

fine linen made clean, and the whiteness or the brilliancy of the linen is the result of the martyr spirit; passing through the fire and being tested until the glory of melted gold is brought forth.

These qualities of the wedding garment are to be obtained in this life and yet there may be a sense in which the Bride of the Lamb is to make herself ready just before the marriage feast, for we read in the passage that when all the heavenly hosts praised God, the time had come for the marriage of the Lamb, that his wife had made herself ready.

The Ministry Of Books

G. M. Strombeck, from
"Christlife Magazine"

There is a ministry of books. They come to us with consolation, warning, instruction, exhortation. To him who in his various moods holds communion with these silent messengers of thought and emotion they speak

"A various language. For his gayer hours
They hold a voice of gladness and of cheer
And eloquence of diction; and they glide
Into his darker musings with a mild
And gentle sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness ere he is aware."

We cannot always choose our flesh-and-blood associates. They whom we may admire most may be, and usually are, so far removed from us in social environment that we can never hope to have intimate fellowship with them. At best, we may occasionally exchange a few passing words with them in some more or less public place of meeting. But these very persons may have committed the best of their thoughts and experiences to the printed page, and by means of that we may invite them as honored guests into the privacy of our homes; there we may hold with them undisturbed and unhurried fellowship.

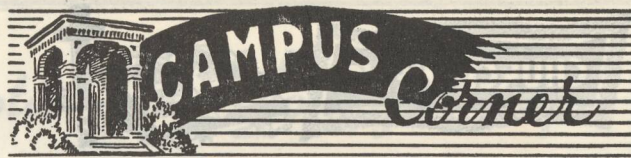
Thus we may tear away the restraints of time and physical environment, and associate with the wise, the true, the great of every age and land. Poets, scientists, prophets, teachers, statesmen unbosom to us their holiest experiences and enfold us with the spell of their ardent spirits, in the quiet of our dwelling where we, unobserved by peering eyes, may abandon ourselves to the sway of their majestic souls.

It matters not what our need may be, there is a book ready to satisfy that need in some measure. Do we desire knowledge or information, whether it be of science, of art, of music, of craft or trade, or of distant lands and far-off worlds, of care of body, or of social usage? The printed page will answer our question. When we crave the thrill of rhythmic cadences rippling like gurgling brooks, or rising and falling with the majesty of ocean tides, we turn to our poets and satisfy our longing the harmonious flow of meter and rhyme.

Do our hearts ache because of loneliness? Others' hearts have ached like ours and have found unseen fellowship in the presence of the invisible and eternal Father; they have transmitted their experiences to others in the records they have left. Take them as guides over the drear paths of aloneness; and you shall no longer feel the emptiness of forsakenness, but delight yourself in fellowship with them and the everlasting God.

Books lift us out of the confines of our physical environment and liberate us from the compulsion of our restricted local circumstances. In their company we visit distant climates and other races. The quaintness of the

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO BETHANY

Our many friends will be glad to hear that the personal Christmas gifts to Bethany have nearly reached the \$700.00 mark. This is a magnificent token of the love and esteem our people have for Bethany Bible College. We want to extend to all participants our sincere thanks and appreciation for your thoughtfulness of Bethany. May God bless and richly reward each contributor.

STUDENTS RETURN TO BETHANY

Bethany Bible College will reopen on January 6th following the Christmas recess. As the Bethany family reunites to complete the work of the school year, pray that God's continued blessing might rest upon this needy phase of His work.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

So often our lives are governed by a period of stock taking and plans for new progress; and so it ought to be. However, we sometimes forget that life is a continuous journey although it may be conveniently divided into years, months, weeks and days.

As we have paused to compartmentalize the past year's experiences to ascertain our profits and losses, we are all aware that life is a process and that the past is a vital part of our present and it shall influence our future. We cannot leave all of the past behind. But, we can make the future different from the past. Thus with the Apostle Paul we should reach forth for "the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Reaching for this prize in the process of life should characterize a life which reveals a vital interest in every phase of the work of God, Yes, the home church, extension programs, missionary endeavour, support of Bethany Bible College should all be of vital interest to those seeking the prize of their High Calling.

The new year should not find God's people so involved in collective movements in our society that His people forget or neglect that devotional side of their nature which is vital to cultivate in spiritual progress. He who would progress toward his prize must cultivate the activity of his eyes earthward and at the same time cultivate the emotions of his heart Godward. Thus the battle-grounds of the new year may be turned into paradises of praise and the battles into voluminous victories.

The new year should be characterized by watchfulness and prayer with faith in a mighty God. Our prize may be realized if we "Watch and fight and pray,

The battle ne'er give o'er,
Renew in boldly every day
And help divine implore".

W.E.G.

Bethany
Sunday
February 8th