

CHURCH and HOME

The Magazine of the Presbytery of St. John.

Vol. 1.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1896.

No. 11

WOMAN'S sphere in the service of the Church is a subject that has given rise to the keenest discussion. We do not pretend to define it, but that her influence is one of the most powerful agencies for good none will deny.

We do not believe that woman is equal to man, and further, we do not believe that they should be placed in comparison. There is a difference in form and temperament, and surely the Almighty meant, we do not say difference, but distinction, when He created them male and female. There are duties that belong to man and there are duties that belong to woman, in their own sphere each is supreme. There is a delicacy of feeling and sensitiveness of disposition that mark a true woman that we do not look for in man, and there is a boldness and vigour that we associate with manhood that we never apply to woman. No hard and fast line need be drawn as to what either the one or the other can and must do; both are of service in helping forward the Kingdom of Truth.

Usually it is the mother's tenderness and patience that have the deepest impression on the young mind, and are remembered long after words of instruction are forgotten. There are chords in the human heart that will only respond to a woman's

touch, and why should the Church refuse to sanction what is so abundantly fruitful in good works? Why should we not have associated with the regular officers of the Church women who could administer charity and attend to much of the visitation that cannot be well performed by either minister or elder?

THE Churches of every denomination for some time back have shown a commendable interest in the welfare of the young. In our denomination every congregation has a Sabbath School and a Bible Class. In many of our pulpits special addresses to children are given regularly. Young People's Societies, whether Christian Endeavour or Literary Societies, have in many cases been formed. A Committee has been formed by the General Assembly to look after the interests and take oversight of these Associations. The young people thus receive a great deal of attention at the hands of the Church.

Yet the outcome is not satisfactory. There are very few of the large number who leave our Sunday Schools every year who actually find their way into the membership of the Church. There is no column in the statistical return to indicate how many drop out of the school every