

## Kindness.

Man has considerable powers, considerable enough to leave him, as proprietor of this planet, in possession of at least as much comfortable jurisdiction as most landed proprietors have in a free country. He has one power in particular which is not sufficiently dwelt on, and that is the power of making the world happy, or at least of so greatly diminishing the amount of unhappiness in it as to make it quite a different world from what it is at present.

The worst kinds of unhappiness, as well as the greatest amount of it, come from our conduct towards one another. If our conduct, therefore, were under the control of kindness, it would be nearly the opposite of what it is, and so the state of the world be almost reversed. We are for the most part unhappy because the world is an unkind world. But the world is only unkind through the lack of kindness in us units who compose it.

First, let us ask ourselves what kindness is. Words which we are using constantly soon cease to have much distinct meaning in our minds. They become symbols and figures rather than words.

Kindness is an overflowing of self upon others. We put others in the place of self. We treat them as we would wish to be treated ourselves. It is also the coming to the rescue of others when they need it and it is in our power to supply what they need. In this it is like divine grace, for it gives to men something which neither self or nature can give them, something of which they are in want—something which only another person can give, such as consolation; kindness adds sweetness to everything.

It is kindness which makes life's capabilities blossom, and paints them with their cheering hues, and endows them with their invigorating fragrance, whether it waits on its superiors, or ministers to its inferiors, or disports itself with its equals, its work as marked by a prodigality which the strictest necessary work, which, when done, looks the most necessary work that could be. If it goes to soothe sorrow, it does more than soothe it. If it relieves a want, it cannot do so without doing more than relieve it. The secret impulse out of which kindness acts is an instinct which is the noblest part of ourselves, the most undoubted remnant of the image of God, which was given us at the first. We must, therefore, never think of kindness as being a common growth of our nature, common in the sense of being of little value. Kindness makes life more endurable; the burden of life presses heavily upon multitudes of the children of men. It is a yoke, very often of such a peculiar nature that familiarity, instead of practically lightening it, makes it harder to bear. Perseverance is the hand of time pressing the yoke down upon our galled shoulders with all its weight. There are many men to whom life is always approaching the unbearable. It only stops just short of it. In these cases it is the office of kindness to make such lives more bearable, and if success in its office is often only partial, some amount of success is at least invariable.

Probably the majority of repentances have begun in the reception of acts of kindness, which, if not unexpected, touched men by the sense of their being so undeserved. Kindness has converted more sinners than either zeal, eloquence or learning, and these three last have never converted anyone unless they were kind also.

Then there is the immense power of kindness in bringing out the good points in the characters of others. Almost all men have more goodness in them than the ordinary intercourse of the world enables us to discover. Indeed, most men we may be sure, from glimpses we now and then obtain, carry with them to the grave much

undeveloped nobility. Life is seldom so varied or so adventurous as to enable a man to unfold all that is in him. But who has not seen how disagreeable and faulty characters will expand under kindness? Generosity springs up, fresh and vigorous, from under a load of meanness. Modesty suddenly discloses itself from some safe cavern where it has survived years of sin. Virtues come to life, and in their infantine robustiveness, strange habits which a score of years has been spent in pruning.—*M. R., Guelph.*

## A Merited Recognition.

We (Quebec Telegraph) are glad to see that our municipal representatives have at last had the good sense to recognize the great abilities and the long and valuable services and experiences of the devoted engineer and manager of our complicated and costly water department, Mr. J. Gallagher. At the last meeting of the Finance Committee the question of appointing a successor to Mr. Bisson as city accountant came up, when an application among others was read from Mr. Gallagher, which brought the Committee face to face with a very undesirable contingency, namely, the possible loss of Mr. Gallagher, whose abilities and experience as water works manager are simply invaluable to the city. To avoid this, the Committee at once took the only step open to it under the circumstances. Mr. Gallagher would, no doubt, make a first class accountant for the city, but he unquestionably is the right man in the right place at the head of the water department and something had to be done, which we have no hesitation in saying, in justice to Mr. Gallagher, should have been done long ago, to retain him there. In its report the committee therefore very wisely and properly placed on record as a recommendation to the Council its recognition of Mr. Gallagher's precious services as water works engineer and the expression of its opinion that the council could not safely change him therefrom, but that it should fittingly increase his salary in keeping with his abilities and the importance of his office. The Chairman, Ald. Tanguay, suggested that his salary should be increased from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and Ald. Sharples gave notice of motion that the increase should be to \$1,600. This recognition of Mr. Gallagher's unquestionably great merits, which everyone hopes to see fully ratified by the Council in due course, is a little tardy, but it will be none the less appreciated as an act of simple justice to Mr. Gallagher, not only by his own immediate friends and admirers, whose name is legion, but by the entire body of the citizens. For our part, however, we do not believe that it goes far enough yet. Mr. Gallagher is the official head of the most important department of the municipal service and annual remunerations should be as much, if not more, than that of the heads of the other municipal departments. At all events, it should not be less and, for this all sufficient reason, we trust to see it placed on the same footing as soon as the finances of the city will permit.

## A Clever Student.

Among the many who received rewards for their arduous study during the past scholastic year of the Seminarians of Quebec there is a shining light in the person of Mr. James Reardon, son of Daniel Reardon, of Charlottetown, P.E.I. He stands out as the most brilliant star among his classmates. Mr. Reardon is only 21 years old and has obtained his degrees of B.A. after but one year's study of philosophy, something which is unprecedented in the history of the Quebec Seminary. He is also the recipient of the prize of excellence in philosophy, a silver medal, after a most brilliant examination, gaining 20.4

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notes out of a possible 30. It is not in Quebec alone Mr. Reardon has shown his immense capabilities as a scholar, but in his native city, Charlottetown, where he gained a scholarship previous to his coming to this city last September. The Garden of the Gulf has a just right to feel proud of possessing this young man, who is in reality an intellectual phenomenon. His parents must feel highly honored with the grand success that their son has achieved, as he undoubtedly reflects great credit on them and has shown he did not forget his early training at their careful hands. The Irish race can claim a part in his fame, as he was born of a true and kind-hearted son and daughter of Erin. Mr. James Reardon is to be congratulated for his extraordinary ability as a scholar, and will adorn and become a great light of the Catholic Church, as it is hinted he intends studying for the priesthood. We wish Mr. Reardon all success in his future career whatever it may be, and feel confident he will attain a high rank in whatever sphere of life he enters.—*Quebec Telegraph.*

## Pompeian Advertisements.

A number of business announcements are to be found at Pompeii, that brisk little city to the daily life of which the energy of Vesuvius has lent a kind of immortality. Here we get a large number of miscellaneous inscriptions dealing with matters of daily life, announcements of forthcoming gladiatorial games, edicts of magistrates, wine-sellers' attempts to captivate customers, rewards for lost or stolen property, houses for sale or to be let, and other things of that sort.

We learn from one announcement that a glass of wine could be got for one as (about 3 farthings), while for four asses one could drink real Falernian. Another inscription informs us that a denarius (about 7½d.) was paid for washing a tunic, and the date, the 13th, of April, is carefully recorded by the writer. Whether she was the laundress or the owner of the tunic must be left undecided, but it seems at least that she was in the habit of marking up her washing account on the walls of her house.

There are several such inscriptions on the same wall of this particular house all dated; the 20th of April, a tunic and pallium; on the 7th of May, an article which need not be particularized while on the day following two tunics are scored.

The water that pours over the Falls of Niagara is wearing the rock away at the rate of five yards in four years.

The Government has served notice upon the Government at Tokio that Russia will not permit Japan to occupy Corea.

The Hudson Bay Company has announced a dividend of ten shillings per share for the past year, notwithstanding the decreased receipts from fur sales. This relatively favorable result is mainly attributed to the economies and the increased efficiency inaugurated and practised during the past few years.

A despatch from Paramaribo, capital of Dutch Guiana, says large discoveries of gold dust have been made in the disputed Territory of Counani, which borders upon French Guiana and Brazil. Six negroes collected 100 kilogrammes of gold in a few weeks, and fortune hunters are flocking to the territory.