

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## The Latest School

Western society is so complex that it is exceedingly difficult to know how to make all the adjustments necessary to the highest betterment. To organize all the friendly forces in a community, to give these direction and motive is no simple work. Trained social workers were never more necessary than to-day. It is therefore a pleasure to know that a school for giving the necessary training is to be opened in Winnipeg this month. The course outlined is both simple and practical. There is visitation of all the institutions for social reform and improvement—jails, homes, orphanages, reformatories, schools of various types; there is instruction in play-ground activities, in the organization and management of all kinds of social clubs. Information is given as to the best method of dealing with all forms of poverty, vice, crime, and social wrong. A study is made of methods in other countries. The best ways of conducting home and school, of unifying the religious and moral forces of the community will be considered. As it is to-day nearly all the educative forces of the community help the individual for his own sake. The aim of the teaching of the new organization will be to impress teachers, preachers and parents that their highest mission is to help individuals for the sake of society. If, as a result of the training given in the school just about to be opened, there are a dozen intelligent men and women sent into our towns and cities, who know how to unify and harmonize the forces making for righteousness and who know how to promote friendly feeling and offset bitter rivalry and jealousy, any trouble and expenses involved in the undertaking will be well justified.

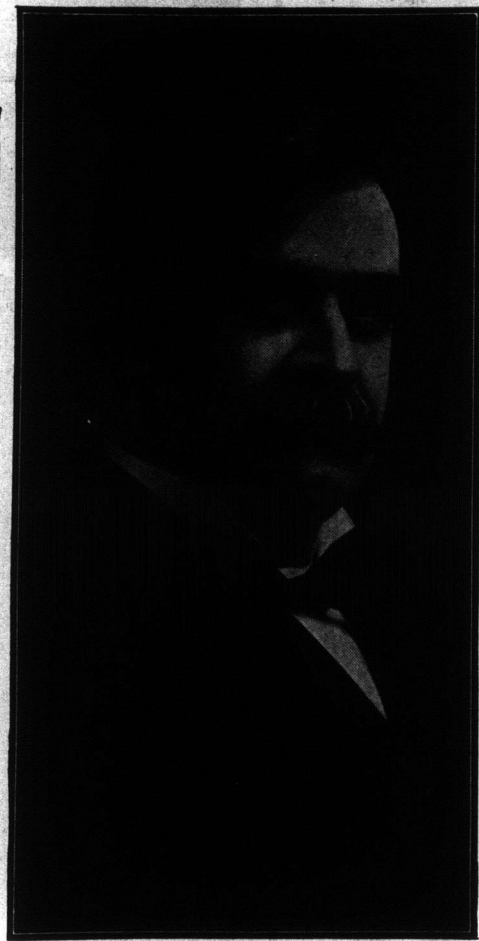
## A Good Practice

A good old practice might well be revived. It was the practice of inter-visitation between city and country homes. In winter one or two children from the farms spent a week in the city, and in the summer some of the city children paid a return visit to the farms. The effect, as we now remember it, was decidedly wholesome all around. First of all the children of the farm had an insight into the more varied life. Their experience was broadened and enriched. True, they may have picked up a few notions and practices which were not quite in line with country ideas, but these worked no permanent injury. So, too, the city children came into a new and totally strange environment. They grew bodily and intellectually. And in the interchange of opinions, the trials of strength and wit there was born a friendship that time will never eradicate. It would be a great gain for parents to recognize that the education of their children cannot be completed in the public school. The school is but one of many agencies. The best education is given when boys and girls mingle in a friendly way under right supervision. There are few ways equal to the old-time practice of inter-visitation.

## Dr. J. L. Gordon

There is nobody who is better known or more loved by the readers of The Western Home Monthly than Dr. J. L. Gordon, of the Central Congregational Church, Winnipeg. For many years his words of wisdom and inspiration have been read by thousands

of young men. No portion of the magazine has been more popular or more helpful than the page devoted to "The Young Man and His Problem." There will therefore be great interest taken in the announcement that Dr. Gordon has given up his pastorate to enter a larger work. He is to become in a fuller sense what he has been in reality all along—an evangelist of the higher socialism. In the olden days an evangelist was one who endeavored to reach individuals, to awaken them to a consciousness of sin, to bring them into right relation to God. Dr. Gordon wishes to emphasize another side of the gospel. He wishes to make every man feel that he is his brother's keeper. He wishes to make each person feel that he is responsible not only for his own conduct, but the conduct of the community.



Rev. J. L. Gordon, D.D.

He wants men and women with more than merely religious ideals and aspirations; he wants ideal community conditions. He wants men to love their neighbors as themselves. If man's first duty is to love God, his second duty must of necessity go along with it. He must love his fellow-men. Therefore Dr. Gordon will preach the necessity of every man losing his soul in order to save it. No one should be happy while his neighbor is suffering. Vice, crime, intemperance, iniquity, tyranny, and all forms of wrong-doing are impossible to the Christian. Dr. Gordon will make every man feel that his first duty is to preserve right social conditions, to protect the poor, the weak, the unfortunate, to make virtue easy and crime difficult. In short he proposes to arouse the social conscience. No one could be better fitted for the task, and no task is more necessary. The Western Home Monthly wishes the Doctor all success in his mission.

## That Great Calamity

There is no one who does not sympathize with those who lost friends in that awful catastrophe in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Real sympathy will not rest satisfied with

kind words and loving thoughts. It will see in the calamity a type of that which is always possible and will seek to prevent a repetition of such a disaster. Humanly speaking it would seem to be possible to avoid accidents of this nature. With a channel twenty-five miles wide there should be well-defined courses for incoming and outgoing vessels. This is all the more necessary because of the frequent fogs in the Gulf. It is hardly fair to blame Providence for the mistakes of mankind. It is to be hoped that the Commission of Enquiry will be able to suggest such changes in nautical practice as will render travel on the seas less risky than at present. This is even more important than finding who was to blame for the collision which ended in the death of so many precious souls. It is a great satisfaction to know that our own countrymen in their last trying minutes were true to their traditions of bravery and Christian duty. If we are made heroic by seeing how heroes die, then those of us who have read the accounts of the Titanic and the Empress of Ireland, and who knew some of those who behaved so nobly, should by this time have lost our last ounce of cowardice. May it be so.

## Naval Policy

It remained for such an authority as Sir Percy Scott to make a definite pronouncement of what was in the minds of many people, to arouse the whole British press and the Navy League to an expression of opinion. Sir Percy concludes that the day of the dreadnought is gone; that new conditions make necessary a new method of warfare. It may be the announcement credited to Sir Percy is premature, but it is clear that coming years will see a revolution in naval and military tactics. How that revolution will affect Britain's financial standing, her international policy, her relation to the colonies, remains to be seen. The following from an old country journal is a sound commentary on present conditions: "The incident gives rise to a discussion of the occasion for a complete revision of the naval policy of the Empire. The opinion is growing here that, in view of the difference of opinion between the admiralty and the self-governing dominions, the time is rapidly coming when there should be another Imperial conference to discuss how best the outlying sections of the Empire can do their duty to the Motherland. If, as Sir Percy Scott says, dreadnoughts have gone out of date, there may be occasion for discussion as to how else the dominions can give their aid."

On the other hand there is a very conservative element to be reckoned with. The feeling of this element is clearly set forth in the following: "Arguments against Scott's views are ably stated to-day by an anonymous naval officer in The Times. While admitting the great possibilities of the submarine boat, he points out that the French admiralty some time ago, seriously believing that they had an ideal submarine boat, considered adopting such a policy as Scott now suggests. The result was complete confusion and displacement of France as a high naval power and reversion to a policy of building large ships with great haste in order to recover the position lost."