Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC—Aug. 7.

GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN OUR LIVES-1 Chron. 29: 10-12. Luke 12: 1-7.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

When Stanley was about to cross Africa for the first time, many of the strong men in his party burst into tears as they set out. They were not cowardly, but they were overcome by the thought of the terrific hardships which they knew lay before them.

Every human life is a journey as difficult and perilous; and we might well shrink from it, had we no Guide. What absolute madness it is to set out alone!

I have read the story of a conceited young captain who would not wait off shore for a pilot to come on board, to take him through the narrows into the harbor. "I am my own pilot," was his proud reply to all remonstrances, and he promised to be in the harbor by daybreak. He was-cast ashore, dead, amid the fragments of his wrecked vessel, Such has been the fate of many a man who would be his own pilot amid the rocks and shoals of life.

When travelers climb dangerous places in the Alps they are fastened to their guide. They have become a part of him. They may slip and fall, but he will not. His firmness, strength, and agility are theirs. So may we be bound to our omnipotent Guide; and, thus united with wisdom and security, we may travel through life without a tremor of fear. Let us pray with Lucy Larcom:

Thou must lead me, and none other, Truest Lover, Friend and Brother; Thou art my soul's shelter, whether Stars gleam out or tempests gather; In Thy presence night is day; Show me Thy way!

But there are conditions. As Dr. Mabie says, "The man who would have God's guidance must be willing to make spiritual things his main business." When the pilot comes on board, even the captain is his subordinate. When you set out with an Alpine guide, you are under his orders, and not he under binds you to your heavenly Guide, and men and women here among men. Let back you fall into the crevasse.

This is why, with so much said about God's guidance in our lives, so few have practical experience of it. Few

are willing to pay the price of it. It is a happy price, but we do not understand that at first. It looks like de-

pendence, but it is the only independence possible for us. It looks like bondage, but it is "the glorious liberty of the children of God."

This is because more and more, as we go on in the pathway of obedience, we come into union with our Guide. It is not a rope linking us to Him, but He has entered our very lives. Where is the dependence, the bondage, when our Guide and Master has thus become a part of ourselves?

This is the great mystery of our religion, the mystery which Christ, the God-man, not only taught clearly, but gave His own person the supreme illustration of it. We are to be one with Him, even as He was one with the Father. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

THE CHRISTIAN WAY.

God is seeking to build within us a character fashioned after Christ, who is the first-born of many brethren. He does all things in grace and providence to perfect that character, to make it the grandest work in creation. What are the works of nature or of art compared with character-building, in which we are "laborers together with God?" Trouble comes when we interfere with God's will and plan for us. We wish ease when he knows we need severe discipline and sharp criticism. We think of the present and future; God thinks of the eternal We think an unbroken plan best, but God sends disappointments. Thus the all-wise Builder carries on his work till Christ is formed in us, then the mists of time lift, and in the light of the throne we see all things

God is establishing a city, and seeking to people it. Its walls and bulwarks are salvation, its gates praise. Jesus Christ is its chief corner-stone. The prophets and apostles, holy men and approved of God, are its foundation. This city is spiritual, and therefore real. The great, the real things of life, are spiritual; the seen is the shadow. What kind of people does God want in this city? "The fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and idolaters, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and liars, can not enter" there. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may enter in through the gates into the

The selfish, the avaricious, the proud, the disobedient would find no pleasure in that city where the glory of God lightens everything. The individual life in that city must be sincere and clean, the social life must be pure. Nothing evil can exist in that city. He wants humble people there. He wants active people there; not simply physical activity, but spiritual, and so shared by all. Life is intense there. His servants serve Him by serving one another. Do you wish to settle in this city? Then come today. The gate will shut. Take the straight gate in, leave your sin and worldliness behind, at the cross, for "nothing that defileth" can enter there.

Our bodies—the machinery of the being—are to be presented to God "a living sacrifice." We are not to be content with mere redemption from sin, though that is a theme for eternal praise. We are to give our living energies to yours. Disobedience cuts the rope that God. He wants pious and righteous us not be so anxious to get away to Heaven, let us bring Heaven here, and help others into it.

This is the world that needs good people. Stay here a while. Present all to God. That is what we have to do, then he will give directions. Our lips

are his then; hands, feet, tongue, voice, intellect, talents, with heart, possessions, money, children-all his. To use them for him is to live a spiritual life. That is the only "religious" life. There is but one vocation for Christians, and that is to serve God, to be his slave. No sacrifice can be holy, acceptable to God "unless all is there." O Christian, "ye do err not knowing the Scripture or the power of God" to do all that he has promised.—Epworth Era.

座座座 HINDERING PECULIARTIES.

Many a youth has been hampered because of peculiarities which he has allowed to creep into his personality or manner which, if realized by himself, might easily have been pruned and trained, had he only been taught the secret of habit forming.

Young people do not easily realize how much a pleasant and agreeable manner has to do with success. Everybody likes to be surrounded by agreeable people, of gentlemanly manners; not by those who are gruff, uncouth, peculiar, and disagreeable. We are all looking for sunshine and harmony in this world; we try to avoid the dark, damp, and dismal places, and shrink from harsh, disagreeable, discordant surroundings.

Even commanding ability will not always counterbalance disagreeable peculiarities. Young men and women often wonder why they lose their situations, when they have a good education, ability, and valuable experience. It is very often due to some striking peculiarity or unpleasant mannerism, which the employer does not like to speak about and he finds some other excuse for filling the position with a more agreeable person.

Employers do not like to have morose or gloomy people about them; they like bright, cheerful, buoyant, sunshiny natures that look toward the light. Sarcastic, ironical employees—those who are always insinuating, finding fault, and making innuendoes—are never popular. Stubborn, obstinate, self-willed people who always want their own way, and are selfish about everything, are not wanted; the overbold, the egotisticalthose who are always bragging about what they have done and can do-are also not in favor with employers. The tattlers-those who are always meddling and making mischief among employees-and those who are always complaining, are among the people who never get on.—Success.

A WIDOW'S MITE.

A few years ago when the drought destroyed the crops in the great corn belt, including Kansas and Nebraska, a misfortune so terrible that tens of thousands of people were driven from their homes, and multitudes who had been well to do found themselves beggars, a Mrs. D-, already over 70 years of age, a widow, and in such infirm health that she was most of the time a shut-in, found herself utterly ruined in fortune. She lost all she had of property but a bare fragment, enough to get her a refuge in a Home in Council Bluffs, Iowa. In this thoroughly humiliated condition her life for awhile was silent as the grave.

But about this time God in his great mercy pressed home upon her heart the harder condition of the women in India. In her great pity for them she poured out her heart to God asking for light on the question of what she could do to help. She seemed to get light, and was moved to piece a quilt she had been at work upon to keep herself from

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going crazy in the midst of the troubles that had come in like a flood upon her, and to sell the quilt and send the money she received for it to India. This she did. Then sprang up a desire to make one for Africa, and one for Japan.

But she had no material. She wrote a note to some of the papers, telling what she was trying to do, and asked for quilt pieces. They came, and have never ceased to come till now. Her needle keeps bright, her faith brighter. She has give four hundred dollars to home and foreign missions in the last six years. One by one she has adopted and supports a missionary in Peshawar, a girl in Calcutta, two Indian famine orphans, a Bible woman in Foo Chow, and last a native preacher in China.

Thus she has six people at work as her substitutes, carrying the Gospet of hope and love to people who are worse off than she; six singing angels which she keeps alive by the point of her needle, and they are multiplying angels in many lands. What a harp of God she is! And do you imagine that God does not awaken sweet music in her own heart? If you do there is something wrong with your imagination.

She says: "I literally give all I earn with needle and pen, and then look to God to move hearts to give to me for missions. I have not one care about my needs, and almost daily my heart melts before God for his blessings bestowed. This work has put me in touch with many choice souls in eighteen different States, besides many in other lands. My littleness is the great secret of my success. I was surely called of God to teach one fact—no one is too old to give to missions, or too old to work for God and souls."-L. A. Banks, D. D.

Young Ladies Read This,

If you are bothered with pimples, rashes or ugly blotches on your face, if your complexion is sallow, it's an evidence that you require Ferrozone to tone up your blood One Ferrozone Tablet taken at meals makes the complexion like bright, you'll be the picture of health. Thousands of ladies keep up their youthful appearance with Ferrozone, why not you? Price 50c. at druggists.

A great many men live by their wits. It is really surprising how very little some people can live on,