

whom we are called upon to deal. The fact is, the rule springs not from any theory in this great matter, but must be evolved in our practice. Suggestions, however, may prove helpful. Permit me, then, by way of suggestion, to ask a few questions, and supply, as I proceed, the answers.

1. Should we not aim to make our conversation, at such times, at least, lead up to our great life's interest and work? I think it should be our most constant care, to which end, tact, as well as grace, will be required. Mere gossip as well as mere matters of controversy should be strenuously avoided. Our own personal view can never be final. We all squint. Some new religious book, some recent article in a religious newspaper or periodical, some recorded event in Church or State, or in the great world at large, might be introduced, as a thing by the way, from which to lead on and up to that particular form of conversation and instruction in religion presently deemed most important. It would, I should say, be bad form to introduce your last sermon, or, indeed, any sermon of your own, as a topic from which to proceed; but if some one had said something to you in the meantime, either regarding its definiteness and point or its want of clearness on some matter or question, the fact might be alluded to, and thus the way be opened to the field in view. As already stated, tact will help about as much as grace will qualify.

2. Should it not be the aim of every devout minister to pray, at all reasonable opportunities, with the families in his care? Most assuredly it is his duty, and should be his aim. Yet such a duty, it is alike to be feared and deplored, has largely passed into the realm of desuetude. It is rarely hinted concerning, and seldom spoken about in these days. Has the need of it passed away? None of us, I am sure, would allow the opportunity to escape us of praying with those "who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity"; but do we not fail, and that too often, to make full proof of our ministry and the sincerity of our mission, as it regards the salvation of our fellow men, by our neglect of serious conversation and prayer privately said with them? Is it because they are whole that they need not a physician? Not this, indeed, but duty in such case is really difficult. Difficult, no doubt, and, by neglect, difficulty has increased on either hand. Yet no duty is easy in itself. It is the difficult that most we are bound to perform. As one of the most earnest of our clergymen of the last century has said, "We have a foolish bashfulness, and know not how to begin; but the great hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak because the spring of it is weak. We are unskillful in our work. How few know how to deal with men so as to get within them, and suit all our discourses to their several conditions and tempers: to choose the fittest subjects, and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness, love, and meekness! Family religion is wanting in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels?"

And what, let me ask, of public prayers—and there is none comparable to ours—what their benefit, if we follow them not up in prayers with families and individuals throughout our parishes? Are not such questions pertinent? Perhaps some may think them akin to puritanical. But I think reflection will show they are not. Far be it from me, however, to say that every time a family is visited, or that in the case of every family visited, we should call together its members either for instruction or prayer; but that each member should be enquired after, and, as opportunity serves, be instructed in those things which make wise unto salvation, is just as unqualifiedly affirmed. We are trying to help men live a better life now—and to this end are we sent—and prepare them, thereby, for the blessed life immortal beyond this vale of tears. As before stated, no rule to this end can be universally applicable. Hard and fast rules in the case are impossible. We must, in order to reach men, and accomplish our great life's purpose and mission as ambassadors for Christ, exercise that good sense and discretion which God alone can give. Helps and hindrances we shall find in almost equal ratio. Happy the man who, in the use of the former, can successfully combat and overcome the latter! My soul have her portion with such in the day of the Lord!

3. What, then, is the conclusion? Every member of our flocks, as far as possible, should be noticed, visited, and conversed with. Prayer should be offered with him and for him. The rule we must find in the work. If we would bring the young, who have come to a sufficient understanding of the fact and meaning of the Sacrament of Regeneration, to public confirmation of their faith, we must go to them, that we may know them; we must know them, that we may instruct them; and we must instruct them, that ground may be made for urging them into full participation in the benefits and blessings, rights and responsibilities, duties and devotions of the Kingdom of God. How much of our

time is wasted, owing to the want of a definite object in their visitation, spent among our people! How many opportunities lost! Cant, I abominate; but a sincere "God bless you, my child," will often leave behind it a never-to-be-forgotten influence. "A word spoken in season, how good is it!"

Then, in some way, to young and old, rich and poor, high and low, proud and humble, learned and illiterate, let us seek to make pastoral visitation a means of grace and blessing. "For His sake," let the duty be done; the necessary rule in the case will not be wanting, and we shall not fail of some degree of success. Pardon the exhortation; it is as much to him who utters it, as it possibly can be to those who hear it uttered. I should have said something of manner, especially in visiting the sick. It is said of some clergymen:—"He has such a nice manner in the sick-room"; I am sorry if it cannot be said of all. It certainly ought to be said of us, and will be if we strive to merit it. It is not of sanctimoniousness, as it is not of boisterous levity; but it must be of sincerity, sweetness, and sympathy.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

NOVA SCOTIA

COW BAY.—*St. Paul's*.—Our Easter Eucharists, matins and evensong, were bright, hearty and devotional. The number of communicants was larger than that of previous years. The Easter meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Monday in Easter Week, and was by far the best meeting we have had for several years past. Rector's stipend was reported paid, and guarantee for next year handed to the wardens. Mr. P. J. Leslie was re-elected warden, and Mr. John Peach was elected people's warden. The representatives of the parish, after examination of the rectory, decided to assess the parish \$100 to paint and otherwise improve the property. Over 100 services were held in the parish during Lent. The children's Lenten offerings are being handed in, and will probably average about 90 cents per box. At a meeting of the men of the Parish Church congregation, held later in the evening, the usual arrangements were made for the care-taking and sexton duties at the church—eight men volunteering to do the work free, i.e., two men for every three months. This has been our plan for several years, and it has proved very satisfactory.

MONTREAL

PORTLAND.—During Holy Week there was service each evening with an address. The congregation on Good Friday morning was a large one. Easter Day, in Christ Church, was truly a red letter day, and will be remembered by the unusually large number who assembled at the morning service "to keep the feast," and whose hearty participation in divine worship showed that they were delighted to praise their risen Lord. The morning and evening sermons by the incumbent, the Rev. Walter T. King, were very suitable to the occasion, and were attentively listened to. There was a large number of communicants. It is the custom in the parish for the whole of the congregation to remain until the end of the Communion Service. The offertory exceeded in liberality any yet taken up during the four years of the present incumbency. There was a service in the afternoon, when the incumbent addressed the Sunday school, and presented each scholar with a beautiful book, the gift of the Bishop of the diocese. The Easter vestry was held on Monday and was well attended. The incumbent was in the chair. Mr. A. P. Twidale presented the financial statement, which was highly satisfactory, showing a balance on hand after paying all expenses up to date. The incumbent spoke in warm terms of the excellent manner in which the wardens had discharged the duties of their office. A vote of thanks having past to all the officials for their services during the year, the incumbent re-nominated Mr. Augustus Heinrichs, who has been the clergyman's warden since the first vestry was held (22 years),—a faithful and energetic worker for the cause of Christ, one whom both pastor and people are justly proud of. Mr. A. P. Twidale was re-elected for the third time to represent the people. Mr. Richard Ball, the son of a former incumbent, was elected a delegate to the synod. Mr. John Scannell was re-elected vestry clerk. A very cordial vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Twidale for his generous and kind thought in providing a new floor for the church, the incumbent remarking that Mr. Twidale did a great deal for the parish and church that the people did not know anything about. On motion a balance of \$26 was handed to the incumbent, who thanked the vestry and closed with prayer a very harmonious meeting.

GRENVILLE.—The annual vestry meeting of the St. Matthew's and Trinity churches in this parish was held on Easter Monday in St. Matthew's Church,

village of Grenville, Rev. William Harris, rector, in the chair. The meeting was largely attended and full of interest. The current expenditure for the year was \$1,251.12, and repairs account \$300.26. The wardens' accounts showed a small surplus over current expenses, and by the liberality of the Ladies' Auxiliary, who donated something over \$100 to the repairs fund, that debt was practically wiped out. A beautiful baptismal font of white marble, suitably inscribed to the memory of the two beloved children of the rector who had passed away during the past year, was presented to the church by the Young Ladies and the Busy Bee Society. The parish report of the rector was very full and complete and full of interest, and elicited from the members a hearty vote of thanks. Messrs. Alfred Bridgen and Alexander Pridham were chosen as wardens by the rector, while the congregation elected Messrs. John F. Owens and E. Whinfield as peoples' wardens. Delegates to the Diocesan Synod were Messrs. Reuben Weldon, Edward Dawson, Newton Hanagan and Frank Whinfield. A pleasant surprise greeted the meeting when near the close a letter was read from William Owens, Esq., of Montreal, enclosing his usual contribution, and adding that he had provided in his will for the payment to the local endowment fund of the parish the sum of one thousand dollars; a very general feeling of satisfaction was expressed by the meeting at such a generous provision, which was very largely increased by the announcement from Mr. Daniel Reeves and Mr. Pridham, two of the old time members, who were present, that they intended to make a similar provision covering the same amount. The amount of the parish endowments are now as under. Parsonage endowment fund, \$1,440.77; Church or parish endowment, \$346.35. The latter fund will not be drawn upon until it reaches \$5,000, nearly two-thirds of which amount was promised at this meeting. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Busy Bee Society, the organist and choir, and to Messrs. William Owens, Mr. Reeves and Mr. Pridham for their generous liberality. A very satisfactory meeting closed with the benediction.

The Church of the Advent held its regular Easter meeting last Tuesday evening, the Rev. Canon Ellegood, rector, in the chair. A goodly number of the congregation, including ladies, were present. After reading of the report of the retiring wardens, which was most satisfactory, a vote of thanks was accorded to them for their untiring zeal in the interests of the church. The annual election resulted as follows: rector's warden, Mr. Geo. Durnford; people's warden, Mr. H. P. Helm; sidesmen, Messrs. Corbitt, W. A. Matley, R. Matley, McDuff, Fowler and Crierie; delegates to Synod, Mr. Geo. Hague and Mr. F. Fowler. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. McDuff, choir-master, Miss Kirby, organist, and the members of the choir, for their efficient rendering of the church music. This church will now be in the charge of the Rev. Meredith O. Smith, a Lennoxville man.

ONTARIO

MANOTICK.—The Easter vestry meetings passed off harmoniously in the three sections of this parish. Mr. Edward Vaughan and Mr. Henry Meredith were elected wardens of Manotick. A hearty vote of commendation was given Mr. William Tomkins as superintendent of the Sunday school. At Wellington Mr. Thomas Sanderson and Mr. James Proctor were elected wardens, and at Osgoode Mr. T. Griffiths and Mr. A. Saunders. Captain Rance of Osgoode was specially thanked by the vestry and the Rev. J. P. Smitheman for his generous donations. During the past year the church at Osgoode has been painted inside and out, and Captain Rance presented chandeliers, carpets, and erected a platform in front of the church. The Ladies' Guild of Manotick have collected \$300 towards the erection of a tower and bell on St. James' Church. Harmony and good will prevail in this parish.

NAPANEE.—*St. Mary Magdalene*.—At the vestry meeting the churchwardens presented their report, which showed the finances of the church to be in a very satisfactory condition. Wardens elected—G. F. Rutan and Mr. Pollard. Judge Wilkinson was re-appointed delegate to synod.

ADOLPHUSTOWN.—At the vestry meeting Captain Chalmers and S. M. Outwater were re-elected wardens. S. M. Outwater was elected lay delegate to synod.

SANDHURST.—The vestry re-elected Edwin Phippen and Allen Neilson as wardens, and Edwin Phippen lay delegate to synod.

CAMDEN EAST.—There were over 300 in attendance on Easter Sunday and over 100 communicants. The following is an abstract from the incumbent's report, with the assistance of the lay reader: There has been held 248 Sunday services, with an attendance

of 9,715; 59 with 1,229 c great many v in Lent, the dresses and tour, James kindly assist beyond exp weather and given by all t parish, \$175

YARKER.—dens' report v small balance C. Connolly a whole we thi the result of more regular connection v tinal good f may look fo and prospero

WOLFE ISL dens' report v and Fred. W. Bullis and G were voted for the hand basin, which Day. Early to Trinity C well finished. Monday eve residence, in

OSNABRUCK their Easter Easter festiv prettily deco congregation after Easter, p.m. in St.] and teachers ment to their banner. Tl address, the had obtained groups in an viz : Bible C Howard Ran for primary Eaman ; (2nd

NEW BOYN: this parish w addresses by Ten Commas every parish livery of thee out in Lombe The Queen I usual way— matins and c evensong at bad state of Eucharist w benefit by n Messrs. Johr pointed wari Benjamin L Wm. Moorh sidesmen of for St. Peter

NORTH A decorated wi and looked by two ladi chancel rail who has la among us; ti ing some \$30 of her father set an exam a great deal On Easter S publicly tha ing. At the of sincere th very handso

The Lord June 24th, Copies of tl obtained or Examining

The annu Women's A