

# Sunday Reading.

## THE WORTH OF AGED WOMEN.

A Touching Tribute to the Mothers and Grandmothers.

I never knew the joy of having a grandmother; that is the disadvantage of being the youngest child of the family. The older members only have that benediction. But though she went out of this life before I began it, I have heard of her faith in God, that brought all her children into the kingdom and two of them into the ministry, and then brought all her grandchildren into the kingdom, myself the last and least worthy. Is it not true that you and I do two things, swing open a picture gallery of the wrinkled faces and stooped shoulders of the past, and call down from their Heavenly thrones the godly grandmothers, to give them our thanks, and then persuade the mothers of to-day that they are living for all time, and that against the sides of every cradle in a home in which a child is rocked, beat the two eternities?

God bless all the aged women up and down the land! What a happy thing Pomponius Atticus to say, when making the funeral address of his mother: "Though I have resided with her sixty-seven years, I was never once reconciled to her, because there never happened the least discord between us and consequently, there was no need of reconciliation." Make it as easy for the old folks as you can. When they are sick get for them the best doctors. Give them your arm when the streets are slippery. Stay with them all the time you can. Go home and see the old folks if you are away from them. Find the place for them in the hymn-book. Never be ashamed if they prefer styles of apparel a little antiquated. Never say anything that implies that they are in the way. Make the road for the last mile as smooth as you can. Oh, you will miss her when she is gone! I would give the house over my head to see my mother. I have so many things I would like to tell her, things that have happened in these many years since she went away. Morning, noon and night let us thank God for the good influences that have come down from good mothers all the way back.

Don't forget your mother; don't forget your grandmother. And hand down to others this patrimony of blessing. Pass along the coronets. Make religion an heirloom from generation to generation. Let the mothers of America consecrate themselves to God, and they will help consecrate the ages following.

Do not dwell so much on your hardships that you miss a chance of yielding an influence that shall look down upon you from the towers of an endless future.

### Make It Complete.

"Because thou hast done this thing," said Jehovah unto his friend Abraham, "by myself I have sworn, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice."

He had done other things. He had left his father's home at the call of God, and had become a wanderer, not knowing whither he went, sojourning in the land of promise as in a strange country, dwelling in tents with his son Isaac, and ready to sacrifice all things at the word of his Master; but through all his life until, this hour the experiences and consecration of the past were only preparing him for the supreme test of the offering of his only begotten son.

There is an influence about any sort of honest consecration to God that leads by an inexorable law to the necessity of a further consecration; until there are suggested to us undreamed of possibilities in the things that may be surrendered at the call of God. To consecrate one thing is to bear the call to the consecration of other things, until at last it may be possible for one to surrender the last thing unto God as to bear the word that shall say, "Because thou hast done this thing, I will bless thee and make thee a blessing."

There were other people around about this dweller in tents, who were idolaters, and whose custom it was to offer up their children unto their idols; and when once the suggestion had come into the mind of Abraham that he might be unwilling to do for God what the people about him seemed to be eager to do for the sake of these false worship, there could be no rest for him until the knife had been sharpened and laid at the throat of his son who was the child of promise. It seemed as though by the very act it would be necessary for him to make God disloyal to his own word, for he had said, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called," and now it seemed to the father as if the word of God was to be made of none effect by the sacrifice of this son. But this was a man who in the name of God had learned to count the things that are not as the things that are, and he believed God, accounting that it was possible for God to raise him up even from the dead, from whence he received him, in a figure. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully persuaded that what he had promised he was able to perform, and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

When God was endeavoring to soften the heart of Pharaoh, in order that he might allow the Children of Israel to go out on a three days' journey to sacrifice in the wilderness, there were various propositions looking toward their release that were made by the Egyptian king. One of the first suggestions that he made was when he said to Moses and Aaron, "Go ye, and sacrifice to your God in the land;" the second suggestion was, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, only you shall not go very far away;" the third proposition was, that the men should go and that the women and children should be left behind. And finally when he found that none of these things were availing, he said, "Go ye, and serve the Lord, only let your flocks and your herds be stayed." But Moses answered, "Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. Our

cattle also shall go with us. There shall not a hoof be left behind; for everything must we take to serve the Lord our God, and we know not with what we must serve the Lord until we go thither."

It is not possible for one who is entering upon a life of entire consecration to reserve a known or an unknown thing from dedication unto God. If the devil can cause the people to sacrifice to God in the land or not to go far away, or to leave anything in connection with their families or earthly relationships, or anything of material value from entire surrender to God, he always gains the victory. The fact is that when one wills to follow God fully, he is not able to make any sort of reservation, expressed or implied; for he does not know what he must serve the Lord until he gets into the place where God can reveal the secrets of his council unto him.—From "Victory by Surrender."

### A Christian Philanthropist.

The earl of Shaftesbury, during all his parliamentary life, was the constant advocate of the holy Sabbath. Great was his political and ancestral honors, the nobility of his character in this particular will insure him enduring fame. More than fifty years ago he wrote as follows: "The recent Sabbath report tends to confirm the encouraging opinion that in every measure of real reform, when it is once fairly undertaken, the strength of the community will go with it. Whatever is attempted in the fear of God, and in the love of our fellow creatures will have the heart of man with it." In defense of the Sabbath he was ever on the alert. Any encroachment upon its sanctity was sure to bring him to the front, and any effort to guard it was sure of his co-operation and support. His powerful influence was exerted in parliament toward closing the English postal service. For more than forty years he kept up an unceasing warfare, sometimes to procure restrictive legislation, but always to urge the closing of the day of rest on the conscience and intelligence of the nation, and especially of the working classes. He assisted even at the close of his public life in organizing measures to resist threatened aggressions. "Your political liberties," he said on one occasion to the members of the Workingmen's Lord's Day Association, "are more secure under the charter of the Sabbath than they can be under all the charters which were ever given by any of our kings." In all this he taught the world an important lesson, namely, that whatever is undertaken for the good of society must be based on Christian truth and be carried forward in a Christian spirit.

### Advice to Wives.

Christian women, when your husbands and sons return to you in the evening after buffeting with the waves of the world, let them find in your homes a haven of rest. Do not pour into the bleeding wounds of their heart the gall of bitter words, but rather the oil of gladness and consolation. Be fond of your home. Be attached to your homes. Make them comfortable. Let peace and order and tranquility and temperance abound there. Let the angel of chastity that protected Agnes preside over your homes and stand at the door of your heart, repelling all unhallowed thoughts, even as the angel, with flaming sword, watched at the Garden of Eden. For what is a home from which chastity is banished but a consecrated temple from which the spirit of God has fled? Let the flowers of domestic joy and gladness grow abundantly along your pathway. Let the fire of conjugal and maternal and filial love which God has consecrated burn continually on the altar of your hearts and consume every inordinate affection. Then, indeed, may the words of Scripture be applied to you: "Who shall find a virtuous woman? Far from the uttermost coasts is the price of her. She hath looked well to the paths of her home and hath not eaten her bread idly. Her children rose up and called her blessed; her husband, and he praised her. Beauty is vain. The woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised."—Cardinal Gibbons.

### Short Sermons.

It is not necessary to belittle one man, even by implication, to present another in his just proportions.

One reason why some people find it so hard to lead a Christian life is because they devote so little time to it.

A holy life has a voice; it speaks when the tongue is silent, and is either a constant attraction or a perpetual reproof.

The world may not understand God's rebukes, or put an unkind construction on them; His children cannot, for they know "God, is love."

Every single action of our life carries in its train either a reward or a punishment, however little disposed we are to admit that such is the case.

Do today's duty, fight today's temptation. Do not weaken and distract yourself looking forward to things you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw.

God gave man the power to choose between good and evil, and intended him to choose. He might have made a man without the power to do evil, but that would have struck good from the calendar of the universe.

### The Test of a Truly Great Man.

I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean by humility doubt of his own power, or hesitation in speaking his opinions, but a right understanding of the relations between what he can do and say and the rest of the world's doings and sayings. All great men not only know their own business, but usually know that they know it, and are not only right in their own main opinions, but usually know they are, only they do not think much of themselves on that account. They do not expect their fellowmen to fall down and worship them; they have a curious underrime of powerlessness, feeling that greatness is not in them, but through them. They do their work feeling that they can not help it.—Ruskin.

### Charity.

God loveth the cheerful giver. Though the gift be poor and small; What doth He think of His children When they never give at all?—Hebrew Standard.

### A Sermon on Flowers.

From my "den," I can look out on the broad expanse of snow. From my window, I see the beautiful shrubs and trees, covered thick with their icy coats, glistening in the bright rays of the sun. 'Tis a beautiful picture of which my eyes do not weary; and yet there is another within to which my eyes turn ever and anon, a picture that gives me comfort and content. It is my beautiful window of plants. This is an age of flowers, and as we pass along the highway we see many windows filled with flowers, or it not the full-blown blossoms, at least the plants which give promise. Yet there are many homes and many beautiful windows, looking bare as the winter sunlight creeps in. I often think as I pass such windows how much of life's beauty and pleasure they miss. In the country home in winter, there are really no more enjoyable companions than flowers and books. Perhaps in the city some people could do without them. A busy society life might take their place, but to me my books and flowers would ever occupy the same place in my affections. To think of spending one winter in our country house, without a plentiful supply of reading matter and a window full of my favorite plants, would be something unendurable.

There is great pleasure on a dreary, bleak day, in going over the plants, plucking out the unsightly yellow leaves, digging around each pot of earth with a hairpin, adding a little stimulant as the nature of the plant requires, searching for the developing buds. This morning while poking among them I found five buds in different stages of development on my calla lily. I felt that was something to be happy over, and forthwith I set the whole household rejoicing over the fact. Now how closely those buds will be watched until every flower develops. From grandma down, all are alert to see them expand. And what lessons of love to the Great Father do these flowers teach us! Who could have them growing, and deny there was an Allwise and Supreme Being?

Last fall, while entering plants at our county fair, we ran across a specimen of a man who was a flower hater! He queried, "Where on earth do you keep all this rubbish in winter, if you have no greenhouses?"

Our reply was, "In a bay-window, and if you want to see a sight worth going far to see, drop in some day when the thermometer registers zero, or thereabout. You will feel you are in a land of enchantment."

"Oh! bosh!" was his unteeling reply. "If there's anything I hate it's flowers, and how a sensible woman can fool away her time coddling up such trumpery stuff in winter, is more than I can understand."

A great wave of pity surged through my heart for the wife of such a man, and later in the day, when we saw him entering a place where the light of day was excluded by the windows being painted inside, and over the door the mystic word "Shloom" in gilt letters were traced, we pitied her the more, and concluded, to use his own language, there were some things we could not understand.

Do not these lovely flowers exert a refining influence upon all who are interested in their culture? Especially in winter, where for weeks sometimes we are kept indoors by the inclemency of the weather. The study of them, the admiration excited by the opening of some brilliant and rare blossom all tend to elevate the mind above the cares of every-day life, and bring them into a channel of love, love for God and for the beautiful things he has created. And loving and honoring Him, can any one go very far astray in thought or feeling? No, let us have the beautiful flowers in every window, if we will, and let us use our influence so that others may be brought under their blessed influence.

Have flowers in summer and have them in winter, it only a pot of hyacinths or narcissus. How sweet they are, and how easily managed after you have once grown them.

### Sympathy.

A little word from a warm heart to a fellow-being burdened with care, or sorrow, how sweet it is! It is not from joyous, united youth whence we may expect sympathy, but it comes as a reward to one who has learned to "suffer and be strong."

It is a reward, a rich gift, for it brings its possessor the sweet satisfaction of an unselfish desire to help others; and when to desire is added an accomplished deed, then reward is a fact and a blessed one. Like mercy its quality is not strained, "but blesses him that gives and him that seeks."

There never was a man or woman so self-reliant, but what at some time the touch of this divine well-spring of humanity would not have been sweet and helpful. The cynic, and hermit are made of the material which has not been permeated or made malleable by sympathy. Christ himself longed for it, as He showed by His "could ye not watch one hour?" in sad but gentle rebuke to the disciples when He took into Gethsemane. He also possessed it in a measure which no human being ever can attain; and He gave it unstintedly, always, everywhere. Even when suffering the cruel pangs of the cross, He recognized the agony in his mother's face, and with that last touch of loving thoughtfulness said: "Woman, behold thy son!" Then saith He to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!"

Sometimes people lock themselves behind an impenetrable barrier, and then find fault that their friends do not see their trouble, or care to share it. This is wrong, not only an injury to those who do so, but injustice to their friends.

There are men and women who do not get what they desire. Possibly, it may be those who occupy some highly important position; upon whom people are more likely to look with envy than with any feeling of sympathy, forgetting or not knowing that their responsibility is great, and their work is done before the eyes of many whose criticism is not always kind.

Missionaries say that the lack of human sympathy is really one of their greatest trials. How it lightens the cares of the toiler, who, on his return home, finds a kindly welcome! The housekeeper in her daily drudgery knows its worth, and who needs it more than a mother?

Alice Cary used often to weep out her heartache and disappointment when her guests went away without the words of encouragement the conscientious post craved.

### Adversity the Great Test.

The severest test of manhood is never found in good times, but only in hard times. It is not the man who has success when others do well, but it is the man who keeps

up his courage and struggles on when everybody else is wavering or going down, who is the hero in the sight of God and men. It is an easy matter to make good time when both wind and tide are in one's favor, or when one is moving with the current; but it requires character and skill and daring to make head in spite of opposing forces, or to work successfully against the current.

### Messages of Help for the Week.

"And all the people gathered themselves together . . . and Ezra, the priest, brought the book of the law of Moses . . . before the congregation . . . and he read therein . . . distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading . . . and said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord, your God . . . and there was very great gladness." Nehemiah 8.

"Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord . . . For thou shalt eat of the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants about thy table." Psalm 118: 1, 13.

"It is good for me to draw near to God." Psalm 78: 28.

"O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the lump, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?" Romans 9: 20, 21.

"What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known endured with much long suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction; and that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, even us whom he hath called not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentile?" Romans 9: 22, 23, 24.

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." 2 Corinthians 5: 17.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever, amen." Jude 24, 25.

### A Beautiful Creed.

If you have a friend worth loving, Love him, yes, and let him know That you love him ere it's evening Tinge his brow with sunset glow. Why should good words never be said Of a friend until his head is dead?

If you hear a song that thrills you Sung by any child of song, Praise it. Do not let the singer Wait deserved praises long. Why should one who thrills your heart Lack the joy you may impart?

If you hear a prayer that moves you By its humble pleading tone, Join it. Do not let the seeker Bow before the God alone. Why should not your brother share The strength of two or three in prayer?

If you see the hot tears falling From a brother's weeping eye, Share them. And by kindly sharing (Own) your kinship with the skies. Why should anyone be glad When a brother's heart is sad?

If a silvery laugh goes rippling Through the sunshine on his face, Share it. 'Tis the wise man's saying, For both grief and joy a place. There is goodness in the mirth Where an honest laugh has birth.

If your work is made more easy By a friendly helping hand, Say so. Speak out brave and true Ere the darkness veils the land. Should a brother workman dear Falter for a word of cheer?

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness All enriching as you go. Leave them; trust the Harvest Giver, He will make each seed to grow. So until its happy end Your life shall never lack a friend.



### A Bright Lad,

Ten years of age, but who declines to give his name to the public, makes this authorized, confidential statement to us:

"When I was one year old, my mamma died of consumption. The doctor said that I, too, would soon die, and all our neighbors thought that even if I did not die, I would never be able to walk, because I was so weak and puny. A gathering formed and broke under my arm. I hurt my finger and it got so sore that I threw out pieces of bone. If I hurt myself so as to break the skin, it was sure to become a running sore. I had to take lots of medicine, but nothing has done me so much good as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It has made me well and strong."—T. D. M., Norcutt, Kans.

**AYER'S Sarsaparilla**  
Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.  
Cures others, will cure you

### A Good Move and a Fine Store

**JAMES S. MAY & SON, Tailors,**

Have removed from the Dominion Building to 68 PRINCE WM. STREET, store lately occupied by Estey & Co. Telephone No. 748.

### J. D. TURNER,

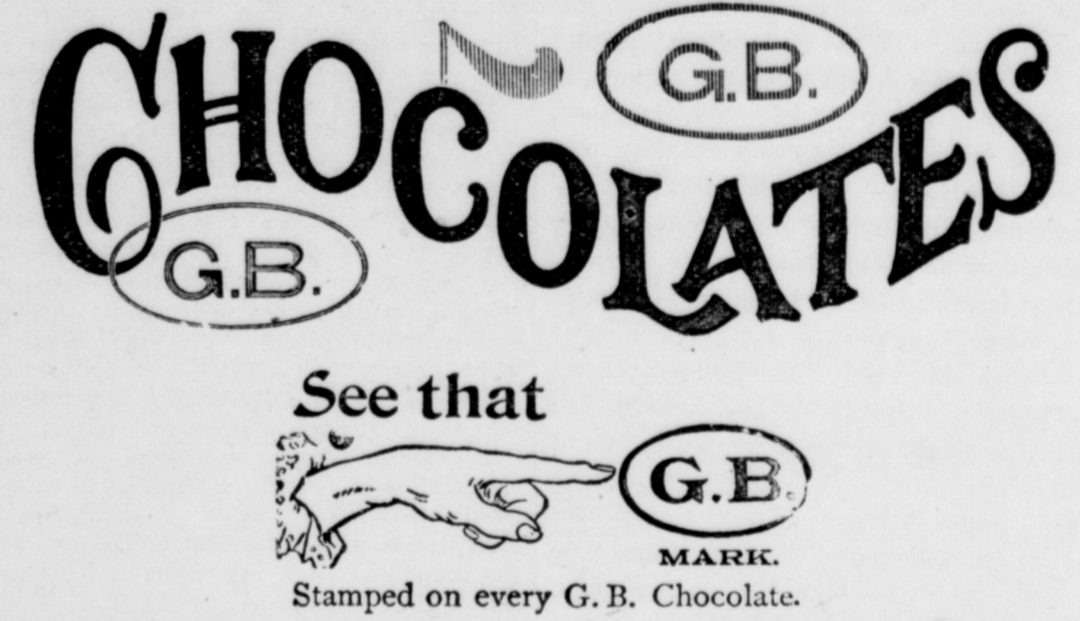
Wholesale and Retail Dealer.  
**OYSTERS, CLAMS, PEANUTS,**  
Figs' Feet and Lamb's Tongues, Fresh and Salt Fish of all kinds at  
**19 & 23 King Square.**



**DON'T WORRY! TRY SUNLIGHT SOAP IT BRINGS COMFORT ON WASH DAY**

HARDING & SMITH, AGENTS.

### BUY



**COLONIAL HOUSE**  
PHILLIPS SQUARE,  
**MONTREAL.**  
**DISCOUNTS EXTRAORDINARY.**

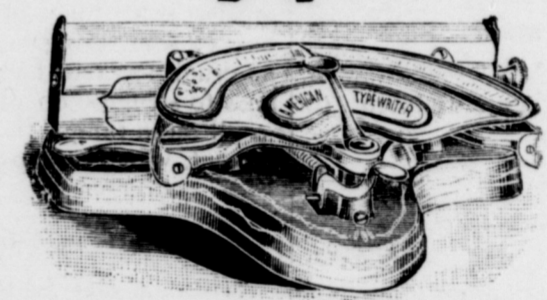
**OWING TO THE DEATH** of our senior partner, **MR. HENRY MORGAN**, and the consequent re-arrangement of the firm, we intend making an extraordinary effort during the month of January to reduce our stock to the lowest possible point, that everything may be in good shape for starting the new business in February. To accomplish this, we have decided to make even greater sacrifices than has been our custom in the Annual January Sale. These sacrifices will be in the form of discounts, and will commence **Tuesday Morning, 2nd January**, and continue till the end of the month.

### HENRY MORGAN & CO., - Montreal.

**ALWAYS INSURE PHOENIX Insurance Company of your property in the HARTFORD, CONN. WHY?**

Statement January 1st, 1891.		D. W. C. SKILLTON, President.
Cash Capital	\$2,000,000 00	J. H. MITCHELL, Vice-President.
Reserve for Unadjusted Losses	285,831 77	GEO. H. BURBICK, Secretary.
Reserve for Re-Insurance	1,813,903 88	CHAS. E. GALLAGHER, 2nd Vice-President.
NET SURPLUS	1,517,079 88	CANADIAN BRANCH HEAD OFFICE, MONTREAL.
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,624,814 73</b>	SMITH & FARLEY, Managers.
KNOWLTON & GIBBERT		Full Deposit with the Dominion Government.
		152 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B.

### THE AMERICAN \$8.00 Typewriter.



This is a well-made, practical machine, writing capitals, small letters, figures, and punctuation marks (71 in all) on full width paper, just like a \$100 instrument. It is the first of its kind ever offered at a popular price for which the above claim can be truthfully made. It is not a toy, but a typewriter built for and capable of REAL WORK. While not as rapid as the large machines sometimes become in expert hands, it is still at least as rapid as the pen and has the advantage of such simplicity that it can be understood and mastered almost at a glance. We cordially commend it to helpful parents and teachers everywhere.

- Writes capitals, small letters, figures and marks—71 in all.
- Easy to understand—learned in 5 minutes.
- Writes just like a \$100 machine.
- Weights only 4 pounds—most portable.
- No shift keys. No Ribbon.
- Compact, takes up but little room.
- Prints from the type direct.
- Built solid and simple, can't get out of order.
- Writing always in sight.
- Capital and lower-case keyboard alike—easily mastered.
- Corrections and insertions easily made.
- More "margin play" for the small letters which do most of the work.
- Takes any width of paper or envelope up to 8 1/2 inches.
- Takes good letter-press copies

Packed securely in handsome case and expressed to any address on receipt of price—\$8.00, in registered letter, money order or certified check. We guarantee every machine and are glad to answer all inquiries for further information.

### IRA CORNWALL,

Gen. Agent for Maritime Provinces, Board of Trade Bldg., St. John, N. B., or from the following agents: R. Ward Thorne, St. John, N. B.; A. S. Murray, Fredericton, N. B.; W. B. Morris, St. Andrews, N. B.; T. Carleton Ketchum, Woodstock, N. B.; Van Meter, Butcher & Co., Moncton, N. B.; J. Fred. Benson, Chatham, N. B.; H. A. White, Sussex, N. B.; A. M. Moore, Knowles Book Store, Halifax, N. S.; J. Bryenton, Amherst, N. S.; W. F. Kempton, Yarmouth, N. S.; D. J. Stewart, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

**AGENTS WANTED.**