

Sunday Reading.

A WORD FOR THE POOR.

This is the Season of the Year for the Charitably Disposed.

If we are in the spirit of the Christmas time our thoughts go out to the poor. We are at least in some measure delivered from our selfishness. Into many lives there enters the desire to express some appreciation of the Divine gift by some unusual ministry of kindness. This is the beauty of the season, the elements of Christmas in it, the endeavor of men and of the children to enter into the spirit of the gospel, to mark the season by some kindly gift or word to those less favored in worldly circumstances than ourselves, to bring the joy and the comfort of forgiveness and peace into some life that has been walking in the shadow, to make some new sacrifice for Christ and for our fellow-men, the odor of which fills all our own house, and all the house of God, and goes out into the market-place.

So our Lord has brought by His own coming into the world, all this beauty of the Christmas time into our lives and the lives of the poor.

Those who regard the poor, the deserving poor, with scorn or with unkindly or indifferent feelings, are not in sympathy with Christ. Poverty is not a condition to be ashamed of. He chose the lowly station of one who had no property, that He might forever protect the poor from scorn. How many of the world's greatest men have been poor men, and that after they had done their life's work, preachers, missionaries; how many of them have been poor men! And that after they had done their life's work, like little old ministers cast aside, while the next generation has erected monuments to them. Many of God's best saints have been found and are found among the poor. We should not therefore regard the condition of poverty as entailing any reproach or any dishonor on those who are in it. The majority of the men who have made this country what it is, were poor men. When prosperity came they were not ashamed to speak of the struggle of earlier days. Because while they were poor in money they had other talents, they were intelligent, they were God-fearing, they were industrious, all they required was opportunity. They found that in the forest covered lands, and industry brought its natural reward. The forest was cleared away, well cultivated farms took its place. The closing century has seen no greater work accomplished, than this transformation of Canada from a forest covered country to a great, wealthy and populous nation, all this was done by the hand of industry, done because industry was presented with opportunity. This is what requires to be done for the poor, to set before them some way of working themselves out of their difficulties. Any help that does not include this can only be temporary and does not meet the case. It is to this attention of those interested in the relief of the poor should be turned.

But besides an opportunity to work, a poor man, or any man, needs to have some hope in his work. Otherwise he is what too many millions are, simply a slave. Food and lodging are much, but they are not enough. They are, however, all that multitudes can earn today in this country. From this there are two results which inevitably follow. The first is, that as no ambitious and talented young man will be satisfied with merely making his board, many of these continue to leave our country and find more hopeful remuneration across the border. The second result must be, that in times of sickness and in old age, there will always be a large number to be provided for by the community. So long as this need has not been reached through misconduct it is one which the community should willingly undertake. These working-men and women who reach old age unprovided for, deserve as well of their country as the soldiers who have fought for it. They have toiled in the fields of peaceful achievement; the soldiers on the fields of war. Both have done their duty. Both should be provided for when disabled, to receive a pension from the state. Why should it be counted a dishonor for the poor man to receive support in his old age in a comfortable house of refuge? But it is called the Poor House. It is regarded as a reproach to go to it, and be an inmate of it.

Because men do not think of the poor as Jesus did, the poor will always have with us. They are with us for beneficent ends. We would be poorer in character without them. Their treatment is the measure of our intelligence and your religion. That nation which learns how most wisely to make them sharers in its prosperity, which instead of despising them

carries into their lives the light of hope, which enables them to turn their lives to profitable use for themselves and for the country, will enjoy at the same time the largest material prosperity, and the largest measure of social stability and security.—Rev. D. D. McLeod, Presbyterian Review.

Train the Boys to be Men.

Boys need more masculine care and intercourse than they get in early life. At least this is true in many families. The boys grow up with their sisters, in charge of a nurse or governess, the mother often loves them 'not wisely but too well,' and in early school days the boys are subject to women teachers exclusively.

Too much of this sort of thing makes the boys feminine or weak in some respects. They must have male companionship, and if they are too zealously guarded against 'associating with bad boys,' they are sure to do just the thing, usually with the result feared by the fond mother. Half a dozen letters from mothers complain of just this outcome, but all of these letters indicate that the real trouble was as above indicated.

The father is usually to blame, in part, because he 'leaves the children to the women folks.' The schools are to blame because wages are so low that only female teachers are employed, except in the higher grades. My plea is for more associating of boys with fellows of their own age, and still more with men. Of course my sons are thus certain to come in contact with bad boys, and perhaps evil men, but if I can go with them occasionally and if I so possess their trust that my sons will freely talk with me about their associates and experiences, the outcome is to strengthen their character.

But that is not meant that I 'preach' to the boys or load them with 'advice,' but I try to show them all sides of the matter, lead them to form their own ideas, and let them learn by experience. Herbert Spencer rightly says: 'The process of self-development should be encouraged to the fullest extent. Children should be led to make their own investigations and draw their own inferences. They should be told as little as possible, and induced to discover as much as possible.'

For instance, one of my boys, a youngster of eight, told me that some of his playmates were learning to smoke. A little inquiry discovered the fact that my boy had also tried smoking the dried stems of water lilies or dried grape vine, but was not favorably impressed with the bitter taste. 'Now Charlie,' I said, 'if you want to smoke, I'll get you some good tobacco, such as men use, and you can smoke all you like right here at home.' He tried it, with results that can be better imagined than described. He learned by experience what no amount of scolding or advising would impress upon his mind, while the fact that he is now at liberty to smoke at home robs of its attractions all clandestine effort in that line. This plan might not work with other boys, but it has been a success thus far with this individual.

Masculine companionship need not make a boor of the boy, though it often does. Nor can it ever take the place of a mother's loving care, intuition and wisdom. But if the father will not leave the boy's training too much to the mother it will be better for all three. The one supplements the other. Yet how often the mother's wit proves superior to the father's. One youngster put crickets in boiling water, and for such cruelty I proposed an old fashioned spanking. But mother put his hands in water almost scalding hot, making believe he was a little cricket and she a big giant. It was a practical experience in cruelty to animals that the boy won't forget. It will probably prove as lasting as my own father's treatment of me for uttering my first oath—he washed my mouth with soap and sand, and though that was nearly forty years ago, the taste and grit are there yet and I 'haven't spoken a naughty word since.'

Child Labor in South Carolina.

The question of child labor in factories in South Carolina is being vigorously agitated and when the legislature meets next month a bill to prohibit the employment of children less than 12 years old will be introduced. Such a measure was defeated last year, the manufacturers bringing strong pressure to bear, but the legislature to meet next month is composed largely of new men. The promise made last year that the mill men of North and South Carolina would reach an agreement not to employ children has not been kept.

Children as young as 7 and some perhaps of 6 years, are working in the mills. They spend the entire time from daylight till dark within the factories. As a result the last report of the Superintendent of Education shows that the increase in the number of colored children going to public schools in the past year was more than three times that of the whites, and that 30,000 more negroes are being educated

in the public schools than whites.

The preachers are working for the abolition of child labor. They say they can make no impression on factory populations unless that they can reach the children, and where these are tied up in the mills they can do nothing.

The argument of mill owners in this state against the age limit is that it child labor is prohibited in this state while it is allowed in North Carolina, large families will leave South Carolina mills, going where there is a demand for the labor of the children.

CANADA'S NEXT CENSUS.

Precautions to be Taken in April 1901, to Avoid the Inaccuracies of 1891.

The fourth decennial census of Canada will be taken in the first week of April next, and special preparations are being made to insure its accuracy. The last decennial census of the Dominion is conceded to be inaccurate in almost every respect. In many instances the returns were flagrantly cooked to serve the purposes of the Conservative party then in power in Canada.

A feature of the last census was an endeavor to record the industrial progress of Canada under the Conservative fiscal policy and this part of it was absurdly inflated. For instance, it was stated that between 1881 and 1889 about 25,000 new industrial institutions came into existence, but these were shown to have employed only 112,000 hands in their operation. Among these "industrial establishments" a record is given of the development of "knitting factories" which employed one or two hands whose average earnings were 28 cents a week each! Remarkable as was the "knitting industry" its development paled before the carpet making business of New Brunswick province. This latter industry was stated to have grown from eleven establishments in 1881 to 587 in 1891, while a calculation from the collective wages showed that each paid out, in wages, less than 70 cents a week.

So generous, also, were the enumerators in the application of the de jure system, which allows for the counting of temporary absentees, that there were included in the returns of 1891, men who had not had a residence in Canada for upward of a quarter of a century. In taking the next census, the government will guard against extravagances of this character.

The largest census district in the Dominion in 1891 was New Westminster, B. C. its area being more than 200,000 square miles; and the largest district in Ontario was Algoma, with an area of 143,500 square miles. The district of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, in Quebec, came next in size with an area of nearly 119,000 square miles. Enumerators in districts like these had to travel in small parties by canoe, on horseback or on foot, taking supplies and camping outfit along with them. They encountered all the perils of travel in the wilderness. One enumerator, losing his way was obliged to kill and eat his horse to sustain life until he could reach civilization. In another instance, an enumerator and his party, taking the census of a district peopled by Indians forgot to bring a flag with them, and the Indians refused to recognize the authority of the enumerator until he sent back for a British flag.

The first official census of New France, as it was then called, was taken in 1665, a little more than half a century after Champlain laid the foundation of Quebec. The population of the country was found to be 3,215 souls. During the remainder of the seventeenth century, eight censuses of New France were taken, and twelve in the eighteenth. In 1790, when the first census of the United States showed the population of the American Union to be 3,929,214, the population of Canada was 220,000.

In spite of its padding, gross inaccuracies and mistatements, the last Dominion census was most disappointing and discouraging to Canadians. The total increase of the population fell far below general expectations. It is expected that the showing at the coming census will be reassuring in regard to population as well as to the industrial development and national progress generally. Immigration during the past four years has enormously increased in the west, and the number of actual settlers in that region had reached a figure previously unprecedented in Canadian history.

Fun Has a Valuable Side.

"Show me a man who does not appreciate humor," said John Kendrick Bangs to me, "and I will show you a man who is morbid, cynical, unresponsive to every call of nature. Such a man is worse than a pessimist, and more to be pitied. Take some of the greatest and most successful men in the world. Humor has always played an important part in their lives. Often a funny incident has marked the turning-point of a great man's career; often some ridiculous condition has been the impetus of a new start in life."

Mr. Bangs is right. Did not Colum-



Don't boggle

Boggle—To hesitate, as from doubt or difficulty; to hold back, etc. (Standard Dictionary.)

Boggling doesn't pay, in the matter of Pearlina. Don't do your washing in a harder way that costs more, when Pearlina has an easier way that's more economical. The longer you do without Pearlina, the more loss to you. You can't have any good reason for not using it. If you think you have, let some woman talk to you who knows all about Pearlina.



bus apparently hopeless task of standing an egg on end make thinkers of wise men who sat around him? Was not George Washington credited with being a master of the truth because he once saw a boy punished for trying to jest with his father, and finally became as Mr. Bangs facetiously remarks, so he couldn't tell a lie even if he saw one? And didn't Johann Gutenberg invent the printing press by working out a theory which found its origin while he was playing leap-frog with some other boys on damp ground? The impression made in the soil by boys' feet is said to have given Gutenberg his first idea of the impression that could be made by types.—Robert Mackay, in "Success" for January.

NEW YEAR'S THE WORLD ROUND.

Functions in European Courts and Rejoicings in China and Japan.

The celebration of the first day of the year by exchanging gifts dates from old Roman times. So costly were the presents in the time of the Caesars that they were a great source of profit to the Emperors and quite burdensome to their subjects.

Several hundred years ago in England it was customary for the nobility to send purses of gold to the king.

In the courts of Europe New Year's is a great day. All the monarchs begin the day by attending church; afterward, they receive the dignitaries of Church, State, army and diplomatic corps.

At the Russian capital the princes of the Imperial family, personages of the court, functionaries and servants of the palace come in regular order to prevent their homage and good wishes to the Emperor, who kisses all the members of his family, and all the high officials three times according to the Russian fashion. People meeting in the street in Russia on New Year's kiss each other, whether acquainted or not. The favored ones who have been kissed by the Czar are permitted to kiss the hand of the Empress. The ceremony of hand kissing was suppressed for a time, but reestablished a few years ago under the reign of Alexander III.

Jan. 1 is in Berlin the day for the court of congratulation which is held by the emperor and empress. Early in the morning the streets near the Royal Schloss are crowded with people, all waiting to see the state carriages of the ambassadors, princes and nobles who are on their way to attend the court of congratulation. The ceremony is preceded by a short service in the castle chapel. All the princes and princesses come to this court as well as all those who have the privilege of attending court festivities, so that it is a very long and rather fatiguing affair, especial for the empress and her ladies. During the next few weeks all the great court festivities take place, and there is a constant succession of court and private gaieties.

In China, the New Year rejoicings extend over three weeks, during which time little or no business is transacted. The Chinese endeavor to start the new year free of debt, and all obligations are discharged before the close of the old year, and a fresh supply of charms is laid in. At midnight, a general discharge of crackers and fireworks ushers in the New Year, the houses are decorated with flowers and lanterns and family parties are in order.

Much the same programme is carried out in Japan, where every one appears in a brand new suit of clothes. The Japanese New Year was formerly a movable feast like that of the Chinese, but it is now celebrated on a day corresponding to our first of January.

Bonfires of mammoth proportions are kindled on New Year's eve in Persia—New Year's is March 21—and people dance about them. This holiday is the most important of the year and feasting lasts for ten days; every one appears in new clothes.

No people in the world make more of New Year's than the Scotch, and innumerable are the superstitions connected with the day. In the first place, on getting out of bed in the morning, one must step on something higher than the bed that the first step may be taken upward. In dressing if unfortunate enough to put the left shoe on first, a garment on wrong side out, one must entirely undress again even to the taking down of one's hair and dress over

again. It is bad luck to be late for breakfast and good luck to be the first one to speak to the cook. All salt-cellars must be full and the bread basket well supplied; if a basket of eggs or of oranges is brought as a present it indicates the best kind of good luck. All garments if possible should be new and a torn garment should on no account be worn. Neither hair nor nails must be cut; money must be in the purse and the purse in the pocket. To stumble or fall is a bad luck sign, unless it be upstairs, in which case do not look behind.

A STAFF COLLEGE IN INDIA.

Great Britain Has About Decided to Found One There to Meet Local Needs.

While the United States is still considering the establishment of a staff college, England has decided on organizing her second one, which is to be in India.

The Boer war impressed the British Army authorities with the necessity for largely increasing the number of students at the home staff college at Camberly, since the value of the instruction there given was proven in the field beyond all cavil. Although in some conspicuous cases men have come to the front as military leaders without the staff college training, they would still have been the better for it, and are themselves willing to confess it. Moreover, throughout the campaign commanding officers have expressed their preference for staff college men.

The increase in the home college could not advantageously meet all the demands consequently, the acting commander-in-chief in India, Gen. Sir Arthur Palmer, and many corps and division commanders, have recommended the creation of another staff college, locating it in India. Much expense is involved in the present method of sending officers from India to England to take the course at Camberly and then return to their regiments; moreover, the conditions of warfare in India are different in many respects from those in Europe and the special training required can only be effectively given in India. For these reasons it has been decided to establish the new college in India, and to make its curricula correspond to the conditions existing.

Gen. Ludlow, U. S. A., has been abroad studying the European staff colleges, and it is hoped that at no distant day the United States will have a college for the training of its staff, and thus show the world that they, too, have profited by our experiences in our late war.

A Dangerous Gift.

The toy rifle, like the gun that nobody knew was loaded and the revolver that is kept to defend the house against burglars continues its deadly work. It constitutes a handy Christmas present, which boys appreciate and which is usually worked to the uttermost with fatal results.

Three boys more or less injured constitute the first list of toy rifle casualties reported as the aftermath of toy rifle Christmas gifts in this city. As several hundred of those dangerous weapons were doubtless placed in the hands of immature and inexperienced boys on Christmas day the list of accidents from this source is likely to be a continuous one.

A gun of any kind is a dangerous weapon to be placed in the hands of city boy and the practice of giving guns and revolvers as Christmas presents is one that should be discouraged. A half grown country boy with few companions may handle a gun without shooting himself or anyone else, but the city boy can't use one at all without endangering the life or limbs of somebody, and he should not be permitted to handle one at all within the city limits.

Suspicious.

Auctioneer: 'Step in, ladies and gentlemen, and I will show you something that has never been seen before.'

Farmer Hayseed: 'Guess we won't go in, Maria. 'Praps tain't there today, neither.'

She—Here's a report about a man begging to be sent to jail in place of his wife.
He—Ha, yet you say men are never a self-sacrificing as women. Was the woman guilty?

She—Oh, yes. She stole some clothes that had been given her to wash; but if they had locked her up her husband would have to go to work.