

W. C. T. U. Column.

THE IDEAL MOTHER.

A PAPER READ IN THE W. C. T. U. AT FREDERICTON
BY MRS. L. A. MORRELL.

"What is home without a mother?" That word "Mother," what sacred memories cluster around it; what tender recollections! The subject you have given me is truly ideal, also inexhaustible; therefore I will not try to cope with it, but just give a few thoughts that have suggested themselves to me.

In the beginning the ideal mother will do all in her power that her child will be well born. She will give it a loving welcome from the time of its conception, and not stamp its little unborn soul with feelings of hatred and murderous thoughts by wishing that it did not exist. The ideal mother will not look lightly upon the privilege of motherhood, but, remembering that the risen Saviour honored motherhood by being born of a woman, she will feel that she is shut up with God in the work of creation—not only physical, but spiritual, and she should sweetly and sacredly prepare body, mind and spirit for the trust of a human soul. After the rugged necessities, such as character, principle and obeying the laws of health, she will seek to cultivate a taste for music, art and poetry. But, says one, every mother cannot travel and indulge her taste for those things. True, but every mother has access to the art gallery of the Great Master Painter—the glorious sunsets, the billowy clouds, the songs of the birds, the droning of the bees, the voices of the night—all these refining and ennobling influences are hers, placed within the reach of all by the God of Love and Power.

The ideal mother will do that which seems best for her child, even though it may cause pain to herself and her child. I have in mind two illustrations. One mother nursed her baby far too long, shrinking from causing her child sorrow; another neglected taking her child to the dentist; in either case robbing the child of the larger good.

The ideal mother will seek to maintain her place as queen of the home, ministered to by her loving subjects, instead of allowing her mother-love to make her the humble servant of her children, as many mothers do. The ideal mother, while giving proper attention to the dress of her little ones, will not, in order to gratify her own pride and love of display, inculcate in the hearts of her children vanity and pride.

The ideal mother will not neglect her "mother's privilege" of gratifying her children's curiosity concerning the origin of life. Contrast that mother who turns away her questioning little one with "Hush! you must not talk about such things; shame on you." Leaving her little ones to wonder, wonder, wonder, and to find things out in questionable ways in guilt and sinfulness. With that mother who creates such an atmosphere of confidence and oneness with her child that he or she will not hesitate to come to mother with every perplexing question, knowing that mother knows and will tell him right, and then taking her little one on her knee will proceed to stamp upon her pure little mind God's thought concerning creation—God's first institution, the home, with the father and the mother and the child of their love, cradled during its helplessness 'neath the mother's heart, until such time as it is able to breathe for itself, to eat and to live its own little life.

The ideal mother will begin early. One mother, when she thought her daughter

old enough to understand these things, placed a medical work in her hands, bidding her read. But, said the young girl, in speaking of it, I had read it months before in guilt and secrecy.

The ideal mother will be at home in the kitchen. She understands the art of washing and ironing and cooking, as well as music, art and poetry. She will teach her daughters how to do these things and not allow her to go out into the world ignorant of these things and expecting strangers to do the things for her which her own mother should have done.

The ideal mother should take an interest in the sports and amusements of her sons and daughters. She should endeavor to make the home attractive to them, the dearest place on earth. She should try to a certain extent to keep pace with them and not drop behind, a back number, giving up her music and all those things which would help to make her attractive. She should not lose interest in her own personal appearance, that her youthfulness may be preserved, her children finding her fair to look upon.

The ideal mother will do all in her power to promote the welfare of her child in this world, but she will not then feel satisfied or that her duty is done, but will have far more concern about her child's eternal welfare. She will be found much in prayer for her children; she will claim the covenant promises of God, that her children may be saved, with "faith that laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done," with anchor cast within the veil and vision clear, she will await the will of God, although she may not live to realize the fulfilment of her desires or the answers to her prayers.

The ideal mother will realize that of herself she is insufficient for all this, and she will rest upon one who has said, "All power is given me in heaven and in earth," and surrendering her will to the divine will, and consecrating her life to His service, she will lie as the passive clay in the hands of the heavenly potter, that she may be molded and fashioned according to His divine will, and made a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work. In this alone is her secret of success.

RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE.

To those interested in the study of figures, and after all, who is not?—the census returns of the religions of the Canadian people recently published will afford many hours of careful consideration. Of the total population of the Dominion of 7,206,643, as taken in 1911, the Catholics number a little over one-third, the figures being 2,833,041. Of the Protestant denominations the curious fact is apparent that the Methodists, who numerically ranked second in 1901, are now third, having changed places with the Presbyterians. The church of England in the ten years has, however, made the greatest strides, due possibly to the large immigration of English people in recent years, and at the next census it will not be surprising if the figures showed that they are the strongest Protestant denomination.

The comparative statement of figures of the principal religious bodies is certainly worthy of consideration. It is as follows:

	1911.	1901.
Roman Catholics	2,833,041	2,229,600
Presbyterians	1,115,324	842,442
Methodists	1,079,892	916,886
Anglicans	1,043,017	681,491
Baptists	382,666	318,005
Lutherans	229,864	92,524

Greek Church	88,507	15,630
Jews	74,564	16,401
Mennonites	44,611	31,797
Congregationalists	34,054	28,293

Looking at the record by provinces, it is observed that Quebec shows a total number of Catholics of 1,724,683; Ontario, 481,997, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick each about 145,000. Of the Anglican community there are in the Province of Ontario 489,701; British Columbia furnishing the next highest figures, 104,972; Quebec being third with 102,684.

The Methodist denomination attains its greatest strength in the Province of Ontario, the number of adherents of that church being 674,727. In the other provinces the number of Methodists is less than 100,000 in any one. With regard to Presbyterians, Ontario supplies a total number of adherents of 524,603 and, as might naturally be expected, Nova Scotia comes next, the total being 109,560, while the Prairie Province of Manitoba shows 103,621 members of the Presbyterian faith.

The Baptists find their largest number of adherents in Ontario, the figures being 132,809. Ontario also furnishes the largest number of Congregationalists, Disciples, Friends, Lutherans, Mormons (strange as the statement may be), Salvation Army and Pagans. To think of it—there are more Pagans in the religious Province of Ontario than in any other. Saskatchewan is a close second, however.

As regards the cities, the figures are well worth consideration. In the City of Montreal there are not less than 355,796 Catholics, while the Anglicans number 38,142, and the Jewish community is represented by 27,622, over one-third of the Hebrew population of Canada. In the City of Toronto the Anglicans head the list with 120,405; the Presbyterians total 75,735, and the Methodists 73,281, Catholics 46,368, Baptists 20,681 and Jews 18,143. In Winnipeg the Anglicans are first numerically, the Presbyterians second, Catholics third, while there is a general scattering of other denominations, due to the miscellaneous character of the population.

SUCH A MOTHER.

After one of the hard-fought battles of the war, a Confederate chaplain was called hastily to see a dying soldier. Taking his hand, he said, "Well, my brother, what can I do for you?"

"Chaplain," said he, "I want you to cut a lock of hair for my mother; and then, chaplain, I want you to kneel down and return thanks to God for me."

"For what?" asked the chaplain.

"For giving me such a mother. Oh! she is such a good mother. Her teachings are my comfort now. And then, chaplain, thank God that by His grace I am a Christian. What would I do now if I were not a Christian? And thank Him for giving me dying grace. He makes this hard bed feel soft as downy pillows are. And ah, chaplain, thank Him for the promised home in glory—I'll soon be there."

"And so," said the chaplain, "I knelt by his bed with not a petition to utter, only praises and thanksgiving for a good mother, a Christian hope, dying grace and an eternal home in glory."—*Christian Observer.*

"There is but one test of everything, and that is, is it right? If it is not, turn right away from it."

"There is nothing that so refreshes tired nerves as communion with God."