

ceeded. The new convert felt it her duty to train up her children in the Church, out of which, she was taught to believe there was no salvation. The father, an earnest Protestant, and communicant of the Church, firmly resisted this proceeding. The wife yielded. She promised that the religious training of the children should be in the hands of the father. But this her Romish advisers would not allow. They would not permit her to remain in the Church, except upon the condition that she should educate her children in the Romish Church. Yielding to the power which she had adopted as her infallible guide, and dreading the anathema of the Church, she felt constrained in conscience to obey. Under this state of things a collision of wills was inevitable. It was likely to be a strong collision; just in proportion to the strength and sincerity of religious feeling and conviction on both sides. That it never led to scenes of outrage or personal violence, or anything more than those verbal encounters which were inevitable, we know on the most satisfactory evidence. But it was a state of things that could not last.

On the 8th of May a card was published purporting to come from Mrs. Sherwood, in which the statement was made that she was compelled by her husband's personal injustice and unkindness to leave him. Several specifications were given of threats and alleged ill-treatment. No allusion was made to any religious differences. This was followed by a card from Mr. Sherwood, in which the true cause of her departure was indicated. The card deals tenderly with his wife, and with dignity and calmness assigns the misguided step which she has been induced to take to its true influence. Mr. Sherwood says:—

"The charges brought against me are false in every particular. The true difficulty is not between Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood, but between the Roman Catholic Church and myself. When I first became acquainted with her, she was a member of that Church, but on her engagement with me promised to leave it and attach herself to mine. I have not the smallest doubt of the sincerity of that promise. She kept it religiously for more than twelve years, in spite of persecutions and threats which I have never known equalled. She has at length given way, and been persuaded to disolate my home, by leaving it, and taking all my children with her. But for this I do not consider her responsible. She struggled for the above period against influences and threats, which none can realize except those who have been the subject of them; and I am persuaded that, when she comes to her senses, she will regret the step as much as I do."

Mrs. Sherwood and her children disappeared; and for months Mr. Sherwood was unable to trace them. It is unnecessary to state the measures by which their hiding-place in Paris was found; and by which Mrs. Sherwood was enabled most gladly and gratefully to rejoin her husband. But some of the facts connected with her abduction as they now appear, in part, in the communications of Mr. Sherwood and the Archbishop, and in part as they are known to the writer, ought to be made known and pondered.

The card published in the name of Mrs. Sherwood was never written by her! By whomsoever written, not a syllable of it came from her! Mr. Sherwood believes it was the work of the Archbishop. He pronounces all its statements utterly untrue. Mrs. Sherwood most reluctantly signed it in the tumult and excitement of feeling on the eve of her hurried departure without fully comprehending its contents. She did not wish any card to be published. In case one were, she wished that the real reason for the

step should appear. The most prominent reason was the belief which her adviser had induced her to entertain, without the slightest foundation, that her husband was about to remove her children from her. Nothing short of that would ever have induced her to take the step. But she was overruled. She was in the hands of masters. They induced her to believe that unless she fled with her children they would be taken from her; and they would not aid and enable her to flee, unless she signed a card in which they would not allow the real reasons of her departure to appear. Under this constraint she consented,—but only in case that its publication should be necessary to vindicate the Church. The Archbishop denies that the card was prepared by him. He says that the original document, in Mrs. Sherwood's handwriting, has been sent to him; and that it will be sent to the office of the *Enquirer* for the inspection of the curious. No such paper has been sent to the office of the *Enquirer*!

The agency of Archbishop Purcell in this shameful proceeding, is not obscure. He was, throughout the whole affair, her adviser and guide. That he advised and assisted in her abduction is perfectly clear. The writer of this has seen a letter from Mrs. Sherwood, written in Paris, in which she states that it was by his advice that she left her husband. To this charge made against him by Mr. Sherwood, he makes only the general admission,—“That he gave her letters that might procure for her friends among strangers.” It was by the aid of these letters that she was secreted in a nunnery at Montreal until she sailed for Europe, and was enabled to secure a secluded and almost impenetrable retreat at Paris. The sister was but a mere tool in the hands of the Church!

The course afterwards pursued towards Mrs. Sherwood was of a piece with that which had preceded it. Her husband states that he found his wife and children in Paris almost in a state of destitution. The Archbishop denies it. He states that she was in comfortable apartments, and had in her possession drafts for seventeen hundred francs, at the time she was found by Mr. Sherwood. The Archbishop wisely omits to mention that they were made payable to the order of her sister; and therefore worth as much to her as so much blank paper! Mrs. Sherwood was left in destitute circumstances! She was left to earn scanty bread by her needle. This we know on the best authority. She was so straitened at one time as to have been on the eve of writing to her husband to come for the children because she could not support them.

## HOW LONG SHALL WE LIVE?

(From N. E. Farmer.)

There are probably few men who are so wholly lost in the whirl of business or pleasure as never to put this question to themselves. It may be a dreaded and hated question, but there are serious moments in the experience of most of us, when it will come up in the mind, and insist upon being heard.

Though nothing can be more uncertain than life, yet the chances or probabilities of its duration may be calculated with mathematical accuracy, taking a number of individuals into the account. Thus we have carefully constructed reliable tables, showing the expectation of life at any given age. The business of life-insurance, the value of annuities, reversions, dower rights, &c., are based upon these calculations. The "expectation of life" may be explained as the mean number of future years which