

Be Patient!

OF the eight hundred ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada not one is perfect; do not be surprised or disappointed then that your pastor is not faultless. He is perhaps no better and no worse than his brethren. If you expected angelic virtues without a mixture of human frailties, you were much to blame. Paul was not yet perfect. Peter and John had their faults. In all the range of Christian biography, where can you point to your faultless, blameless, perfect men? Since then faults and imperfections are to be expected, be watchful of your own heart and mind lest you give scope and exercise to a spirit of ungenerous criticism, laying hold on little things and magnifying them; imagining or inventing faults where none exist, and exaggerating such as are real. Fault-finding will not improve your minister, and will most surely injure yourself. It is needless to say that we should go to God's house filled with love to Him and prepared to render to Him the service of praise and prayer, and to receive with meekness the teaching of His word. The sermon may not be eloquent; it may not be delivered with the graces of oratory; but still it is God's word preached; and the very defects of the "earthen vessel" should teach us to look beyond to the glorious source of all perfection. Fault-finding, public or private, never fed a hungry soul—never cheered a broken heart—never guided a sinner to the Saviour—never wiped away the mourner's tear. Fault-finding in regard to the minister, the elders, the affairs of the congregation, the affairs of the Church at large, is usually a proof of narrowness and Pharisaic selfishness. Its root is self-conceit; its fruit is enmity, strife and uncharitableness. When your minister is doing his best to advance the Lord's work, do not harass and weaken him. Cheer him with your presence; with words of kindness; with deeds of love. Let him see by your conduct that the seed of the word is becoming fruitful. If you are not patient and forbearing, others will follow your example. Grumbling and complaining will spread. Will it be very delightful for you to catch echoes of your own querulousness? What if *all* were like you? What if your faults were held up to derision?

Be patient with your *young* minister; for he is daily becoming more experienced and better acquainted with the work he has to do. He will, with the help of God and of patient men and loving Christian women, become a man of great usefulness. Be patient with your *aged* pastor; his earthly race will soon be run; his sun is near the horizon which separates the seen from the unseen. Be patient with your *sick* minister; you may be sick yourself some day, and be in need of

sympathy. Be patient with your minister when he is well and strong and prosperous; for do not sickness, sorrow and death come swiftly upon us all? It were well indeed if not ministers only but all Christians so lived and worked as not to afford occasion of the least censure or offence to any one however watchful or hypercritical. It were well that all aimed to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus, who has left us an example that we should follow His steps. No Christian, whatever his standing in the Church, should be satisfied with any lower standard than the perfect life of the Lord. None the less is patience a virtue that should be in constant exercise in the congregation and in all the courts of the Church,—even as it must ever be in all Christian families. Our all-seeing Lord who perceives infinitely more that is blame-worthy in us than we can detect in our brethren, and to whom all forms of evil must be infinitely more abhorrent than to us,—is still patient with us.

Woman's Work.

MONTH after month we have the pleasant duty of laying before the readers of the RECORD accounts of women's work in the mission cause at home and abroad. Societies are springing up that are doing an invaluable work not merely in adding to the funds of the Church, but in diffusing missionary information and training the young to take a deep, practical and intelligent interest in the kingdom of Christ. These societies now extend in our own Church from Harbour Grace in the east to Winnipeg in the Far West. There is room for a large increase in numbers; and the energy and thorough loyalty of the societies already at work lead us ardently to wish for their rapid extension, until one shall be found in every town and village containing one or more congregations. There were "elect ladies," prophetesses and deaconesses in the primitive Church. Godly women helped the Apostle Paul in his arduous work. Among the most eminent of the martyrs during pagan as well as papal persecutions were faithful women. In our own Church women have laboured devotedly and successfully, sometimes at the risk of their lives, among lawless savages. Women belonging to our country, and working as the agents of our own Church or sister Churches, are now occupying spheres of usefulness in the New Hebrides, in India, in Siam, in China, in Persia and in the West Indies.

It must be owned that the Churches have not made due use of women's services in the work of extending the Redeemer's kingdom; but the error of the past is being repaired. It has been found that in India women can have