

Our Young People

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OUR TOPIC TALK.

May 24.—Power and prayer. Ac. 1, 13, 14; 2, 1-4, 41.

There is a vital connection between power and prayer. Prayer is the soul's arm reaching Godward to grasp the power of heaven. God's most powerful gift to man is the Holy Spirit, and the prayerful heart is more receptive than any other to the Spirit. Prayer must go up if power is to come down, just as the mists must rise if the refreshing showers are to descend.

Christ felt his dependence upon the Father, so he prayed often and earnestly. Spiritual power is every Christian's great need, and constant communion with God is the chief means by which it is obtained. Thus prayer is not a duty owed to God, but a necessity to healthful Christian life. If the Master needed this, how much more must be the need of his followers. As needy creatures "men ought always to pray." Lk. 18:1.

In moments of temptation a little prayer will bring strength, the weary soul may pray away its burden, the joyous one may double his joy by sharing it with the Father; he who lacks wisdom may find his need supplied in God; the little thing and the great, all life's interests and activities may be brought in prayer to God the Father and to Christ the Saviour.

S. J. C.

"GOD ALMIGHTY'S WHITE."

Once, when I was paying parochial calls, and dropped in on a wash-woman who had just got out a line of clothes, I congratulated my friend because they looked so white. So, very much encouraged at her pastor's kind words, she asked him to have a cup of tea, and we sat down. Whilst we were taking the tea the sky clouded, and there was a snow storm; and as I came out the white snow lay everywhere, and I said to her:

"Your washing does not look quite so clean as it did."

"Ah," she said, "the washing is right enough; but what can stand against God Almighty's white?"

So you may think that you are clean, because you have never seen God. When you see God, your holiest day will seem to be imperfect; you will abhor yourself, and repent in dust and ashes, and you will need to say, "Forgive me my debts as I forgive my debtors."—Rev. F. B. Meyer.

IN BRIEF.

Life's chief task for all men is character building. Character is the important thing. What a man has—honor, possessions, learning and the like, are not to be compared with what a man is.

The inner life writes its story upon the face. Selfishness in the soul will gradually mould the features with a thousand invisible fingers, until they picture the characteristic to the observer. Sydney Smith said of Francis Horner, that the Ten Commandments were written on his face. What is inward eventually becomes outward. The true cosmetic is a pure heart. The secret of all true beauty is a beautiful soul.

Beware of the individual who talks about his graces. The possessor of the genuine article never talks about it, never thinks about it. The man who parades his religion and seeks to make capital out of his piety, meets with deserved contempt. It was the Pharisee who boasted of his excellence. The world has no respect for the righteousness that blows its own horn. The better a man is, the less conscious he is of his goodness.

The beautiful May days bring anew to every devout mind the beneficence and wisdom of the Creator. They are blind of mind, and cold of heart who cannot see in the world the evidence of a Divine presence. Everywhere there is the evidence of mind. Goethe wisely said:

"From the cold earth in earliest spring
A flower peepeth out, dear, fragrant thing;

They sipped a bee, as half afraid;
Sure each was for the other made."

The blossom was not only made for the bee, but the bee for the blossom. And that same manifestation of thought is found throughout the whole universe from atom to sun. To the ear that knows the key all things join in a Hallelujah chorus.

The president of Stanford University, David Starr Jordan, recently said: "The primal motives of most forms of sin is, as I have said, the desire to make a short cut to happiness. Temptation promises pleasure without the effort of earning it. This promise has never been fulfilled in all the history of all the ages, and it is time men were coming to realize that fact. Happiness that is earned lasts to mark the way for more happiness. Unlearned pleasures are illusions, and, as they pass away, their final legacy is weakness and pain. They leave a dark brown taste in the mouth; their recollection is different in the morning. Such pleasures, as Robert Burns, who had tried many of them, truthfully says, "Are like poppies spread," or "like the snowfall on the river."

A Time for Everything.—The time for Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is when croupy symptoms appear in the children; when rheumatic pains beset the old; when lumbago, asthma, coughs, colds, catarrh or earache attack either young or old; when burns, scalds, abrasions, contusions or sprains come to any member of the family. In any of these ailments it will give relief and work a cure.

MY SHEPHERD.*

BY NELLIE WADE WHITCOMB.

Psalm Twenty-Three.

RECITATION.

He is my Shepherd, and he leadeth me
In pastures green and by the waters still,
I shall not want; before I ask it he
Doth every need of life and heart fulfil.

CHANT.

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

RECITATION.

Restored, refreshed, I follow on and on
Through sunny fields and over paths of peace;
Or, if I stumble, feel afraid, forlorn,
I call his name and all my terrors cease.

CHANT.

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

RECITATION.

But what if I should travel far and late
And all the way be darkened at the end?
Why should I fear? The Shepherd near will wait;
His staff will guide me and his rod defend.

CHANT.

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

RECITATION.

His riches bless me every day and hour,
In face of danger, grief, sin, sickness, death;
I feel his tenderness, I know his power,
In each advancing step and joyful breath.

CHANT.

"Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

RECITATION.

So all my days with goodness shall be fraught
Till on that day when he shall take my hand,
And gently lead me homeward—happy thought!
To dwell with him forever in his land.

CHANT.

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

*The above exercise was written by Mrs. Whitcomb, editor of the *Missionary Helper*, for a missionary meeting at Ocean Park, and was recently published in the *Morning Star*. It is reproduced in this department in the hope that it may prove a valuable acquisition to some of our Y. P. programmes.

AN UNBALANCED MEMORY.

It is easy to forget a kindness and remember something unpleasant. Yet controlling our recollections is almost as important as controlling our temper. We are apt to forget completely a hundred little kindnesses and courtesies which one has shown us, and to remember a single, careless, slight or thoughtless word. Often we hear it said of some wrong or foolish deed, "I have never thought so well of that man since then; it was there he showed his real character"—as if a man's real character appeared more in one separate deed to which, perhaps, he was sorely tempted, then in striving and overcoming of many days and years.

ENGAGED.

Marriage is very largely an accident. In few cases do men or women set up a standard of manly or womanly excellence and choose by it. In most cases people become engaged as the result of propinquity rather than because of any deep rooted preference.

And so it often happens that the wife enters upon the obligations of maternity just as thoughtlessly as she entered on the marriage relation, because no one has warned her of the dangers she faces.

Thousands of women become invalids for lack of knowledge of themselves. It is to this large body of women that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription comes as a priceless boon, because it cures womanly ills.

"Favorite Prescription" establishes regularity, dries weakening drains, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong, sick women well.

"After my first child was born," writes Mrs. Jordan Stout, of Fawcettgap, Frederick Co., Va., "my health was very poor for a long time, and last winter I was so bad with pain down in back I could hardly move without great suffering. My husband got me a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and a vial of his 'Pleasant Pellets,' which I used as directed. In four days I was greatly relieved, and now, after using the medicine three months, I seem to be entirely well. I can't see why it is that there are so many suffering women when there is such an easy way to be cured. I know your medicines are the best in the world."

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