all who pray in public, and especially to those who pray in the Sunday-School:

1. Let your prayer be composed of thanksgiving, praise, confession and petition, without any argument or exhortation addressed to those who are supposed to be praying with you.
2. Adopt no fixed forms of expression, except such as you obtain from Scripture.
3. Express your desires in the briefest, simplest form, without circumlocution.
4. Avoid the use of compound terms in place of the imperative mood.
5. Hallow God's name by avoiding its unnecessary repetition.
6. Adopt the simplest devotional phrases of Scripture; but avoid the free use of its figures, and all quaint and doubtful application of its terms to foreign subjects.
7. Pray to God and not to man.

NATURAL FORCE OF PRAYER.

A naturalist should be the last man in

the world to object to the efficacy of prayer, since prayer is itself one of the most potent of natural forces. The cry of the young raven brings its food from afar without any exertion on its part, for that cry has power to move the emotions and the muscles of the parent-bird, and to overcome her own selfish appetite. The bleat of the lamb not only brings its dam to its side, but causes the secretion of milk in her udder. The cry of distress nerves men to all exertions, and to brave all dangers, and to struggle against all or any of the laws of nature that may be causing suffering or death.

Nor in the case of prayer are the objects obtained at all mechanically commensurate with the activities set in motion. We have all seen how the prayer of a few captives, wrongfully held in durance by some barbarous potentate, may move mighty nations and cause them to pour out millions of their treasure to send men and material of war over land and sea, to sacrifice hundreds of lives, in order that a just and proper prayer may be answered. In such a case we see how the higher law overrides the lower, and may cause even frightful suffering and loss of life, in order that a moral or spiritual end may be gained. Are we to suppose, then, that the only being in the universe who cannot answer prayer is that One who alone has all power at his command? The weak theology which professes to believe that prayer has merely a subjective benefit is infinitely less scientific than the action of the child who confidently appeals to a Father in heaven.—*Principal Dawson.*

NOTICES.

The Supplementing Committee of the Presbyterian Church, Maritime Provinces, will meet, D. V., in St. James' Church, Charlottetown, on Wednesday, 31st May, at 9 a. m. Parties having business will please take notice.

P. G. MCGREGOR, *Secretary.*

The Committee on Home Missions will meet chiefly to arrange Preachers for July and August, at the same place, on Thursday Morning at nine. Clerks of Presbyteries invited to be present for their interests.

P. G. MCGREGOR, *Secretary.*

The Synod will meet in Charlottetown on Tuesday, May 30th, at 7 p. m. The General Assembly will meet in St. John on Wednesday, June 7th, at 7 p. m.

The Report of the Foreign Mission Board (Eastern Section) is crowded out of this issue and will appear in the next.