

The Young People

"Oh, dear! I'm most sure you'll have to work too hard," said Mrs. Smith, "and it's a shame that you couldn't get a higher place; this isn't half good enough for you. And I'm afraid you'll get hungry, working all the morning with no chance to get out at all. You'd better take something to eat in your pocket. And now don't let them impose upon you. You'd better find out the first thing just what you'll be expected to do, and then if they ask you to do anything else, you can just say that wasn't in the agreement. And if you don't like the place, or you have to work too hard, or you get tired, you'd better come right straight home, for there's no use in wearing yourself out in that bank."

Mrs. Brown said: "Remember, my son, that beginnings are always important, and try to do your best from the start. You know it doesn't so much matter what you do as how you do it. You must expect to get tired, to make mistakes, and to find some things hard and disagreeable. Make up your mind to this at the outset and you won't get discouraged. Don't be afraid to do a little extra work when you can accommodate by so doing, and do your best always. If you can make yourself so useful to your employer that he won't know how to get along without you, then your success will be assured."

Today Edward Brown and Henry Smith are still living in the same town, but their homes are no longer side by side, nor at all similar in appearance. One has a large, comfortable house on the finest residence street. He is president of the bank and has attained more than local reputation as a successful business man. His advice is widely sought, his judgment highly prized. He is a great help to his pastor in the church, and one of the town's most valued citizens. His attractive wife and children help him to make their home a center of enjoyment for many people. If you were to talk with Mr. Brown about his career, and ask him to what he attributes his success, his answer would be: "To my mother. No one could have better advice than I did when I started out for myself, but it was the years of careful training that preceded which made it possible for me easily to follow that advice."

Henry Smith and his family move frequently. He owns no house, and there is invariably something wrong about every one they rent. Besides, he says they can't afford to travel, and they get variety by moving. One would think they might have variety enough in the frequent changes of business, for, just as Henry, the boy, thought his place in the bank altogether too hard for him, so Henry, the man, can never find any business that suits him. He is always grumbling that luck is against him and everybody down on him. He says there is no reason why he should be poor and Edward Brown rich when they started out even, only somehow Ed was always lucky, while things have always gone against him.

But Edward Brown only says: "Poor Henry! he never had any bringing up. If he had had such a home as mine he never could have been such a shiftless, inefficient man, and I am heartily sorry for him."

In the town where these two men live, the contrast of their lives is a constant reminder to mothers of the power of their influence over their children. It is an object lesson which may well arrest the attention of mothers everywhere.—Christian Work.

Reciprocity.

"Charlie!" cried Helen, running into the library, "won't you come help me fix my wheel? It's a lovely day to ride."

"I'm finishing a story," said Charlie, hardly looking up. "Wait a few minutes!"

"May I look, too?" and Helen put her arm around Charlie and began to read.

"Oh! I hadn't finished!" she cried, as Charlie turned a leaf.

Charlie's little demon, temper, sprang up.

"Who was reading first, I'd like to know!" I never saw anything like girls! They can't do anything without bothering some boy to help."

Helen's eyes filled; but she didn't say a word, not even when Charlie called after her, "Don't goof in a huff, sis! I'll help you in a minute."

When the minute, a rather long one, was up, Helen had gotten herself and wheel ready, and had gone up the street.

"Where's Helen, mamma?" asked Charlie.

"Gone to spend the day with Mabel. It was too pleasant a day to stay indoors."

"I thought she wanted me to ride with her."

"She thought you didn't want to bother."

"Hohum!" yawned Charlie. "I'd fixed my mind on that; and now I don't know what to do."

"Where's Bob—or Fred?" asked mamma.

"Both away! Not one of the fellows is home."

Charlie lounged around all day, rather a doleful boy, considering his lofty way of looking down on Helen's head. He missed Helen the more because she had done without him.

"I think I'll ride up for Helen," he said after supper. "I'd like it, too," said Charlie, to himself.

To Helen he said, "I'll never say a word about girls needing boys again. I just felt lost without you."

Helen's eyes filled with tears again, happy ones. "I guess every one needs every one," she said.—The Sunbeam.

EDITOR, R. OSGOOD MORSE.

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Prayer Meeting Topic, February 4

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Things that endure. Matt 7: 21-27.

Daily Bible Readings.

Monday, February 5.—Numbers 20: 22—21: 20. The look and live. Compare John 3: 14, 15.

Tuesday, February 6.—Numbers 21: 21—35. Victory for Israel's army. Compare Josh. 6: 2.

Wednesday, February 7.—Numbers 22: 1—35. Balaam's submission to God, (vs. 35) Compare 2 Chron. 18: 13.

Thursday, February 8.—Numbers 22: 36—23: 10. The countless future people, (vs. 10.) Compare Gen. 13: 16.

Friday, February 9.—Numbers 23: 11—24. Object of God's past mercies. Compare Ps 44: 1.

Saturday, February 10.—Numbers 23: 25—24: 9. God's favor to be theirs. Compare 2 Sam. 5: 12.

We are compelled to omit the Comments on Prayer Meeting Topic this week. They were prepared and mailed by Rev. H. G. Esterbrook, of New Glasgow, but went astray in the mails.

North Alton, Kings Co., N. S.

Our Union meets once a week. Our meetings are largely attended and its entire membership seem to be filled with the spirit of the Master. Our Union was organized under the direction of our pastor, B. N. Nobles. Our active membership 21, associate members, 15. About all taking part as the weeks roll around. All the young people in our community come to our meetings and have a good respect for the service of God. We are glad to see them come. We are trying to exercise a larger faith, trusting that our efforts, with the help of the Master, may touch the hearts of more of our young people during the winter months. Although the winter months are quite rough and stormy, still our young people keep up their Sunday afternoon Bible Class. We have two preaching services each month by Rev. B. N. Nobles. We are looking for a large revival sometime during the winter. Our Union is about to raise ten dollars to go towards providing a teacher for Sister Blackadar when she arrives in India. Brethren, pray for us that we, like Elisha, may have a double portion of the Heavenly Spirit. Our officers for the present quarter are: President, Walter Ward, Vice-President, J. G. Ward; Secretary, P. B. Schofield; Treasurer, Rosy Ward; Corresponding Secretary, J. G. Ward; Membership Committee, Wiley Ward; Social Committee, Walter Ward; Devotional Committee, Maggie Ward. J. G. WARD, Cor. Sec.

Seal Harbor.

The recently elected officers for the B. Y. P. U. are: Pres., Carson Luddington; Vice Pres., Harvey Hudgson; Sec'y., Mrs. Carson Luddington; Cor. Sec'y., Bertha Langley; Treas., Emma Burke. Though we are few in number we will go bravely to work anew, doing our best, resting on the promises of Christ which we know are sure. We hope and pray that God will bless us, and this year will be one of progress. Jan. 13th, 1900. BERTHA LANGLEY, Cor. Sec'y.

The report here presented is the annual report of the Executive Committee of the Germain Street, St. John, Y. P. S. C. E. It indicates good work done. To the Y. P. S. C. E.

Our Heavenly Father has been very kind and true in the past year, and we need to thank him for the many blessings and privileges bestowed upon us in performing the duties given to us personally and as a Society. Although we have worked quietly, still we feel that good will come from it all. New members both active and associate, have been added to our list during the past year, by the earnest efforts of the Look-Out Committee. The two-cent-a-week plan has been well carried on by the Missionary Committee, envelopes have been well supplied to all who subscribed. The work of the Junior Society was suspended during the summer months, but was begun in November. The social gatherings of the Society were very pleasant and helpful to all. The flowers supplied by the Flower Committee for pulpit from Sunday to Sunday, were very pretty and attractive. Many visits to the sick, and to those unable to meet with us, were made by the Visiting Committee. The work of the Tenth Legion Committee has been marked with success, new members having been added to our list. Attention has always been given to the duty of the Sunday School Committee, as their reports from time to time well show. The assistance of the music committee at the prayer meetings and social gatherings, was helpful and much appreciated. During the year monthly business meetings were held, at which reports were received from the chairmen of the different committees. Special business meetings were held on March 13th, and 20th, to consider the adoption of by-laws. At the last meeting of the Society in October, the membership roll was revised. At present the membership of the Society is, Active, 156; Associate, 13; Junior, 30. Total 199.

Respectfully submitted,

MARRI L. GOLDING, Sec'y.

Our Twentieth Century Fund,

Our Young People's Societies in the province of New Brunswick, are asked, by the Twentieth Century Fund Committee for that province, to raise two thousand five hundred dollars of that fund. This is well. The societies have thus a definite task set them, to which their energies should at once be given. We should take advantage of the enthusiasm engendered by other denominations in marking the opening of the next century. It will require a good deal of effort to raise this amount. But with all at it, it may be done. We would recommend that the offerings of the societies be forwarded through the treasurers of their respective churches. The committee for Nova Scotia and P. E. Island has not yet been heard from. We shall expect this committee to ask the Young People's Societies for a large amount, if it acts before Twentieth Century Fund becomes historic.

With the Psalmist in Confession.

Any man who takes up the 32nd Psalm, at a glance sees a great movement of heart. The writer is in distress. What the peculiar cause is he does not say, save that sin lies heavy upon his soul. It is better that it should be thus general, for our sakes, because each reader can apply it to his own case.

The main thing for us is that the man has a keen perception of wrong doing and of its desert. He shrinks from penalty and cries for mercy. But with all the penitential cries of the Psalmist, it is not the prevailing note to be delivered from the punishment of their iniquities, but they seem to feel deeply about sin for its own sake. "Against Thee—against Thee only have I sinned, and that which is evil in thine eyes have I done."

There is nowhere a profounder view of the nature of moral transgression than in the 51st Psalm. It was one in which his fellow-creatures were specifically involved, yet it was, after all, against God only. "All else is swallowed up in that. Face to face with God, he sees nothing else, can think of nothing else, but his holiness outraged, his love scorned."

There ought to be at the present time a powerful presentment of this view. We need to be taught what sin is. Perhaps, however, if each of us would for himself bend his attention to this matter the end would be gained, the individual sense of moral turpitude is what it must come to at last if any real benefit is to accrue. Sometimes, not too often, we surmise,—owing to a peculiar occasion, there comes to us a gently insinuating breeze from the upper airs which loosens the frozen sensibilities of our nature, and we are introduced to ourselves, to a part of ourselves, we have not hitherto known very intimately. For some reason or other, or from no reason that we can find, we are led tenderly yet firmly along from one point to another; our unfaithfulness, our selfishness, our vanity, our pride come before us and we begin to see what ingrates we are; God is so good to us and we are so entirely opposite to him. We look again, and see looming before us another set of something more than imperfections, wanderings into forbidden fields, transgressions of the words of the King, and so constant are these that we involuntarily cry, "I have gone astray like a lost sheep." Still another turn of the kaleidoscope and we are horrified to see a confused mass of iniquity resolving itself more or less distinctly into anger, jealousy, malice, hatred. These and more of such, for many are the unclean birds which even to name is not allowable, rise before us, and as we feel that these are our sins we involuntarily cry, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness, according to the greatness of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions; wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and from my sin make me clean; for I know my transgressions." This is the place to which we must get before much good can be done by any of us.

There are said to be seven penitential Psalms, but if we look closely we find the note of confession in many others. In the 19th we hear the Psalmist frequently, amid all his protestations of innocence and loyalty to God, bemoaning his lack of spiritual life. "My soul cleaveth unto the dust." Poor man, he felt his earthliness, and cried to the only source of help for recovery from all his illusions. He had become like a wrinkled wine-skin; oh, that our dried church members would feel and confess it! Quicken me—give me more life! he cries all through the Psalm. However true to goodness he is still he feels the need of crying.

"Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name." Yes, that is just it. All of the real saints have felt their sins. A large part of the Psalter is taken up with the sad admission: "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly." And when these men of the olden times blessed God, they said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, . . . who forgiveth all thine iniquities." Each one felt his own sin, and each one went direct to the only Being in the universe to whom a sinner can go, and there in solitude poured out his lamentations over his wickedness into the ear of the Eternal. In this strange time, when, amid the cries for greater freedom from ecclesiasticism, the human agent in confession is again pushed under the notice of poor sinners, it is reassuring to note how holy men of old did this. In the Psalm we started with, the burdened transgressor goes to headquarters at once. "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord."

As for us we will con inue to sing:

"Jesus our Great High Priest Hath shed his blood and died; Our guilty conscience needs No sacrifice beside.

His precious blood did once atone, And now it pleads before the throne." Barewood, Jan. 31st, 1900.

D. A. S.