Our Contributors.

HOW TO HELP YOUR PASTOR.

BY THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.

The relation of a pastor and a parishioner is much like that of wedlock—a relation of mutual obligation, and it ought to be one of mutual affection and helpfulness. If at the time of his installation he has made a vow to be faithful to you, the member of his flock, you also have made an equally binding promise to be true to him. Has he not a clear right to your assistance, and just as strong a claim on your support as you can have on him for pulpit instruction and pastoral oversight? Granting that you ought to help your pastor, how can you do it?

There are many ways in which you can strengthen his hands and cheer his heart. First of all, practice the "Golden Rule" toward him; do as you would be done by; put yourself in his place. He can not always strike twelve in his sermons any more than you can always make a shrewd investment, or always finish a piece of work quite up to your promise. You don't like to be unreasonably censured; neither does he; and when you are scolding a good pastor, you are discrediting a servant of the Lord, and obstructing his work. Supposing him to be conscientious and doing his best he has a right to your generous appreciation. If you have just ground for criticisms, take them to his study and not to your neighbor's houses. You may really help him by the first method, provided that you go in a frank fraternal spirit. A sensible minister will welcome a sensible criticism.

2. For a more pleasant purpose than for criticisms you may freely visit him, or ask him to your own house—and that is to devise plans for doing good. Partners in business consult together often; you are a spiritual partner with your minister. It is your church as much as it is his; it really belongs to him who owns you both. Just as clearly is it your duty to labor for the Master as it is your pastor's duty. Put your heads and hearts together, and devise plans for usefulness and thus set on foot a feasible plan for quickening church life, aiding the Sabbath school or the Society of Christian Endeavor, increasing the prayer meeting, or reaching the unconverted, then *back him up heartily.*

3. A minister who is worthy of the name can stand an empty purse better than an empty pew or an empty prayer meeting. It is a disgrace to a church that failure to pay an honest salary should straiten a pastor's purse; but the spiritual emptiness afflicts his heart the most keenly. Perhaps your pastor is wondering what has become of you on the evenings of devotional meetings. The better man or woman you are the more you are missed; the worse you are the more you need to go. It may be that your pastor is disheartened by the emptiness of your pew on the Sabbath. He has carefully prepared a discourse for your benefit; you have lost it; both he and you suffer from that absence. For one, I am ready to confess that I have never made any converts to the truth in an empty pew, and never have delivered a sermon loud enough to awaken a parishioner who was dozing at home, or has strolled off to some other church. If a good reason keeps you at home, try to send a substitute; invite some friend who seldom hears the Gospel to go and occupy your seat; your minister gets a hearer, and the hearer may get what will save his soul. Church members sometimes complain that their minister does not "draw" a large congregation; yet they do nothing to draw outsiders to the house of God by a cordial invitation to come. Help your pastor to fill the house.

4. Follow up the invitations, appeals and counsels of the pulpit with your own efforts for the conversion of sinners. The pastor is trying to draw souls to Jesus, pray don't draw the other way. If one of your family or one of your Sabbath school class comes home from the sanctuary thoughtful and tender, then aim to deepen that impression. Draw with your minister; follow up his efforts with your own. But the downward pull of your trifling talk, or your unkind criticisms, or your inconsistent conduct, may be an overmatch for the upward lift of his faithful discourse. Co-operate with Christ's ambassador in the grandest work of saving immortal souls. Who doubts that if all our church members preached Christ as faithfully in practice and in personal efforts as our average ministers preach him in the pulpit, the spiritual droughts would give place to glorious harvests? "As ye go, preach," is a commission to the pew as to the pulpit.

5. A single sagacious and active helper is a rich blessing to a pastor. But several scores of them are still better. If he leans all the time on Aaron and Hur, then, the rest of the flock are apt to grow lazy themselves, and censorious toward the two men who occupy the leading position; and what shall the minister do when Aaron is sick and Hur is absent from home? That is not a healthy church in which all the work, all the giving, and all the praying is done by a few individuals, even if the men are Calebs and the women are Tabithas. It is the pull of the whole church that brings the large blessing.

This touches the very core of the question, "How shall I help my pastor?" Pray for him, pray with him, and practice as you pray. Peter's powerful discourse at Pentecost was preceded by a powerful prayer gathering. Saturday evening wrestlings with God in a certain church brought heart moving sermons on the next morning, until a revival shook the whole congregation. What your minister wants is spiritual *power.* That is God's gift; help him to plead for it. The mightiest minister who ever trod this earth since Christ's ascension was not ashamed to say: "Brethren, pray for us."

Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is nothing less than blasphemous to pray for deliverance from temptation while one is slyly putting himself in temptation's way, day after day.—*Zion's Herald.*

Editoral Outlook.

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denly as to prevent the opposition laying its case before the constituencies.

It is reported that F. J. Sweeny, M. P. P., for Westmorland, will be appointed Solicitor General in the provincial government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is going south for a few weeks rest.

Col. S. Hughes has offered to vacate his seat in Victoria, Ontario, that Mr. R. L. Borden may be elected. Mr. Kidd, of Carleton, Ont., has done the same. Mr. Borden has gone south for a rest.

It is intimated that Mr. Costigan will soon be appointed to the Senate, and another election be held in Victoria.

The P. E. Island legislature has been dissolved. Nomination will be on November 30th, and election on December 7th.

There are now seven vacant seats in the Nova Scotia legislature. Six were caused by the resignation of Messrs. Finlayson, Sinclair, A. K. McLean, D. D. McKenzie, E. M. McDonald, and F. A. Lawrence all of whom have been elected to the federal house.

A convention of Ontario Liberals is to be held on the 23rd inst. to decide about a general election in that province.

BRIEF MENTION.

The Canadian Club of Boston is to have its annual banquet on the 28th inst. Hon. Geo. E. Foster is to speak on "Canada, her position and aspirations."

King Edward celebrated his 63rd birthday Wednesday.

The Parisians ate 23,000 horses last year.

It is estimated that between 900 and 1,000 ships go up and down the English Channel every day.

KAFFIR BURIAL.

The Kaffirs of South Africa bury their dead in various ways. Some dig graves and lay the body on the side, while others place the corpse in a sitting posture, but always with the face toward the East. This is done because they regard the land of the sunrising as the great source of light and life. The bodies seldom receive any preparation other than to be wrapped in blankets or skins. The deceased person's personal effects are usually interred with the remains, while his hut is torn down and burned without the village.

They wail long and loudly for the dead, often keeping it up for days and weeks. A common custom is to meet annually at various places to wail and commemorate the death of some person who was held in high repute. Thus they live, die, and are buried in the densest darkness, without God and without hope in this world or the world to come.—*Rev. G. C. Cross.*

Words are not wings.
The passive life knows no peace.

INDIGESTION CONQUERED BY K.D.C.
IT RESTORES THE STOMACH TO HEALTHY ACTION AND TONES WHOLE SYSTEM.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

In accordance with the wish expressed in the will of my respected brother, the late Martin Lemont, I will continue to carry on the business conducted under the name of Lemont & Sons since 1844. There has been great changes in Fredericton, but the business founded in that year (sixty years ago) by Martin Lemont, sr., has been constantly extending and is now in a better position to serve the public, and I purpose to increase it more and more than ever before. With thanks to the public of this city and the surrounding country for their liberal patronage, I ask a continuance of the same. The business will continue under the old firm name.

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