

Sunday Reading

The Cottage by the Lake.

'Neath locust tree close nesting,
In a rural spot three fair,
Is a home the Muse is courting,
And its virtues hosts declare;
Call it not a pretty mansion,
None would such an error make—
Ancient, and without pretension,
Is the cottage by the lake.

From the favored city hast'ning,
See the wheelman on his steed,
For his destination bending,
Pressing on with wondrous speed;
Wearied, on his arid journey
Rests, his burning thirst to slake;
Royal kindness greets him promptly
In the cottage by the lake.

As the shel'ring locust's blossom,
Fragrant white, 'neath summer's sun,
So pure thoughts bloom in each bosom—
Heaven's great bliss on earth begun.
Distant from the world of slander,
And unknown to fraud and fake,
Castle to all truth and honor,
Is the cottage by the lake.

Passing years have brought unbroken
Sad affliction to the sire;
Golden health her wings has taken;
Feeble, low the vital fire.
There's no foolish murmuring usage,
Of contentment all pertake;
There is buoyant faith, there's courage,
In the cottage by the lake.

Morn and eve there's heard 'devotions,'
All their Bibles soon pursue;
Then a hymn, with voice and organ,
Some old hymn, or some new.
Parents and their growing glories
Kneel, by turn a prayer to make,
And transformed to real temple
Is the cottage by the lake.

What is life without true friendship,
And the love of friends indeed?
Lighter much the load of hardship
With love's smiles, nor brisk the speed.
Many friends of blest ambition
Oft their welcome visits make,
And they leave their benediction
In the cottage by the lake.

Long ago the blessed Master
Loved the Lake of Galilee;
Banished there the pangs of hunger,
Heralded true liberty.
He is still abroad with blessing,
His own poor he'll ne'er forsake;
This is why there's such a blessing
In the cottage by the lake.

THE EVILS OF COVETOUSNESS.

The incident out of which grew the command to "beware of covetousness" is very pertinent to this era of the world's history.

Nothing is more evident of the greed and covetousness of the human heart than in the division of inheritance. Time and again we hear of wills being contested and broken because of the dissatisfaction of some of the heirs, and the estate which has been wisely and judiciously distributed in most instances, is disputed on the plea of "undue influence" or "unsound mind," amid wrangling and feud. It has come to be a very serious matter—the making of a will—and the legator may well pause and consider whether he can be sure of the privilege of giving away his own possessions or whether when death robs him of the power of personal supervision others will question his judgement and pervert his bequests until his last will and testament is so distorted from its original wording and design that it becomes the will of individuals instead of the individual.

A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth; there is something better than the things money can buy or riches procure, and to covet what is another's is to charge God with unwisdom and partiality in the distribution of his gifts. If we carefully consider the nature and tendencies of covetousness we will diligently avoid it, for it is born of discontent, and will stride all good influence and stand in the way of happiness. The Tenth Commandment implies that our neighbor's lot may be more favorable than our own, else we would not be inclined to covet, but the same heavenly parent has charge of us, and if he sees fit to order our lives differently, and deny us apparent benefits or necessities, we may be sure his choice is for our best good. 'Godliness with contentment (and there can be no true godliness without it) is great gain'; it leaves no room for envy or morbid complaining, but accepts any situation in life as the mold and builder of character. Bartol says, 'Explore not, then, your situation in life any more than the natural constitution of mind; but use it for the building up of a character of original strength and beauty.' Do not inquire, Why was I not born to ease and affluence, to high rank and extensive influence? Wherefore am I destined to work at a hard, laborious trade, instead of dazzling the world by brilliant achieve-

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ments? By what curse am I doomed to carry around a sickly frame or dwarfed body, instead of being blessed with uninterrupted health and a robust system? Be assured, if your circumstances are peculiar work to do, an original excellence to gain. And God is ever looking down to mark your diligence or your sloth.

ADVISE TO S. S. TEACHERS.

Some Methods by Which They May be Successful.

No one ever yet began the work of a S. S. teacher with all the qualifications which were necessary for her greatest usefulness, and while humanity remains human it can be confidently asserted that no one ever will. A willing heart and mind, however, in the hand of our Lord, become capable of great things. Having these, the new leader can confidently step out upon untried paths. There are five essential qualities of mind and heart and attitude which the leader should speedily undertake to acquire, unless, haply, she already possesses them.

Love—not a sentimental, generalized love for childhood, but a love which shall go out to the individual child with his peculiar characteristics and needs. With some people this love is purely one of cultivation but it becomes none the less genuine. Learn to interest yourself in the child as you meet him day by day. As you pass along the street look into the eyes of the boys and girls and see whether joy or sorrow, laughter or tears, freedom or care is lurking within them. Telegraph with your eyes a message of sympathy to the little stranger, and by laughing with those who laugh, and weeping with those who weep, you will find your interest growing. Sometimes it seems as if children live in a little world by themselves, a world of hopes and fears, conquests and defeats, so all-important to them, but so pitifully small to us. The child's world is a very real and important world—albeit but a miniature of the larger—and his attitude and activities in the years of his childhood are fraught with full meaning and prophecy. Understand his woes and pleasures; sympathize with his hopes and ambitions; help him with plan and counsel. Be companionable and do not hesitate to show your interest and love.

Tact—that delicate sensitiveness which feels he time to speak and the time to be silent; that instinct which prompts the right word at the right moment; the sense of touch so delicate and so gentle that it could never wound. Which of us dear junior workers, possesses as much of this rarest of virtues as we need? It will help us to exercise tact with our juniors if we look back upon our childhood days and recalling our ideal man or woman friend of that time, to do to our boy or girl friend to-day as that good friend did to us thus to win our love and esteem. Do not address your Juniors 'as children'; do not be so occupied with your own thoughts that you have no time for a pleasant smile or a word as you meet them on the street; do not tire them with long prayers or talks in the meeting; never betray impatience. Rather, like Paul, endeavour to become 'all things to all men' if by any means you can win some of these boys and girls to Christ.

An earnest preparation of the lesson is absolutely essential if the leader would hold the attention of the boys and girls. We learned at our Buffalo Convention that a teacher should know at least three times as much on any subject, as he intended to teach. A leader who is content to go before her Juniors with merely a glance at the helps—sometimes not even that—and a hazy idea of what she means to teach, will not only find the lesson a failure, but the meeting one of disorder and confusion. Negligence in preparation will undoubtedly destroy the interest of the children and break up the class, for the Juniors will not come

where there is nothing to be gained. Study the lesson. Have a definite idea of the ground to be covered by the year's work. Keep the lesson for the coming Sunday in mind, carefully and gladly culling examples and securing illustrations from the books you read and the people you meet.

Original methods.—By this we simply mean, present the lesson and conduct your society in the way which is most natural to you. Do not think, because you have heard a successful leader tell of conducting her society in one way, that you could use all her methods with equal success. Many leaders fail because they imitate too much. The boys and girls are quick to detect shams, and if they are working in an unnatural way they will soon grow restless. Just be your own natural self and you will find the work much easier.

Increased spirituality.—This, dear leader, we mention last that it may be left in your mind as the highest, most important need. In all the teaching and intercourse with your Juniors there should be an underlying and definite purpose to lead them to Christ. How can you lead them in a way with which you yourself are not familiar? You must be that which you would have your Juniors become, and a life that is 'hid with Christ in God' cannot fail to express itself in loving, tactful helpfulness. It is not what is acquired from without but what is developed from within that will determine your power.

The Painter's Mistake.

A young woman, with some ambitions as a painter, submitted specimens of her skill to a successful artist the other evening, and his criticism is of such application that we desire to share it with our readers. 'Don't copy copies,' said he. 'You have copied this landscape from a picture that was itself an imperfect copy, with the result that all its errors are reproduced and magnified. Go out into nature and paint directly from your own landscape. Or, if you must copy, copy from a masterpiece. Anything else is not worth while.' Yes; and, young Christian, do not pattern your life after the life of some one else, who, at best only an imitation of the perfect One. Imitate for yourself the only life that is worth imitating. Look unto Jesus.—Golden Rule.

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Campbellford, Ont.

THE FLOOD OF PATENTS.

Articles of Every-Day Use the Subject of Thousands of Inventions.

'It is becoming harder every year for a man to get out a successful invention,' remarked a patent attorney. 'The other day I was in Washington and my work required me to search the old patent list. The thing that attracted my attention was the great number of patents taken out on common, every-day articles. Why, they are so covered with patents that it seems absolutely impossible for an inventor to make any improvement upon them without infringing upon somebody else.'

'For instance, take knives, forks and spoons. How many patents do you suppose are taken out on these three articles of every day necessity? A dozen or two?



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Why, bless you, they are protected by 2,103 patents. Then take brooms and scrubbing brushes. You wouldn't think that any number of geniuses could invent more than a hundred improvements upon such things. Well, there are patents for them to the number of 3,184. It seems ridiculous, doesn't it? It did to me, and for a time I thought I would go home and advise every one of my clients to give up the inventing business.

I had the curiosity to go a little deeper into the subject and I made a record of the number of patents. But, of course, that can be over-looked, for games and toys are as varied and uncertain as our winter weather. The laundry business is hedged in pretty well with patents, for there are 7,633 taken out on various laundry articles. Burglars ought never to be able to get through our locks and latches, for they are protected by 5,976 patents; but then this is partly offset by 4,299 patents for saws and sawing apparatus which burglars might use for destroying locks. Altogether, however, the farmer seems to be the man for whom the inventors have labored most. There are 50,000 patents recorded which in one way or another tend to benefit the farmer. It must be that this is a pretty fertile and profitable field for the inventor or else he would not devote so much time and labor to it.

Manufacturing interests of all kinds are pretty well loaded down with patents. In the furniture trade alone there are 4,854 patents to protect the business outside of those which pertain to chairs. These latter necessary articles for the home are covered with over 500 patents. When you take up a piece of paper to write a letter you probably do not realize that the manufacture of stationery is handicapped, or protected, whichever way you please to take it, by 4,532 patents. That fact ought to make one careful how he attempts to invent a new style of envelope, blotter or writing paper. He would have to be a remarkable genius to get around all of these and establish a clean bill of health for his invention.

'When I look at one of the tall buildings in the city in the course of construction I stop now and view it with more interest than I ever did before. That builder has had a host of inventors laboring to make his work easier. His cranes and derricks are protected by 596 patents, the roof he may put on has 665 patents and the elevators he may put in the building have 1,639 patents. Then the stone workers who carve the front for him use tools which are covered by 2,188 patents. I suppose if the builder had to stop and think of all this he would not be able to finish his work. But a patent attorney must know it.'

A CONTRACTOR WRECKED.

Constitution Undermined by Nervous Complications—South American Nervine Worked a Complete Cure.

Nervous prostration and liver complications so afflicted J. W. Dinwoody, contractor, Campbellford, that physically he was almost a total wreck. His druggist recommended South American Nervine. A few doses gave him great relief, induced sound sleep, and a few bottles built him up and cured him so that today he is as strong and hearty as ever.

CURIOUS INVENTIONS.

Some of the Queer Things Devised for Use in the Army.

The samples of various things devised for the comfort of soldiers and the models of implements to be used in warfare received by the President would, if placed on exhibition, eclipse the sights in the National Museum. The Secretary of the Navy is also deluged with all sorts of contrivances and devices, as well as samples of improved methods in cooking and clothing. In one of the rooms of the Navy Department are shown some of these 'supplies,' and they are more interesting to see than the famous Hotel Cluny in Paris. One man has actually 'bouillon capsules' that you swallow at one bolt, then drink some water, and lo and behold! your stomach is full of soup. Another genius has sent to the department specimen bottles of prepared castor oil to be used in connection with the edibles. A benevolent old gentleman of Pennsylvania sent a recipe—there are sixteen pages of it—for preparing all kinds of food for soldiers as teeth who have only their gums to depend upon and who must either swallow soup or starve. In the War Department the same story is told. One bright genius has sent up spec-

ially prepared packages of paris green and wants Secretary Alger to require every soldier to carry one in his knapsack. The idea is that all the bugs of Cuba will thus be kept at bay—as if the troops were tomato plants. Some of the patent medicine men have evolved 'yellow pills,' which are warranted a sure cure for yellow fever. Then there are patent splints for setting broken limbs, which almost dispense with a doctor, and litters on wheels. This last invention is the work of a well-known artist—Mr. Remington. It is nothing more nor less than the ordinary bicycle wheel, carrying the framework for a cot, upon which the wounded is placed and pushed to the hospital. Another curious invention offered the Government is an apparatus for peering into the depths of the ocean to hunt for cables and keep a sharp lookout for submerged mines and torpedoes. The invention is called an 'aqua scope.'

A CARD.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to refund the money on a twenty-five cent bottle of Dr. Willis' English Pills, if, after using three-fourths of contents of bottle, they do not relieve Constipation and Headache. We also warrant that four bottles will permanently cure the most obstinate case of Constipation. Satisfaction or no pay when Willis' English Pills are used.

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Sailor Boys Taught to Sing.

One of the most curious institutions connected with the British navy is the office of 'inspector of singing.' On all training ships the boys are instructed in singing, by tutors, who receive about \$50 a year for the service. On each of the ships there is a tonic sol fa class, where the boys are taught to sing patriotic airs. This ability to sing stirring music has a very enlivening and inspiring influence upon the crews, and might, in some cases considerably frighten an enemy.

'Yes—I gave him up!' sighed the young woman.

'Did he prove unworthy of your affection?' inquired her sympathetic friend.

'He—he became a spelling reformer,' rejoined the other, with a shudder, 'and signed his name "Jorj." It took all the poetry and romance out of the name, so we parted.'



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