

THE DEAD ENGINE.

For several miles the road that the pedestrian was following ran near the railway track. There was a long upgrade, and as he walked along a freight train with two engines rounded a bend behind him and started up the slope. A small engine was in front; behind it was a powerful engine with eight heavy drivers. The train had gone only a short way when the small engine began to puff and tug; it seemed to be putting into the work every bit of power it had, yet even so the train moved slowly up the grade.

The man was astonished, for the train was not long; the big engine should have been able to pull it easily.

Then he realized what was the matter. The big engine was dead; there was no fire in its furnace, no steam in its boiler. To be sure, the big drivers were pounding round and round, so that it appeared to be doing its share of the work; but as a matter of fact it was doing no work at all and was a mere dead weight on the small engine.

As the pedestrian strolled on he thought many times of the train with the dead engine. It reminded him of homes in which one partner leaves the cares and responsibilities to the other when both should share them. It reminded him of churches in which a few carry the burdens that ought to be distributed on the shoulders of many. It reminded him of the nation in which even in high places there are shirkers who do little to increase the prosperity and dignity of their country.

But most of all it reminded him of the kingdom of heaven, in which we ought to work for righteousness side by side with the Master. How kind and willing He is! How ready to help! But how unworthily we fill our places at his side! How often we shirk our duty. But, bearing with our weaknesses, Christ, the True Friend, not only carries on the work of the Kingdom but also as an added burden carries us, who alas! hinder more than we help, and brings us at last with Him to the journey's end.—The Youth's Companion.

THE FAMILY ALTAR.

Only two weeks ago The Companion spoke of the prevailing spirit of lawlessness among elements in our nation that ought to set a better example. Within the last two or three years there has arisen from nearly every part of the country the complaint that vice and crime are increasingly common, and that the criminal courts are congested with an alarming number of felonies and misdemeanors. The County of Fulton in Georgia, which includes Atlanta, the largest city in that state, has had the same experience that so many other countries have had. But the recent grand jury, appointed to examine the criminal docket, made a presentment to the court that is of interest because it does something more than deplore the situation. The presentment undertakes to put the blame for the laxness of morals and the prevalence of lawlessness squarely on the shoulders of parents who have neglected their duty.

"We doubt if morals can be legislated into the people," says the grand jury. It might just as well have said frankly that morals cannot possibly be legislated into the people. "Schools and churches are powerful agencies for the preservation of morals, but the problem must be handled in large measure in the homes of the people and by the parents themselves. Especially do we appeal to the mothers to influence and direct their sons and daughters. . . . to modesty in speech, in conduct and in dress. Indictments and fines and prison sentences will not regenerate the hearts of the people." And then the grand jury goes on to suggest what there is lacking in our home life today. "We ask the people to re-establish in their homes the family altar. . . . and closer home relations between parents and their children."

There is excellent good sense there. The last fifty years have seen an extraordinary decay of religion in the household and a very considerable weakening of the ties of family life. Time was when family prayers were common in the homes of the nation. How often are they heard today, even among the church-going part of our population? Rarely, we fear. But if there is a better way to keep before the eyes of old and young the idea of moral responsibility and the obligation of righteous living, it has not yet been discovered. Perfunctory attendance at church even so often as once a week is no substitute for the daily resort to the sources of moral strength that are found in family worship.

And if we are too hurried and pre-occupied to find time for the daily prayer, we are also too restless for the quiet enjoyment of a real home life. Husband, wife, son and daughter too often have different and incompatible ways of spending their leisure hours and are disposed to find their interests and recreations outside the family living room. The effect is unfortunate on the parents, and doubly unfortunate on the children, who pass too early away from the restraining and guiding influences of home and with the impulsiveness of youth are likely to form associations and habits that are harmful.

The world is disillusioned; it has found that comfort and happiness and peace are not the fruits of our pushing, bustling materialistic civilization. Will it have the wisdom to seek those desirable things where alone they can be found?—The Youth's Companion.

"It is all right to denounce evil, but there is one caution to be observed. It is not enough that you speak the truth in your denunciation, you are to be sure you speak the truth in love. Love will take the sting but not the force out of rebuke."

"We are living in an age of urgency and immediacy. We count time no longer with sand-glass but with a stop watch. Every second counts. Over the desk of the business man you may see in large letters, 'Do It Now.' To postpone would be to lose opportunity; delay might mean disaster."

"One thing that made so good the bread that mother used to make was the appetite the boys had."

MISSIONARY MEETING.

The following is a programme of the regular missionary meeting of Port Maitland Church, N. S., Oct. 19th.

Meeting opened, President Mrs. Fred Sollows in the chair.

Opening hymn, All to Christ I owe.

Prayer by pastor.

Minutes read and approved.

Recitation, Not the doll on the shelf, by Verly Sollows:

Recitation, Little light bearer—Bernard Smith.

Recitation, My Friends—Maggie Churchill.

Exercise by little ones—Christian Warriors.

Recitation, Ten little fingers, by Elda Prime.

Recitation, Missionary pennies, by Bessie Churchill.

Recitation, Boy's Speech, by Alden Churchill.

Exercise by six boys.

Reading, Thankful mite box, by Eva Smith.

Singing, Little messengers.

Recitation, What we know, by Hattie Smith.

Recitation, Aunt Mary's Thank-offering, by Erma Sollows.

Exercise by four girls.

Exercise, If we help each other.

Address by Pastor L. T. Sabine.

Collection \$1.54. Dues \$5.10.

Closing hymn, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Benediction by pastor.

MRS. CHARLES SOLLOWS,

Secretary.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

Woodstock Reformed Baptist Missionary Society held their monthly meeting Friday evening, Oct. 14th.

Meeting opened by singing, followed by Scripture reading by the President, Mrs. Mutch.

After a season of prayer in which the missionaries in the foreign field were especially remembered, the following programme was carried out:

Reading by Harold Watson.

Duet by Avis Reynolds and Ruth Brown.

Reading by Mrs. Mutch.

Duet by Margaret Bragdon and Velma Taylor.

Receipts of evening \$7.43.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Brother Baker:

I want to add my testimony with the rest of the dear brothers and sisters of the Highway. I enjoy the paper so much; its a great help to me especially the testimonies of the keeping power of God. I praise him for what he has done for me and his tender watchfulness over me in my declining years. He is very precious these days to my soul. I mean to trust him while I have life and being, and then go home to meet the loved one that has gone on before—one that loved to read the Highway so much and trusted her Maker to the end.

Yours in Christ,

J. L. ACKERSON,

Monarda, Maine.