

Higher Female Education.

The following article was published editorially in the Sunday Times of this city, although taken without acknowledgement from the editorial columns of the Evangelical Witness.

The demand for greater facilities for the higher education of young ladies is creating a supply of superior institutions for that purpose; we augur great benefit to society therefrom. The higher educational advantages of our daughters have too long been unduly restricted, and what there were have, for the most part, been very expensive, more so than for young men. That education has also been confined to largely to showy accomplishments instead of solid acquirements. It was calculated to form rapid and shallow followers of fashion rather than refined and intellectual women. Experience has shown that girls can climb side by side with their brothers up the difficult steps of learning, asking no favour, and often carrying off the palm from the sterner sex; and they have done this without prejudice to their health, but often greatly to its advantage. The regular hours, simple, wholesome diet, and pleasant employment of college life prove highly conducive to physical as well as mental health, and many who come to college invalid go home well. Indeed, the strain upon the bodily powers of fashionable folly and dissipation, the round of parties with their late hours, unhygienic dress and rich food, is far greater than that required to gain distinction in literary pursuits. The listless ennuï, the vacuity of thought and action, and the insatiable novel reading of many young ladies enervate both body and mind, and often cause them to sink into chronic nervous invalids. Education, by giving resources of mental occupation and enjoyment, by opening vistas of thought and study, and by furnishing rational objects of pursuit in life, increases the vigor of the vital and intellectual faculties, makes existence a blessing instead of a burden, and enables the otherwise listless fair one to be a permanent benefit instead of a transient ornament to society.

The Methodist Church has ever been foremost in the effort to furnish higher education for its sons and daughters. A seminary for both sexes, at Cobourg, long since converted into the University of Victoria College, was the earliest institution of the kind in Canada. Its Ladies' College at Hamilton has won a distinguished reputation, not only in America but in Europe. Its College for both sexes at St. Catharines has opened under most favorable auspices; and now a new candidate for public patronage was recently opened at Whitby. The Directors have purchased the finest private residence in the Dominion, with the beautiful grounds attached, and are vigorously preparing for offering the very best facilities for higher female education. Other Churches are also moving in the same direction. The effects of a generation of highly educated wives and mothers on the elevation of society will be incalculable.

Conference Greetings.

The following is an extract from the racy correspondence of the Editor of the Provincial Wesleyan.

To-day (Wednesday) we are in the first stages of General Conference proceedings. There is a marked difference, one sees immediately, between this and ordinary Conferences. An ex-Governor elevated to the Chair, pro tem! Lawyers, leading merchants, mechanics, bankers, farmers,—here they are in scores, mixed with most thoughtful disregard of all proprieties of time, and bringing their strength of intellect to bear on the affairs of our Church. It seems but as yesterday that we gave notice of motion in a Charlottetown Conference for opening the doors of our Annual Conference to the public. That resolution actually lay on the table for six years, so fearful were we of losing its object by any attempt at bringing its principle into discussion. And now, here we are with laymen swarming into our Conference like June bees into a choice garden! Thank God. There is no mistaking the ability of our lay delegates. From the commencement they move than justified the opinions of those who legislated to admit the laity into this chief council of our Church. Our own ex-Governor Wilmot, Dr. Allison, Hon. S. L. Shannon, and others took high ground immediately as wise and eloquent men. It was specially refreshing to hear Mr. Wilmot rasping of the sharp edges of old torism, as it quibbled and haggled over technicalities, to the serious loss of good men's time and temper. Dr. Ryerson's speech on taking the chair was very graceful; but in the absence of that, executive experience which gives a Chairman authoritative

strength, he will require one or two veteran High Sheriffs to hold the assembly well in awe. The first day was spent in clearing away masses of such confessional underbrush as usually confronts all pioneers. After this we have every hope, there will be every facility for forwarding the important business of the Conference.

The Crisis of Souls.

Often when travelling among the Alps, one sees a small black cross planted upon a rock, or on the brink of a torrent, or on the verge of the highway, to mark the spot where men have met with sudden death by accident. Solemn reminders, these, of our mortality! But they led our minds still further; for we said within us, if the places where men seal themselves for the second death could be thus manifestly indicated, what a scene would this world present! Here the memorial of a soul undone by yielding to a foul temptation, there a conscience seared by the rejection of a final warning, and yonder a heart forever turned into stone by resisting the last tender appeal of love. Our places of worship would scarce hold the sorrowful monuments which might be erected over spirits whose spirits were forever lost—spirits that date their ruin from sinning against the gospel while under the sound of it.—Spurgeon.

The Couriers of the Czar.

The Russian couriers, or pony expressmen, or mail-carriers, as you may choose to call them, travel neither on foot nor on horseback. You will find that in this matter, as in almost every custom and habit of every people, nature compels man to alter his arrangements to suit her conditions. In Tartary they have fine horses, great wide deserts, and splendid roads, and naturally, the couriers there are mounted; in England, where the roads are bad, running through bogs and marches, the old couriers were footmen; in Russia, where snow lies on the ground nearly the whole year, sleighs are used by the couriers. The "Couriers of the Czar," as the mail carriers are called, travel with great rapidity. Fresh horses and drivers are ready at stations every twenty miles apart; but the couriers themselves sleep in the sleigh, and travel from one end of the mail route to the other. Special messengers of the Czar, on public business, travel by the same routes, and with even greater rapidity than the mail carriers. During the Crimean war there occurred an incident illustrating the severity of this service. The Russian general, Prince Mentchikoff who defended Sebastopol, had occasion during the siege of that city, to send an important message to the Czar at St. Petersburg; and ordered a faithful officer to be his messenger, giving him directions not to halt or delay until he stood before the Czar, and above all, not to lose sight of the precious message which he bore. Away went the officer in a sleigh belonging to the Czar's couriers. At the end of each twenty miles, he found fresh horses awaiting him; these were quickly harnessed to his sleigh, in place of the weary animals, and the servants and stable-men would cry out:

"Your Excellency, the horses are ready." "Away then!" the officer would say to the driver; and off he would go again at the most rapid pace at which the horses were capable. Riding in this way for several days and nights, suffering with cold, and pursued by wolves in the forests, the officer, weary with watching his despatches day and night, at length reached the palace of the Czar, and was immediately ushered into his presence. He had no sooner handed the Emperor the letter of the general than the messenger sank into a chair and fell fast asleep in the royal presence,—an offence which, in some ages, would have been punishable with instant death. When he had finished reading the despatch, the Czar wished to ask the officer a question, but found he could not awaken him. The attendants called to him, touched and shook him, all in vain; and at last one declared the poor fellow was dead. The Czar was much grieved thereat, and went to the officer and examined his pulse, put his ear down to his side, and declared he could hear his heart thumping. He was only asleep. But he soon found the exhausted officer could not be roused by the usual means. At length the Czar, stooping down, cried in his ears:

"Your Excellency, the horses are ready." At the sound of these words, which he had heard every twenty miles of his journey, and the only ones which he had listened to for days, the faithful officer sprang to his feet and cried:

"Away then!" Instead of drivers and horses, he found the Czar before him, laughing heartily at his confusion and dismay. You may be sure his offence was forgotten; instead of being punished for sleeping when his work was done, the officer was rewarded for his faithfulness.—St. Nicholas.

Worldly pleasures are no more able to satisfy the soul than the light of a candle to give day to the world. Fancy and humor early and constantly indulged, may expect an old age overrun with follies.

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