

Editorial Articles.

HELP IN CHURCH WORK.



SOME of the pastors have too much work to do : and all of them would be the better of some assistance. We propose to show how they may be assisted. That part of their work which they can never overtake, is pastoral

visitation. The INDEPENDENT makes twelve visits annually in many hundred households ; draws the line at what is useful and edifying ; has a word for the children ; news that does not run into idle gossip ; preaches a little, without weariness ; and does generally the work of an "Assistant Pastor," at a dollar a year !

We give, in another connection, an account of the ordination of an assistant pastor in Toronto ; but it is not every church that is in so favored a position. But each may have the monthly visit and conversation of our assistant-pastor-general in his robe of terra-cotta hue—he who is never late for tea, and never gets angry, and never stays away on account of an engagement elsewhere ; and never has the temptation of repeating in one house what is said in another.

We counsel our pastors to avail themselves more largely of his assistance. It is precisely in the line of their best work. And while they are benefiting their own members, they are also helping other churches, by strengthening our only literary interchange. We have not got as yet, the five hundred new subscribers so urgently pleaded for by the President of the Publishing Company, but we ought to have them. Don't let any ministerial brother rest till our church organ is found in every house ! It preaches Christ to the family, when the pastor cannot be there. But like every assistant, it wants overseeing ; and a "report" and an "audit" once a year, and that is where so many of our brethren fail.

REFERENCES KINDLY PERMITTED.

No description is as good as a picture, and no recommendation is as good as a sample. When "references" are "kindly permitted," we are always referred to somebody who has tested and used the article—or who has patronized the establishment—or sent his children to the school, as the case may be.

The Rumsellers don't like this test applied to them and their "trade." They don't give us "references" to those who have used most of their compounds. We should come across too many ruined bodies and souls ; too much poverty, crime and degradation, the legitimate outcome of their efforts !

The same test might be applied to the Romish priest, who arrogates to himself, and the "Church" (by which term he never intends you to include the *membership*) the whole direction of the education of the young. His honest announcement—his advertising card—should read, "References kindly permitted to former pupils ; to Spain, to Italy, to Mexico, and to South America." The first two, Rome has had for pupils for a thousand years ; the others for three centuries. If the "education" Rome has given these countries, is such as only disgusts and appals us, can we with any reason or safety, give any portion of our youth in this Dominion, into such hands ? No, Messieurs, we have looked at your "References," and they are not satisfactory. We judge what you are likely to do, by what you have done, and are now doing. Victor Hugo grandly says:—Italy, which taught mankind to read, now knows not how to read. Spain has lost the secret power it obtained from the Romans, the genius of art it had from the Arabs, the world it had from God ; and in exchange for all that you have made it lose, it has received from you the Inquisition."

Correspondence.

MR. H. J. CLARK AND THE EX-PARTE COUNCIL.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

SIR,—In last month's number of the C. I. there appeared a communication from Mr. H. J. Clark,