

## WHERE NO CHRISTIANS ARE FOUND.

A young man in Switzerland, son of a Christian mother, was expressing himself as 'sick and tired of Christians' or hearing them or talking to them. So he decided to take the train to a lake where he could be out of their way.

No sooner had the train started than two passengers began an earnest conversation about the Bible. 'Oh, dear!' thought the young man, 'I'm not going to stay here.'

As soon as the train stopped, he jumped out and got in with some old ladies. To his dismay he found that their conversation was about the coming of the Lord Jesus. He was greatly annoyed, and on reaching the next station, he could see the boat.

'Ah, there is the boat,' said he; and looking again, he saw, going on board, a number of happy young men and women.

'At last,' said he, 'I have found what I want.' But as soon as the steamer had started he found that it was a Christian school treat.

He wandered down stairs to the saloon, where he saw the captain sitting, writing.

'Good morning, captain,' said the young man. 'Where can I go to get rid of these cursed Christians?'

The captain, who was a worldly man, looked up with a laugh and said 'To hell!'

The answer so struck the young man that he could not forget it, and God used it, not only to him, but to the captain also, and now they are both Christians themselves.—The King's Business.

## THE TITHE IS THE THING.

It saves the Christian's self-respect. He need not apologize either for doubtful methods or inadequate results.

It conserves the energies of the church for the church's real business.

It puts a stop to the necessity of the church becoming a peddler of pies, oysters, ice cream, chicken pie and notions.

It gives the business men of the place a new regard for the church as a business institution.

It collects itself.

It is a positive means of grace like a good prayer meeting.

It puts a quietus on all display and self-seeking in one's contributions. Nobody can get puffed up over paying his debts.

It makes the Christian's financial relation to his church a pleasure instead of a perpetual annoyance, and so does a good work on his disposition.

It is the one sure way of proving we are in earnest when we say of God that he owns all we possess.

It links us with God in a real and definite sharing of his work.

It is the plan our Lord approved.

And every time, everywhere, with rich churches, poor churches, city churches, country churches, little churches, big churches, it works!—Epworth Herald.

In looking through the Old Testament Scriptures it is easy to see that the false prophets in Israel were always the most cheerful optimists and the true prophets of God were usually looked upon as gloomy pessimists. Observation proves that it is much the same way nowadays.—Sel.

## THREE R'S.

There are three better "R's" for the child of God than the old "readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic" of common school education. A friend of The Sunday School Times signs a recent letter with these three R's: "Yours rejoicing (Phil. 4),—resting (Psa. 37),—reigning (Rom. 5)." The exhortation to "rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice," leaves no room ever for failing to rejoice; for when God commands, God enables. The Psalmist's exhortation to "rest in the Lord" is confirmed by the New Testament's declaration, that "we who have believed do enter into the rest" (Heb. 4:3). And while waiting for the return of the coming King, with whom we are to reign forever, we are also now to reign moment by moment; for much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Jesus Christ." None of these three R's can be separated from the other two. We cannot rejoice unless we are resting and reigning. We cannot rest unless we are rejoicing and reigning. We cannot reign unless we are rejoicing and resting. Christ our life, if we trust him, will accomplish all three for us all the time.—S. S. Times.

## FAITH AND WORKS.

Faith lifts her heart amidst the darkest night,

When there shines not a ray of the sun;  
Works tell of the joy when the faith is bright

Till the long, long day is done.

Faith guides as a lamp the weary feet

Of those whose hearts are oppressed;  
Works tell of those who toiled in the heat,  
As they watched the "reddening West."

But faith and works are just the same

When the long, long day is done,  
For both are alike in life and name,  
When faith and works are one.

—British Weekly.

The absence of joy does not mean the absence of God. "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous." And yet there are many believers who, when the emotion of joy is not beating in the heart, interpret it as a sign of spiritual lapse and alienation. It is regarded as a severance of the fellowship of God. But the pruned vine does not suggest an absent vine-dresser, and even if the vine be bleeding, it does not mean that He has gone away. And my emotions may change from sorrow to grief, but God remains faithful. My fickle moods do not mean a capricious Friend. Joy will be mine again, and it will be all the richer and the deeper because of God's chastening. His chastenings are just his ministries for the deepening of the soul, for the increase of its receptiveness; He is seeking the enlargement of its capacity for the apprehension of Himself.—Rev. J. H. Jowett in Christian Herald.

"The child of God is as safe as his Father's throne."

## REPORT OF THE VICTORIA CORNER MISSIONARY MEETING FOR DECEMBER.

Our missionary meeting was held on Dec. 19th, consisting of Xmas Exercises and Missionary pieces. A good programme was rendered as follows:

Opening hymn—Bethlehem Star.

Scripture Reading by the president, Mrs. C. E. Shaw, Isaiah 53:1-12.

Prayer by Brothers Gordon York and Henry Elliott.

Minutes of last meeting.

Dues were paid in.

Chorus, The sweet gift of love.

Recitation by Helen Bradley.

Recitation by Alice Shaw.

Recitation by Myra Elliott.

Duet by Mrs. Jasper Harris and Willie Somers.

Recitation, Oh, where is the little Child Jesus—Ella Hayward.

Recitation—Marion Tompkins.

Recitation—Annie Bradley.

Exercise—Christmas, by nine children.

Duet by Marjorie and Beatrice York.

Recitation by Annabelle York, The Cruel Mother.

Recitation—Happiness, by Muriel York.

Solo by Marion Tompkins.

Reading by Mrs. W. J. Haywood.

Chorus—Little Missionaries.

Recitation, The little gray lamb—Bessie Bradley.

Exercise—An old song with a new meaning.

Recitation, Christmas—Donald Haywood.

Recitation, The light house tower—Mrs. C. E. Shaw.

Recitation—Mrs. Culberson.

Solo—Mrs. C. Culberson.

Recitation—A Gift, by two girls.

Duet—The homeward way.

Offering—Total amount for evening, \$8.35 for missions.

Closing hymn—From Greenland's Icy Mountains.

CORA E. TILLEY, Secretary.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

We wish to acknowledge the kindness of the people at Maple Ridge, who a short time ago gathered at the home of Brother Henry Hoyt and after spending a very pleasant evening together, presented us with \$39.55 in cash and goods. This is only another of the many acts of kindness bestowed upon us from these good people.

H. C. ARCHER.

"The want of an endowment of power from on High should be deemed a disqualification for a pastor, a deacon or elder, a Sabbath school superintendent, a professor in a Christian college, and especially for a professor in a theological seminary."

"What the sun is to the flower Jesus Christ is to my soul. To the sun the flower owes its life, its beauty and fragrance. To Jesus Christ every soul owes its life, its beauty, its joy, its hopes. Without Him there can be no life, no strength, no beauty, no hope, no heaven."—Tennyson.