

## Sunday Reading.

### THE REAL AND THE IMITATION

The artificial lily may appear so nearly like the real as to rival it in beauty and loveliness; even the lily's perfume may be given to the artificial flower; still it will be only an imitation. It would take much care to produce a perfect artificial lily. In order to do so, you would need to study the flower closely, and to pass every detail of its appearance through your mind. You would need to love the flower in order to produce its counterpart. But having done your best you would still have produced only an imitation. To produce a real lily there must be a lily bulb. What is the difference between the real lily and the one you have made? The real lily is something alive; yours is not. Its growth was natural; what you have produced is only an imitation of the natural.

There are in this world two sorts of lives that appear well. One is naturally beautiful, the other is an imitation of that which is beautiful. There is a verse in 1 John that I would like to talk with you about. It reads as follows: 'Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God.'

To be like God is to be beautiful rather than to appear beautiful. Why is every one that loveth 'born of God'? Because love is God's nature, and to love is to be like God in nature. The one who loves is acting out God's nature. You may imitate God's attributes, such as justice, mercy and pity, but you are like him only as you love. You do not imitate God when you love. You are like him—for your love. To do this changes your being and nature to one of love, even as is God's.

You may not understand what love is, hence you may think you love when such is not the case at all. There are imitations of love, but you cannot exercise love except as you are love; for to exercise love is to be love. You may act justly, sympathetically, and even lovingly, yet not be so at heart. But to love is to be, for love is all being.

Love is like the life of the real lily; it is the life within that produces the bloom. The artificial flower blooms only in seeming. Love is the life or causa of true blooming.

It is not the one who imitates love or who pretends to love that is born of God, but 'he that loveth.' It is not only he that loveth God, but 'he that loveth.' One may fancy that he loves God while hating others. But real love is as the sunshine; the sunbeams reach out toward all, yet there are things they do not reach.

Love is like the water of the flowing stream, which penetrates the soil along its banks, but not the stones and pebbles—for these will not receive it. Love is as the lily's perfume; all life may breathe it, but what is dead and lifeless cannot do so. It is like the lily's beauty; it is for all yet is hidden from those who do not see it.

The lily simply is and grows. So with love; it is and grows. Love is being. Without love, all attempts at living a good life are mere appearance, no matter how hard one tries, nor how perfect or pleasing he makes his life. The lily is natural; it is itself. So is love; it does not merely appear—it is. Loving is manifesting love. But love is the nature, or heart, of the being who shows love.

Love is as the seed or bulb. As the seed hid in the earth grows, so does love. In the seed is contained the possibility of the perfect flower. It may not come to outward perfection, for it may be trampled upon and crushed; but this does not destroy that perfection.

The birth of love in the heart is the birth of the life of God there. If you have love in your heart you have God in your heart. He may have been there before you loved—there is the seed before the flower—but the love-life begins as you love; this is the birth of love.

The lily is and love is. To be good is more than to appear good; to be pure, than to appear pure. To affect to be what you are not, is a sham life, and one is never satisfied with such. Trying to be is not being. One may honestly try to be, and fail; but what we call trying to be is apt to mean trying to appear, or 'showing off.' You may be showing off to yourself—many deceive themselves in this way—or you may be showing off to others. You may grow in good appearance as you care for those who are like the lily, or others who try to appear so, and study their ways. You will succeed more or less perfectly as circumstances about you seem helpful or otherwise.

People often mistake a mere life of good habits for the lily-life. The two are altogether different. Love is all active; it

lives and grows only as you put heart into it, for love is heart. Anything you do without thinking, does not show heart. If it is good, it may be a credit to your past love, but not to that of the present. Your habits may grow to be good as your life is one of love. But if you settle down into a good-habit life merely, you will soon awake to find that the love-life is gone.

Often I receive sorrowful letters from friends telling me of their having lost the joy they once had, and asking what can be the matter. This is the secret in many cases. Such persons are apt to feel greatly discouraged, and sometimes to think that there was nothing real in the Christian life which they once enjoyed—that they must have been deceived. There is nothing real left when the love is gone, except the good habits you may have acquired, and these cannot satisfy. Love does not live when you cease to love. It is all action, it is ever increasing. It acts because it is love, not because it is forced to act.

In the habit-life your heart goes to sleep. You turn your attention to something else. While the love-life is all action. You act because you love to. Love may do very hard things, but from love's standpoint they are not hard.

Love may build to-day where you left off yesterday, with the good habits of yesterday to help it; yet like the tree, the love-life is all alive. All growth is not new growth, yet all growth is a living growth. The past growth must be alive in the present. If any part of it becomes lifeless, it is harmful to the tree—not helpful.

There are times when the lily grows rapidly, again it seems to stop growing, but the life is still there. As with the lily all is life, so with you all should be love. Then your life will be real, not artificial.

Do not expect that by imitating closely you will ever be. Do not imitate; but be. Do not expect to be today because of what you were in the past; be now, and keep being.

How clear is the statement. 'For every one that loveth is born of God.' Do not worry, but love. Love Jesus and so love others. Some ever fear that they are not Christians. This is because they do not love; love cures fear—'Perfect love casteth out all fear.' (1 John 4:18)

**HE HAD THE COURAGE TO SPEAK.**  
Multitudes are Irreligious Because of their Indifference.

It should encourage us in speaking to others of Christ to remember that multitudes are irreligious from mere indifference; they have never attended to the subject. It is likely, if presented attractively, to be both novel and interesting to them. One of our city workers gives the following which illustrates this:

William Johnson was a rough, hearty fellow who had charge of a gang of teamsters in the city. He was profane, occasionally intemperate, and when I first met him, had not been to church for twelve years. His wife had once been a church member, but accommodated herself to her husband's way of life. Two children were growing up with such care as they would naturally find under such conditions.

We had built a new church near by, and a neighbor invited Johnson to the dedication services. He came, heard the notice of preaching for the following Sunday, and came then also. He remained, by invitation, to the Sunday-school, and sat where he could look into the infant room and see the little ones around their teacher. The children's hymns completely won his heart. All his indifference was gone, and before the next prayer meeting ended, he was on his knees beside the pastor and there chose Christ for his Savior.

Johnson's heart seemed just fitted to receive Christ as a guest. It was a wonder that such a follower had lived so long without meeting the very Friend he needed. He first changed all his habits to suit his new love. He burned up his cards, broke his rum-jug; then, of his own accord, threw away his tobacco. He walked more erect, dressed better, took pains with his speech, till everybody who knew him knew also that some great change had taken place in the man.

His wife yielded at once to the new

# Mother's Mistake

How carefully Mother guards the Secrets of her Boys and Girls. At night, as she carefully tucks the Bed Clothes round them, she chides and warns that Mother will be angry if they repeat last night's offence, softly saying to herself it's only a habit, but I must break them of it. This is Mother's mistake. The children cannot help it, and sweet, clean, dry beds can be the resting place of every child when it is understood that the cause is not a habit, but a weakness that can be cured. Active life of the little ones tends to weakening the Kidneys, and weak Kidneys means inability to retain the urine. This is a condition, not a habit, and should have the same prompt attention you would give to the marked symptoms of any disease. One Doan's Kidney Pill taken twice a day and at bedtime will strengthen the Kidneys of a child, and in a short time there will be no cause to scold, for the so-called habit will disappear promptly.

Here's a grateful mother that adds her indorsement to our words:

## Canada Has Spoken, Now Comes the United States.

MRS. J. J. FRASER, of 9 Leonard Street, Amsterdam, N.Y.

"My children, a little boy of seven and a girl of five, have been a source of much anxiety and trouble from inability to retain urine. Often it would pass from the boy while playing, and they both regularly wet the bed. I scolded them, thinking it was merely a habit, and not realizing that it might be weak kidneys. I began to give them Doan's Kidney Pills, and they cured both children. There are no more wet clothes or beds. I am glad to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills to other mothers for this so-called habit."

Doan's Kidney Pills are sold by all dealers. Price 50 cts. per Box.

**T. MILBURN & CO., Toronto.**

### What a Revival Costs.

Nights of prayer and days of preparation must be paid for every genuine heavenly anointing.

The divine outpouring usually costs a great many Christians their good opinion of their own righteousness.

Pay your debts to the Lord—and to your neighbor—if you would pave the way for a Pentecost.

No revival ever came by way of an unopened bible. A shut bible will shut the Spirit from your heart.

When a church would rather have a new steeple than a quickening of souls, it usually gets neither; never the latter. Talking about the unrighteousness of fellow Christians will never reveal the righteousness of God. We sometimes may pay for a revival in the coin of charity. —'Golden Rule.'

### KIDNEY WAR.

How Insidiously it Wages, but how Quick the Surrender, and how the Flag of Truth is Hurriedly Hoisted when that Great General, South American Kidney Cure, Turns his Guns on the Disease.

This is what James Sullivan of Chatham, Ont., writes: "For years I was a great sufferer from Kidney trouble. The disease became so acute that I was confined to the house, and was greatly afflicted with insomnia. I was persuaded after using many other remedies without relief to procure a bottle of South American Kidney Cure. I had relief almost from the first dose. I have persisted in its use, and after using six bottles I am well and strong again. I can work fourteen hours out of twenty-four and feel very little, if any, fatigue. It is the best medicine I have ever used."

### LITTLE MISS VANDERBILT.

Two or Three Times a Week she Calls at the White House to see Mrs. McKinley.

Two or three times a week a magnificent equipage is observed standing along the driveway fronting the White House, drawn sometimes by two immense sorrels and again by large dark bays. An impressive-looking coachman, handles the reins and beside him sits a clean-shaven footman, who is never seen to smile. This carriage has been coming to the White House since the first few days after the inauguration. It is the outfit of Cornelius Vanderbilt, the millionaire New Yorker, who has been making Washington his home for the past three months.

Just why the Vanderbilt carriages are so often at the White House has puzzled a good many people who daily pass through the grounds. It was known that the family is in deep mourning, and sombre black liveries are worn by the coachmen and footmen, and Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt have not visited since they came to Washington.

There is a little Miss Vanderbilt, however, not over a dozen years old, to whom Mrs. McKinley has taken a fancy, and the little lady comes to the White House and entertains herself and Mrs. McKinley two or three times a week. She is accompanied by a maid always, and the footman stands all attention under the porte-cochere while his mistress is inside. The Vanderbilt carriages are the finest ever seen in Washington, and Miss Vanderbilt comes in a different one every week. The red brougham is the prettiest of the lot and seems more suitable to a young miss than the big barouche that she frequently drives in—Baltimore Sun.

### Itching, Burning Skin Diseases

Relieved in a day. Eczema, salt rheum, barbers' itch, and all eruptions of the skin quickly relieved and speedily cured by Dr. Agnew's Ointment. It will give instant comfort in cases of itching, bleeding or blind piles, and will cure in from three to six nights. 25 cents. —F.T.S. B.T.E.

### HOME SUNSHINE.

The Natural Product of Harmonious Living.

The world at best has many vexations things which crowd themselves into our lives. It is true that life is made up of sunshine and shadow, and that we can be truly happy by knowing how to infuse the sunshine into our social and domestic circles. The clouds come unbidden, but the sunshine can as well be diffused if we live in the true possession of it. There is no place where God means to have us diffuse this light as in the home.

Parents are under certain moral obligations to make home radiant with all that God has given us. He wants the shutters opened to let the sunshine of love and peace and harmony in. The household where gloom and solemnity alone reign is devoid of any attraction for those whose lives are tied up in the home. No soul can thrive and grow into spiritual beauty which is shut up in the gloom and darkness of a sinful and ugly home. It is the Sun of Righteousness that brings warmth to the soul. It is this that makes home radiant. This is sunshine itself.

It is worth all it costs to have a sunny disposition, but those who have it not can cultivate it. It is something which men can attain. It is something into which all can grow, and our domestic felicity and happiness largely depend on the possession of a sunny soul. It is through the soul that men are made to reflect the Divine likeness, and from this must go out that principle that elevates, purifies and blesses. Indeed, this world would be gloomy were it not for the light of truth in Christ. Some one says:

'Home sunshine is the natural product of systematically hidden or dispelled shadows of care, gloom and other unavoidable afflictions. There are always so many hitches in the harmonious domestic management of nearly every household that it requires continuous tact to keep the way smooth and sustain peace and comfort.'

'Yet it requires more than the constant endeavor and earnest purpose of one member of a family to produce this ever desirable domestic sunshine. It must be cooperative—that is, every member of the household must take a special part in being ready to nip in the bud any disorder, dissension and disquietude, and thereby ward off all constantly impending clouds that threaten to obscure the cheering rays of home sunshine.'

'Parents by mutual efforts of loving patience and kindness toward each other and their offspring, and children by their respect and reasonable obedience to their natural progenitors, can perpetuate and increase that essential home sunshine which sheds joy and comfort throughout the whole world.'—Christian World.

### Commercial Travellers.

Wm. Golding, Commercial traveller, 130 Esther St., Toronto, says:—For 15 years I suffered untold misery from Itching Piles, sometimes called pin worms. Many and many weeks have I had to lay off the road from this trouble. I tried eight other pile ointments and so called remedies with no permanent relief to the intense itching and stinging, which irritated by scratching would bleed and ulcerate. One box of Chase's Ointment cured me completely.

### A Decoration for Flower Pots.

Tin foil is often used to cover common clay flower pots when set in a window. When the tin foil is new it is silvery and bright, and one or two flower pots thus covered make a pleasing contrast with others in the row that are covered with colored papers.

## Walter Baker & Co., Limited.

Dorchester, Mass., U. S. A.  
The Oldest and Largest Manufacturers of

## PURE, HIGH GRADE Cocoas and Chocolates



on this Continent. No Chemicals are used in their manufactures. Their Breakfast Cocoa is absolutely pure, delicious, nutritious, and costs less than one cent a cup. Their Premium No. 1 Chocolate is the best plain chocolate in the market for family use. Their German Sweet Chocolate is good to eat and good to drink. It is palatable, nutritious and healthful; a great favorite with children. Consumers should ask for and be sure that they get the genuine Walter Baker & Co.'s goods, made at Dorchester, Mass., U. S. A.  
**CANADIAN HOUSE, 6 Hospital St., Montreal.**