

eyes to the gravity of the question of water supplies. Fort William is a flourishing town, beautifully situated, and deriving its water supply from the river near by. When the citizens first took drinking water from the river it was undoubtedly pure and healthy water; but, as time went on and the population on the banks of the river increased, it inevitably became badly polluted. Such is the history of the present epidemic. There are quite a number of towns at the present time running risks as great as that of Fort William."

The Decline of Authority.

A contributory cause to the lessening of obedience in children, and their consequent decline of respect for their elders and superiors, is the too prevalent laxity in the home and in the Church in teaching the principles of authority and firmly maintaining their practice. A law, let it be ever so necessary for the safety of the individual or the security of society, soon becomes a dead letter when it is neglected and disobeyed. So long as authority is not exercised in the home and in the Church the waters of the fountain provided for the sweetening and strengthening of the one and the other will become insipid and unsatisfying, having lost the tonic property which gave them their vital power. The rule of law is essential to the growth and maintenance of the law of love.

Civil Marriages.

A great deal of needless misery has been caused in some countries by the contesting claims of Church and State, and we are glad to find from the "Literary Digest" that a wise step to avoid trouble in future has been taken in a new catechism issued in Italy. As the marriage is a sacrament, the catechism naturally teaches that a civil marriage is not sufficient; but it directs that people should enter on a civil marriage because of the civil results and the rights before the law that are conditioned on such an arrangement. For this reason, says the catechism, as a rule, the Church authorities will celebrate the religious ceremony only after the civil marriage.

Clerical Stipends.

No less an authority than the Bishop of Birmingham has announced that over 6,000 of the English clergy receive less than \$1,000 per annum respectively. It cannot be said that these figures justify the statement that the English Church clergy as a rule lead lives of luxury, or even of ordinary comfort. When one is further informed on good authority that over one hundred clergymen are inmates of workhouses, what a sad commentary do these facts present on the growth of indifference and worldliness in the Old Land, and the lack of Christian charity.

Baroness Burdett Coutts.

A lesson has been taught by a monogenarian—this time a lady—who, during her long life of ninety-two years, has striven for the good of the poor and the advancement of true religion and godliness, the Baroness Burdett Coutts. As illustrating how her faculties are unimpaired, and also how she gives an oft-needed lesson we find her writing as follows in a communication to a society for promoting kindness to animals: "What I want all teachers to do is to impress upon the children under their instruction the moral obligation of respecting that great gift of God, life—that gift which man can destroy, but is utterly powerless to restore. Every one should view with reverence and respect the mysterious principle of life, whether it assumes the form of a human being or of an animal. Life is life under whatever form it may be found, and it is God's great gift to us all. I do not think this subject

has been treated in the way it ought to be; that is, as it concerns our duty towards God as well as to ourselves." A much-needed lesson, and coming from this aged lady, should be received here as well as elsewhere with the greatest respect, and with practical application. We need only to lift up our eyes to see the wanton waste and destruction that there has been and still continues upon this continent of beast and bird and fish—a waste which can never be recalled, but one which can be modified.

Public Parks.

There is much to be said in favour of setting apart park land for the use of the public. In crowded city or small village the public park is an asset of inestimable value. Here, rich and poor alike, as in the Church itself, meet on common ground. In the one, it is true, the bond is mutuality in Divine worship. In the other it is the enjoyment of nature's noble free air, light and space, with the cherished accompaniments of green grass, shading tree, running water, bird song, flower fragrance and bloom. Here the young may play, the old may rest, and the crippled or ailing may be refreshed by the sun and soothed by the breeze, and may have their hearts touched by nature's sweet and pleasing ministrations.

The Intercolonial Railway

Is a continual sink of public money; but the Minister has very properly recalled ancient history in defending it and in reminding the House that the Intercolonial was not designed to pay. The road had its inception at the conference in Charlottetown in 1864 . . . and all of these gentlemen at public meetings in Halifax and St. John had put forward the construction of a railroad as one of the essentials for Confederation. The road was not intended as a commercial, but as a defensive and as a political measure. Nowadays the operation of the Intercolonial is a constant subject for criticism, but the intentions with which the road was built are forgotten. However, the Intercolonial has always been a profitable thing for the people of Canada, but the profits have remained in the pockets of the people. They have taken their profits out of the very low freight rates given. One of the purposes for which the road was designed was to bring the people of Upper and Maritime Canada closer together. That this has been accomplished is shown by the fact that the trade which the New England manufacturers formerly did with the Maritime Provinces has been diverted to the manufacturers of Upper Canada. That the people of Ontario have benefited from the Intercolonial's low rates is shown by this and by the fact that three-quarters of the traffic of the road is eastbound and only one-quarter westbound. If the Canadian Pacific or the Grand Trunk rates had been applied to the Intercolonial all these years and the volume of traffic had been the same there would never have been anything but surpluses. But it is doubtful if the Ontario manufacturer would have succeeded.

A MISSIONARY HEROINE.

The sympathy of the whole Church is with the Bishop of Mackenzie River in his recent deep sorrow. Mrs. Reeves for thirty-seven years has been his faithful and devoted co-worker, and the example of her life is a rich heritage to the Church. Many will remember the Bishop's description of the three months' journey in an open boat on their way to the Great Lone Land over thirty years ago, and of the trials and privations of the way. Many times during the intervening years the danger of famine has stared them in the face, and on more than one occasion, when there was not food enough for both, the Bishop had to go for the winter and live with some dis-

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tant tribe of Indians so that wife and children might have sufficient to eat. On one occasion of the kind, when the Bishop returned in the spring, Mrs. Reeves staggered from weakness due to lack of nourishment as she went to meet him. For many years their home consisted of one room, which was kitchen, bedroom, school and living-room in one, and in this room, divided only by a curtain, some of her children were born. Afterwards, when her family were at C.M.S. schools in England, the irregularity of mail communication added to the trials of their life; and once when the half-yearly mail arrived at Fort Simpson all the letters had been left behind by the Hudson Bay people. Some newspapers were received, however, and, with an intense longing to read of the outside world, but with the pressure of immediate household duties upon her, Mrs. Reeves propped open a newspaper so that she might read it while she went on with her work. The first paragraph she read told of the death of her sister, and she had to wait another six months before she could get any further information. Truly, she has endured hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, and she has now entered into her reward.

SPECULATION.

Most men have indulged in a little speculation at one time or another; and happy may the man deem himself whose fingers were pinched at his first venture, and who thus was experimentally taught one of the best lessons of life, which Goethe has so well written for us in "Faust": "He only deserves freedom and life who is daily compelled to conquer them for himself." The method by which this end can be achieved cannot better be described than in the words of Virgil: "Stubborn labour conquers everything." There are but comparatively few men who do not wish to improve their position or increase their means; but the way to do it is what makes most of them pause and do a bit of thinking. The first thought with a good many is to take a short cut, and so save time and lessen distance. A short cut is nearly always tempting to an energetic traveller, who wants to get there, and get there quickly. But one is apt to find bits of swamp or steep slopes to negotiate, or wood-falls to climb over, that were unseen at the start, and when the road is reached our pedestrian may find that the short cut has taken out of him more than he bargained for. There is usually more comfort and satisfaction in the old travelled way, though it may take more time to go the round. It is quite true that you cannot put old heads on young shoulders, but experience counts for something, even with hot-blooded youth. A wise trainer knows well that firmness and gentleness should go hand-in-hand, and that many a promising and high-spirited colt has been ruined in temper and action by ill-judged harshness. "Discipline," says Hare, "like the bridle in the hand of a good rider, should exercise its influence without appearing to do so, should be ever active, both as a support and as a restraint, yet seem to lie easily in hand." When one thinks of the temptation speculation offers to young bank clerks from the comparative smallness of their salaries, the constant contact with money, and the long period which must elapse before promotion and income give promise of marriage, and the comparative luxury in which many of them have been brought up, one is apt to wonder why bank authorities have not thought it, in their own interest and in the interest of the young men, for whom they are in a measure responsible, to provide courses of short, practical lectures or addresses for the young men in their charge. Such lectures would, we conceive, be most helpful. The wisdom and experience of competent men in the theory and practice of banking, and the ethics of the calling, and the dangers and safeguards to be avoided, and availed of in its pursuit, would thus be

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placed at the disposal of most, and at the time plastic and habits are being evil. If money for such needed the directors of law, medicine, art lectures. Why not study they established the should be honoured and elevated less likelihood of young prospects ruined by the

THE VERY RE

The singular coincidence Dean and the Chancellor within two days blank in the front rank of the Church in Canada the Diocese loses perhaps, in the mode dash and eloquence, by kindly counsel, the sol tact, which has made of many, and has been the Diocese a Cathedral. When he came to St. ago, it was a small str 1891 he engineered it: when the disastrous once, began its restoration completion of one beautiful ecclesiastical minion. In the City missed, for he was a gentleman, ready at counsel to advance years ago the Dean At Bishop's College, education, obtaining it. For eight years he was the Upper Ottawa, a Marysburg and Sha appointed curate of in 1883, rector of St became acting rector Kingston, and in 18 Lister, he became Dean Kingston. The Dean to survive him. Or mains were reverent where hundreds of peaceful face of vie morning there was a munion at 8 o'clock Ontario and the Re burial service. N Diocese were in attendance from all the religious institutions were provided by members of the feigned expressions to its last resting place at Cataract.

DR

Coupled with the Walkem, Chancellor singular gifts, broad. He was born in years ago, and from 1864 has steadily risen of King's Counsel, cellor of the Diocese Masonic circles, a Order. Dr. Walkem of a cultured gentleman excellent critic, former of good doer constant companion centre of genial habit and jovial manner. No man upheld the greater dignity, and have been an ornament.