

It is not easy, of course, for a busy, often overtaxed mistress always to put herself in the place of the busy and also often overtaxed domestic, with her endless routine of work, unless, indeed, a temporary emergency compels her to make proof of the same herself—a discipline which is apt to develop her sympathies a little! Certainly, however, the increased exercise of consideration for servants in various ways—consideration in economizing work in training children—often the servant's bugbear—to be more orderly in their ways, and do their little share of household duty—consideration in regard to minimizing Sunday work, so as to afford the servants the day of rest, to which, in the very terms of the commandment, they are entitled—consideration for providing them with opportunities for suitable recreation and self-improvement—consideration in all these ways is sorely demanded of every conscientious, not to say every Christian, mistress. May we not hope that the day will come when every such mistress will regard herself as much responsible for the comfort and welfare of a young female domestic in her house as she would for that of a young guest, and will devote to her a portion of the same motherly care? There are many, even now, who do this, and we may cite one distinguished example, our noble Countess of Aberdeen, an example which we may well hope will have a widespread effect throughout this continent.

That girls are often greatly trying, even intensely provoking, is not to set us free from this responsibility. We can scarcely look for the highest principle or the most refined feeling from the homes and antecedent training—or lack of it—from which so many of them come into circumstances for which they have had little preparation. But we may do much to raise their tone of thought and feeling, and draw forth all that is good, instead of, as so often happens, fostering the reverse.

Obviously, this is a matter which must be set right from within. Legislation cannot do it, though sanitary inspectors should be careful to insist on the disuse of unwholesome sleeping-rooms; women's councils cannot meet the evil by resolutions, but the women who are banded together for the noble end of promoting the application of the Golden Rule to "law, custom, and society," can do much by their personal example and influence to call attention to the universal application of that divine rule to all the relations of life. If they are consistent, then, with their high aim, and if the influence of so large a body of women is unitedly brought to bear in this direction, we may look hopefully for a largely increased development of the brotherly spirit and the brotherly treatment, which, if universal, would be the truest and best solution of most of our social problems.

FIDELIS.

The Canadian National Society—A Suggestion.

WE have now arrived at the third chapter in the history of the growth of Canada. In the first, we read of the uniting of the isolated provinces of British North America into one great country. The second is the story of development, a period of expenditure in the building of railways and canals necessary to provide communication between the more distant provinces, and with the markets of the world. The third chapter, which is now opening, will, or, at any rate, should be, a period of scientific colonization. The building of railways and canals, which caused a circulation of money and a certain amount of consequent activity, has come to an end. We have now to meet the payment of two hundred million dollars expended to provide for a population of fifty or a hundred millions, and the whole burden lies upon a people less in number than the inhabitants of the city of London. The great task, then, of the immediate future is to fill the country. How can it be done? We cannot look to our politicians, for they are after votes, and the subject is too wide, perhaps a little too absolute and too devoid of the party element, to provide food for a stump speech. Besides, successful stump speaking is not remarkable for close reasoning. The main object of a politician, in these days, is to please the people, not to teach them. The leader of the Orange Order, who, by the constitution of his order, is bound, above all things, to preserve the constitution of his country, in his addresses to the people on the Manitoba school question, carefully abstains from any reference to the constitutional side of the question. The man who depends upon the vote of the Labour party tries to win their support by opposing the importation of labour to harvest the

crops in Manitoba. He would let them rot on the ground first. And he sometimes even goes so far as to be opposed to any expenditure by the Government for immigration purposes.

While man squabbles over the tariff and the Manitoba school question, the country is drifting to a crisis, the end of which it is difficult to see. Millions of dollars have been spent on immigration by the Government, the C.P.R., and the Hudson Bay Company, and between 1880 and 1890 we only succeeded in retaining an increase of 38,054 in our foreign born population. Politicians, of course, on the stump, attribute this, with everything else that is bad, to the national policy. But common sense tells us that it is due to the absolute lack of system, and to the fact that the sole object of all our efforts at colonization has been, not the building up of civilization, but the sales of our homesteads; perhaps also to our northern position on this continent. Nor can we shut our eyes to the conditions of life in our cities. Higher education, increased facilities of communication, departmental stores, the evolution of machinery and of women, are rapidly bringing nearer the time when many will be forced to turn back from the city to the farm. With the cessation of immigration and settling down of the country the volume of litigation has permanently decreased by fifty per cent. in the last fifteen years, and yet lawyers are increasing in large numbers. In Toronto it is estimated that there are two hundred lawyers not making enough to pay office rent, and a similar proportion of doctors not paying expenses. Advertise for a public school teacher, and you will have a hundred and fifty applicants for miserable pittance. Meanwhile the educational mill is still going on. A hopeless battle for life is being fought by many of the smaller merchants against the principle of centralization. As the Indians disappeared before the march of advancing civilization, so the small storekeepers in this city must, in time, drop out before this new phase of mercantile evolution. And it is a parallel sign of the times that our patriotic societies, who should, by the great force of social attraction which they possess, contribute their dollars to bring their countrymen to Canada, subscribe, instead, to ship back home the city-stranded immigrant who cannot find employment here. These are facts; they will not be denied. We must take the world as it comes. But why should we go on drifting any longer? Are we living on hopes? The vote must soon be protested. Sooner or later we must turn right about face; and on our banner as we march will be inscribed, "Back to the land."

Canada, of course, is not alone in this. Let us see what other countries have been doing. In Holland labour colonies have flourished for seventy-five years under Government control. The German Government are dealing with the problem of relieving the congestion of cities upon similar lines with their land banks and colonies in Prussian Poland. In England there are numerous colonization societies with training homes and home farm colonies. And, to come to new countries, in the United States there has lately been formed the National Colonial Society, dealing with the same problems. Lectures have been delivered in the eastern cities, and model colonies are being founded upon scientific lines in the West. Nor has Australia been idle. The Government of South Australia, two years ago, passed the Village Settlement Act, which set aside for the use of colonists certain lands on the Murray River, and arranged for the advance of \$250 to each member of a colony in the form of a loan.

In Canada we are just beginning to wake up to the situation. In Montreal a Repatriation Society has existed among the French Canadians for some time. This, with the formation of a permanent immigration association in Winnipeg, and the application of a number of Toronto's citizens to the Provincial Legislature for a charter to carry out a system of home colonization for the unemployed, marks the transition line from the realms of intellectual interest to the field of practical work. It is an evidence that there is a large body of men who realize the situation and are willing to give thought, work, and time, to grapple with our great national problem; and it is reasonable to suppose that for every man who comes to the surface there are ten behind his back.

The situation is critical and fraught with possibilities. It is important that, at the start, this new force of "popular association" should be based upon the most comprehensive, lasting, and workable lines.

Two questions now confront us: What is the real province