

THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR

REMEMBER NOW, THY CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH.

Vol. L.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., MARCH 13, 1902.

No. 11.



STUDY OF PLANT LIFE

1. THE study of plant life dates back to remote antiquity. This is naturally so from the fact that the intelligent study of plants lies at the foundation of the scientific study of agriculture, and agriculture is the oldest of all known sciences. It was studied by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. From that time to the present, agriculture has been the principal means of sustaining the life of the millions of human beings who have lived in every age and clime, with the exception of the few who live in the regions of perpetual snow and ice, and subsist largely upon a flesh diet. The study of plants has thus received some attention from at least a part of the people of all times, yet by many it has been placed in the background, and as a consequence great losses have been sustained. Owing to a lack of knowledge of the nature of plants and the conditions best suited to their growth, the cultivation of the soil has not always been followed with the best results, so that often the earth has failed to bring forth the full measure of her increase.

2. Plants, as well as man and the lower animals, have suffered from the curse, having greatly degenerated in size, beauty, and productiveness. It is only by careful, intelligent labor that vegetation can now be made to do its best, and be brought back to some degree from its degenerated condition.

3. The study of plant life is useful in enabling us more successfully to cope with the conditions of our existence, but there are other benefits which should also be taken into consideration.

4. When our Saviour said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow," he intended that we should see in the plants about us a manifestation of the divine wisdom and beneficence of the Creator of all things. The numerous species, the varied forms, the elegant structure, the exquisite skill with which they are fashioned and adorned, should teach us something of the infinite resources of him whom we are permitted to call "Father."

5. Of one person, the poet Wordsworth said,—

"A primrose by a river's brim,
A yellow primrose was to him;
And it was nothing more;"

but we should not allow ourselves to be thus blind to God's teaching. When we look upon the wonders of nature, the beautiful flowers, the green fields, the waving grain, the majestic trees, we should see in all these things a manifestation of the divine idea, the perfect workmanship of the master Artist, though sadly marred by the blight of the curse.

6. A knowledge of the common plants about us increases many fold the pleasure obtained from a ramble in wood or field, or by the roadside.

history, and their struggles for existence, we think of them as living individuals, meeting with fortunes and misfortunes, the same as do other living beings.

7. You have probably all noticed, whether you have ever studied botany or not, that there are two great series of plants,—those that bear flowers, and those that never bloom. It is likely, however, that you have considered many plants as belonging to the flowerless series that properly belong with the flowering plants, such as a large number of the trees, from the fact that their flowers are so inconspicuous that they have escaped your notice.

8. It is quite natural that we should be especially attracted by those plants that produce large, showy flowers; but in passing by all others as unworthy of notice, we often fail to recognize those that are really of greatest value. In our association with those about us there is danger that we may fall into the same error. We naturally feel that persons who are making the greatest show in the world are most worthy of praise; but there are many in the lowly walks of life, who, in their own quiet way, and unnoticed by the world, are doing more to bless their fellow men than many who are highly honored.

9. From an economic point of view, the flowering plants are by far the more important, and for this reason, it is quite fitting that they should be given first place in our study of plant life. As we shall find in our future studies, it is this series of plants that furnishes us with the greater part of our food, clothing, and shelter.

10. Winter is the best of all times to begin the study of plants. Then when the spring days arrive, and the warm rays of the sun waken the earth from her long sleep, you will be prepared to greet the bursting buds and springing flowers with

an intelligent enthusiasm. B. E. CRAWFORD.

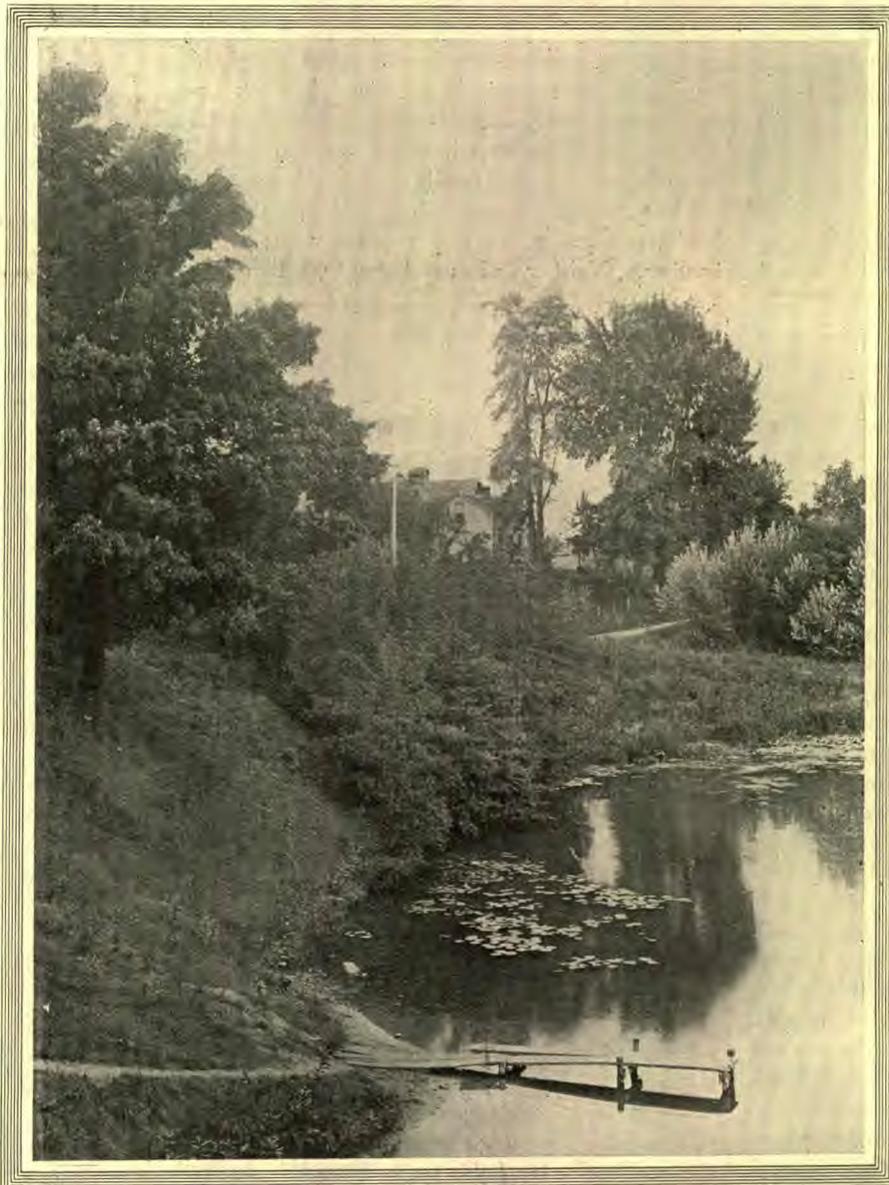


Photo used by courtesy of Fred W. Gage, Battle Creek, Mich.

A BIT OF SUNNY LAKE SHORE IN JUNE

The monotony of a railway journey, or of a drive through an otherwise uninteresting country, gives place to the pleasure and excitement of a tour of discovery when one has learned the pleasure of observation. The boggy meadow, the rocky woodland, a bit of sunny lake shore, the plain, and the mountain, are alike invested with almost irresistible charms. When we meet with familiar plants, we recognize them as the faces of friends; and if we know something of their habits, their life

"NEXT to the sunlight of heaven is the cheerful face. Who has not felt its electrifying influence? One glance at this face lifts us out of the mists and shadows into the beautiful and bright warmth within. A host of evil passions may lurk around the door, but they never enter and abide there; the cheerful face will put them to flight."



WATCH THEM WELL

THERE are four T's too apt to run,
'Tis best to set a watch upon:—

Our Thoughts.

Oft when alone they take them wings,
And light upon forbidden things.

Our Temper.

Who in the family guards it best,
Soon has control of all the rest.

Our Tongue.

Know when to speak, yet be content
When silence is most eloquent.

Our Time.

Once lost, ne'er found; yet who can say
He's overtaken yesterday?

— Selected.

MOTHER SCREECH-OWL AND HER FAMILY

In a grove about a hundred and fifty yards from our house, stood a hollow tree, which had once been the home of a red-headed woodpecker. Later old Mrs. Fox Squirrel had taken rooms, and reared a family there. One cold winter morning Mrs. Screech-Owl, who had been at the shed looking for mice, was surprised to see day come so soon; and as the light hurt her eyes, she crept into the first place she could find—which happened to be the old hollow tree—to spend the day. It pleased her well; and she made up her mind to set up housekeeping there, on her own account, the next summer. At first Mr. Screech-Owl objected to being so near a house, and declared that their old hollow snag of a stump on the creek bank was quite good enough for him, even if it did show signs of leaking. There, at least, no hateful squirrel would be peeping into their house, and trying to collect her rent just when he was taking his noonday nap. This might have caused a family quarrel, had I not taken a hand in the game.

I had noticed, in passing their old stump, that it was still inhabited; so I climbed to the hole near the top, and caught Mr. Screech-Owl, as I had done several times the previous winter. This time, however, I took him home with me, and carried him into the warm kitchen, where we all admired and played with him for a while. Then I turned him loose, and he went home as straight as he could fly. My brother brought him up a few days later; and so it went till he either decided we were not so bad, after all, or felt that he could not have his sleep broken into so often.

It was a very cold, snowy winter; and I shall always think that one thing that helped him to come to his wife's way of looking at things was the discovery that there were plenty of mice in the barn, and that a screech-owl could go in and out at his own sweet will. This much I am sure of; the owls stayed about the hollow tree and the barn the remainder of the winter. Sometimes one of them would get into the pigeon-boxes, but I never knew of their harming anything. The pigeons were not nesting then; and by the time they had young birds, the owls had forsaken the barn, and were living in the hollow tree, and dining off bugs and worms.

In the spring I forgot all about my Screech-Owl family, and so was surprised one day, on hitting their hollow tree with a club, to hear a squeaking noise inside. I climbed up and reached in, and lo! the tree was full of owls,—Mrs. Screech, who tried to drive me away by scratching and biting, and seven little Screeches almost large enough to fly. I set them on a log in a row, and treated them to a good meal of

grasshoppers, much to their delight and their kind mother's alarm. In fact, she entered several vigorous protests in the back of my head with her claws. Even Mr. Screech-Owl aroused himself sufficiently to flit nervously from tree to tree.

The young owls were beautiful little fellows, and seemed much inclined to make friends with any one who would feed them. Finally I placed them all safely in their nest again, and went home. This was repeated frequently till Mr. Screech-Owl would sit stock still against a dead limb, looking so exactly like a knot that a casual observer would never notice him, and watch the whole proceeding without even a blink of his eye. Even Mrs. Screech-Owl made no protest.

Soon all the young Screeches could fly, and I lost track of them, and concluded that they had forsaken me. In the early autumn, however, as the season came for owls to bewail the waning summer, something surprising happened. I slept up-stairs in a west room, with the head of my bed by the open window, which had only a screen in it. The branches of a large cherry-tree reached so near that one could pick the fruit from the window, in cherry season. Here, night after night, came the whole Screech family, perching themselves as near as they could, and spending most of the night. One would say, "Bla-la-la-la-a-a!" Then all would squeeze up closer to the window, and utter the most mournful little "Ow-ow-ow-ow-w-w-w!" It made one think of frost, lonesomeness, homesickness, all at once, yet it was the most delightful music that ever sang one to sleep. It made one appreciate a snug, warm bed.

I left home to attend school that fall, and I have never met the family since. Passing the old home a few days ago, I noticed that the hollow tree was gone, and mentioned it to my brother. Neither of us know whether our Screech-Owl family are still alive or not, but I hope they may yet have many prosperous days.

FLOYD BRALLIAR.

WHEN BABY LEARNED TO WALK

WHEN baby's father visited relatives one day, many were the inquiries concerning the newest member of the family. "Two months ago you wrote that he took his first step, and yet it was only last week that Florence told us in a letter that he was learning to walk alone. How do you explain that?" said one aunt, rather teasingly.

"Easily enough," rejoined the father, not at all abashed; "long before he was of the age when most babies begin to walk, our laddie took his first steps alone, and did so repeatedly. During those experiments, however, he received a good many falls and bumps which seemed to dampen his enthusiasm, and soon he gave up trying to walk alone.

"Of course, he could walk and run as finely as you please, so long as he had hold of a finger or a string or a switch, or any other support, however trifling. He really didn't need this, but he thought he did, and persistently refused to strike out independently of such assistance."

"And now," continued the father, "how do you suppose the little fellow has finally solved the problem? He holds on to himself! Instead of grasping a hand or a cane or a string or anything of the sort, he takes firm hold of his own dress, and off he goes. It's amusing to see him trotting all over the house, with his chubby little fists clasping tight his dress at the breast, just as if he were playing locomotive. Unless he can do this, he will not walk; he never attempts to walk with his hands hanging free.

"You see, the young man is learning early to depend on himself for support. And we hope that all through life he may be able to make progress without any other "pull" or "push" than is divinely planted in his own breast."—

Selected.

THE MAN WHO WAS "GOING TO"

HE was, in the first place, a boy who was always "going to," but who rarely did any of the things he was "going to do." He was for a time a pupil of a school I taught, and I boarded at his father's house a part of one winter. That was nearly twenty-five years ago, so the boy has been a man for several years. When I was staying at his home, his mother would say: "Robert, have you filled the wood-box yet?"

"No, but I'm going to," would be the reply.

Or his father would ask: "Robert, have you fed the horse yet?"

"No, sir; but I'm going to."

Sometimes I would say to Robert, in school, "Have you learned your arithmetic lesson yet?" and would receive the same answer; but when the time came for the class to recite, the lesson would still be unlearned. At the last minute Robert would take his arithmetic and slate, and try to solve his problems in less time than was possible for even the brightest boy in the class.

It is many years since I saw Robert, but I heard from him the other day. A friend was good enough to write a long letter telling me about many of the boys and girls who went to school to me. About Robert S—— he said:—

"You no doubt remember Robert S——? He is still 'going to do' all sorts of things. I went by his home yesterday. It is a sorry-looking place. The front gate has been separated from its hinges for about five years, yet I have heard Robert say many times that he was 'going to fix that gate.' The pump at his well became disabled more than a year ago, and Robert has been 'going to fix it' every day during that time, but it is not repaired. In the meantime, his family carry water from the well of a neighbor, a fifth of a mile distant. Two years ago the drainage pipe on Robert's place became clogged up, and Robert was 'going to fix it' for more than a year. When it rained, the water stood a foot deep all over the cellar, and Robert came near losing two of his children because of illness traceable to this cause. The worst of it is that Robert has fallen into the habit of borrowing money that he is 'going to repay,' but somehow he does not pay it. They speak of him here as 'the man who is going to.'"

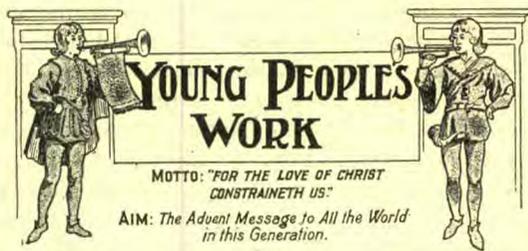
It is a habit that will make a failure of any life. To be forever intending to do things, and never doing them, is to make one weak and vacillating. It destroys self-confidence, and the confidence of others in us. It was only the other day that I overheard two business men talking. One of the men said:—

"O, B—— is a good fellow and all that, but he can not be depended upon to do anything at any time. His business is going to pieces simply because he dilly-dallies so, and never does anything when it ought to be done. I told him ten days ago about an opportunity which, if taken advantage of at once, would be of great profit to him. He said he would attend to it right away; but when I saw him a week later he had not attended to it, and the opportunity was lost for good and all. If a thing is to be done, now is the time to do it."—Well Spring.

HIS PEACE

I WAS at a young people's prayer-meeting recently when the subject for the evening was peace. One of the Scripture selections read was that passage in John containing the words, "My peace I give unto you," and a remark of the pastor's concerning it impressed me so much that I wish to tell you about it. He said the legacy left by Christ to his followers was *his* peace: "My peace I give unto you." This is not a peace like that of David or Paul; it is not the peace of Peter or John, nor of any of the world's greatest. "Not as the world giveth, give I unto you." His gift is the perfect peace of heaven itself.

MARY M. CURRIER.



THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK IN CALIFORNIA

WE are glad to report through the INSTRUCTOR that an excellent interest is being manifested in the young people's work throughout the State. New societies are being organized, and plans have just been perfected for a State organization, which will include the isolated young people; that is, in the smaller churches, where there are not a sufficient number of youth to form a Young People's Society. We carry on a continuous correspondence with the young people throughout the State, and the letters received are indeed encouraging. Regularly organized Societies are formed in nearly all the larger churches,—San Francisco, Oakland, Healdsburg, St. Helena, Fresno, etc. We are working and praying to the end that the youth will enlist in the young people's organization, and thus beginning to bear the Master's yoke in active service, may continue in the good way they have chosen throughout life, or until the end shall overtake us. We ask the prayers of the INSTRUCTOR family in behalf of the young people's work on the Pacific Coast.

W. S. SADLER.

THE BATTLE CREEK YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

ON Sabbath, February 15, a large company of young people in Battle Creek were favored with a stirring discourse by Elder A. G. Daniells, in which was emphasized the truth that genuine religion consists not in mere profession, but in actual *doing*. This fact was urged upon our young men and women with great force and clearness. The practical application of this principle to the individual life was made the more direct by particular reference to our personal responsibility in the effort to free our schools from their indebtedness through the sale of "Christ's Object Lessons."

The blessings which will result through the realization of this plan were vividly set forth, both by statement of fact and by illustrative example. While the blessing to accrue to our educational work is truly great and glorious, the inestimable good conveyed to those who purchase this precious book, and the renewal of spiritual strength to those who sell it, were given their appropriate place in this grand movement. A few moments were devoted to statements of blessings received and conveyed by those who had already taken part in the work. Inspiring experiences were also related, and helpful suggestions offered, by Elders H. W. Cottrell, R. A. Underwood, and others.

Pledges for about eighty books were taken at this meeting. A goodly number of those present had previously subscribed at the general meeting in the Tabernacle on the preceding Sabbath, or at district meetings during the week. In view of the fact that our people have provided these schools at the cost of patient toil and great sacrifice when our numbers and strength were small, in order that the young people now approaching maturity might be fitted for useful service in the Master's work, it seems fitting that our strong young men and women should stand in the forefront of this movement, which assures so much blessing alike to those who give and to those who receive.

At the close of the service, Brother Edwin S. Butz was set apart to the work of the gospel ministry, Elder Daniells offering the prayer, and

Elder Thurston delivering the charge. The week following (Sabbath, the 22d) Elder Butz occupied the hour of the Young People's meeting in relating his experiences while engaged in missionary work in the Friendly Islands, South Pacific Ocean. A large company of young people was present, and the occasion was one of unusual interest. We believe that apart from the valuable instruction received, many present were inspired with a greater desire to engage in labor in needy lands afar. At the close of the service, many came forward to ask questions, extend Christian greeting to Brother Butz, and bid him Godspeed on his long journey. We are confident that our young people in Battle Creek will henceforth sense a keener interest in the distant island-field to which our brother returns.

H. E. OSBORNE.

THE TALENTS—V The Talent of Time

(March 16-22)

1. TIME is the one talent that is given to all alike. Each day brings exactly the same number of hours and minutes to every one of God's children. The men and women who have done the greatest and best work in the world had no more time than we have. Eccl. 9:11.

2. The value of time can not be estimated by any standard that we know. Its worth is measured in loving words and kindly deeds; and who but God knows the value of these?

3. "Of no talent God has given will he require a more strict account than of our time." We are responsible for all that might be accomplished by a right use of every moment.

4. We must study to economize time, that we may accomplish the most in it. Ps. 90:12.

5. It is just as wrong to waste time as to waste money. There is an old adage which says, "Time is money;" but time is more than money to the Christian: it is opportunity.

6. If our time is rightly used, if we are systematic and orderly in our work, there will be time enough for everything we shall need to do,—for work, for study, for rest and innocent recreation. Read Eccl. 3:1-8.

7. The present is the only time we are sure of, the future is always uncertain; therefore the double necessity for making the very best use of to-day. John 9:4.

In addition to the extracts from "Christ's Object Lessons" (pages 342-346) and the Scripture references given, careful study should be made of the Testimonies upon this subject. Pages 412 and 451 of Volume IV speak directly of this matter. Others should be added. E. T. R.

OUR SOUTHERN TRAINING SCHOOL

AMONG all our schools, perhaps the surroundings of none would more vividly remind one of the fortress of that missionary church of the Dark Ages than the environs of the Southern Training School. "In the heart of their mountains is situated the most interesting, perhaps, of all their valleys. It was here that their college stood, and it was here that their missionaries were trained, and, after ordination, were sent forth to sow the good seed as opportunity offered, in other lands. . . . There opens before us a noble circular valley, its grassy bottom watered by torrents, its sides dotted with dwellings, and clothed with corn-fields and pasturages, with a ring of white peaks encircling it above. This was the inner sanctuary of the Waldensian temple." Almost it might have been written, "the Adventist temple." The natural beauties of our hill-girded valley,—the peace of the wide-reaching meadows, the solitude of the forests, the thrill of the rushing mountain torrents, and the protective benignity of the encircling mountains,—can not but inspire the soul of every one who comes under their influence.

About us there lies a missionary field almost as varied as that which stretched at the feet of the Vaudois church. Natives and foreigners, Northerners and Southerners, Indians, mountaineers,— "our contemporary ancestors,"—townsmen, farmers, and miners,—all within a radius of from three to five miles, have presented opportunities for missionary labor. During the week of prayer, students and teachers formed companies to visit the villagers and near-by residents; and in this work a number of openings were found for Christian Help work, Bible readings, etc., which have since been filled by student workers. A Sunday-school is conducted each Sunday afternoon at the coal-mines, two miles from here in the mountains, the results of which have been a great blessing both to the students participating and to the miners' children who have attended.

The special blessing of God has been with the school during the whole year. The presence of the Holy Spirit has been seen in the conversion of a number of students who had not before acknowledged Christ, or even the inspiration of his word; and now there is scarcely one who has not put his hand into the hand of God. This they have done, not in the fervor of a great revival, but one by one, under the ever-present influence of the Spirit of God, which has often been especially manifest in chapel and classroom. We praise the Lord for his mercy and blessing upon this little band, who are, in so great a degree, the hope of this needy Southern field.

The missionary society of the students deserves special mention, as being unique among school organizations. Believing that their school work could be best re-enforced by a line of literary work upon a missionary basis, and recognizing the duty of the Southern States not merely to themselves but to the more needy foreign field at their lower door, the students and teachers organized the "Spanish Mission Auxiliary Society," for the study of Spanish- and Portuguese-American fields. Our study includes not only missionary operations, but the history, customs, and resources of the different countries, that all may become to some extent intelligent in regard to their peoples, as a preparation for future missionary work among them. The society is endeavoring to make its members more familiar with these lands, by the preparation of articles from the reading of books and magazines, by correspondence with missionaries in the field, and by the publication of a weekly paper, *El Fanal* ("published in Lima, Peru"), which contains reports from missionaries, general articles supposed to be suited to the field, and the current history of that effervescent continent.

The reports of local missionary work are also to be included in the programs, that we may, while studying to become foreign missionaries, connect with this work our present Christian activity. Our prayer is that this young home guard, which is training for field service, may soon have large drafts made upon it from the firing line in that part of the field to which it has devoted itself.

A. W. SPAULDING.

AN INTERESTING MEETING

SUCH was the meeting held by the Youth's Missionary Society of Oakland, on December 28. The topic for the day was "China: Its People and Religions."

Some time was spent in giving a report of labor, which showed that these boys and girls are becoming practical missionaries, and are sharing with others, less favored than themselves, the temporal and spiritual blessings which they have received. It was gratifying to see the ready responses to the call for volunteers to keep the reading-racks filled, to clean the hall for the mission Sunday-school, to carry baskets of food to some poor families, etc., etc.

A missionary Bible reading given by one of the boys showed that God calls all to labor for him wherever they see work needing to be done. This was followed by a very interesting talk upon "Ancestor Worship," by one of the girls, after which "Buddhism in China" was set forth in an interesting manner.

A sad picture of "Home Life in China" was followed by "China as a Missionary Field," in which it was shown that something is being done toward bringing the light of the third angel's message into this dark land; it also showed the crying need of more laborers and more means.

A poem, "Whom Shall I Send?" was recited by four little girls. As each ended, "Here am I. Send me! Send me!" we could not but hope that this would be the consecration prayer of many of these young hearts, and that they would help to swell the ranks of the laborers in the needy places of the earth.

The donation, amounting to \$6.62, was to be given to assist in the education of Ah Yung Charm, who is now attending school at Berrien Springs, Michigan, preparatory to becoming a laborer in his native country.

A double quartet of girls rendered the song "Speed Away," with inspiring zeal, after which the meeting closed with the singing of the "Missionary's Farewell."—C. R. K., in *Pacific Union Recorder*.



THE PASADENA OSTRICH FARM

AN interesting sight to the traveler in Southern California is the ostrich farm near Pasadena. This is the largest as well as the original ostrich farm in the United States. Here are one hundred of these strange birds, ranging in age from sixteen years down to the cunning-looking "chicks" recently hatched.

The ostriches of to-day do just as they did in Job's time,—lay their eggs in the sand, without

These birds sometimes attain the age of fifty or sixty years. They walk with a stately tread. The largest bird on the farm near Pasadena bears the well-known name of J. P. Morgan. He is eight years old, and is eight feet high, weighing three hundred and fifty pounds.

Some of these birds become quite angry at times, and fight in a most vicious and frightful fashion. They throw forward one of their immense legs, a blow from which will as effectually knock a man down as a club. One day Morgan became angry at a young man, and struck at him through the fence, breaking an ordinary-sized fence board by the blow.

One should see an ostrich eat in order fully to appreciate the significance of the common expression, "He has the digestive power of an ostrich." These birds readily eat chopped hay, bones, cabbage, fruit peelings, etc. The matter of mastication does not seem to concern them very much. I saw one ostrich, "Edward VII," swallow seven oranges whole. His big neck being free from feathers, the oranges could be easily seen gliding down the esophagus one after the other. One of these ostriches recently swallowed thirty-two whole oranges at one meal. Most fowls swallow small pebbles, sand, etc., to assist in grinding up what they eat. One of these birds one day improved a favorable opportunity to swallow some nails, undoubtedly for this purpose.

The food, if it can properly be called food, that thousands of human beings try to subsist upon demands just such stomachs if it is to be properly digested. The fact that people fail to recognize that they do not possess such digestive

with a beauty that would need no feathers to add to its attractiveness. If we labored half as hard to develop physical perfection as we do to cover up our defects by artificial means, we should be far more successful. Physical beauty is one revelation of the divine, and therefore it is perfectly right to desire it, that we may thereby the more fully reveal the glory of our Creator; but we can secure it only by co-operating with him.

DAVID PAULSON, M. D.

MENDING RESOLUTIONS

IT may be that by this time some of the resolutions that were so fresh and strong and shining on the first of January are, if not broken,



ANOTHER VIEW

cracked or weakened, and in need of mending.

"A stitch in time saves nine," and a nail driven in season saves much labor and loss. So with resolutions. One taken in hand when it begins to show the first signs of needing repair will last long, and be of much service. Now is a good time to look our resolutions over, and see if they are in working order, and likely to stand the wear and tear of the rest of the year.

And with what shall we mend the weak places, if we find any? A good cement is made of equal parts of retrospect, aspiration, and determination, with a liberal amount of prayer. There are other formulas, but they are all alike in one respect,—prayer is the principal ingredient.

MARY M. CURRIER.

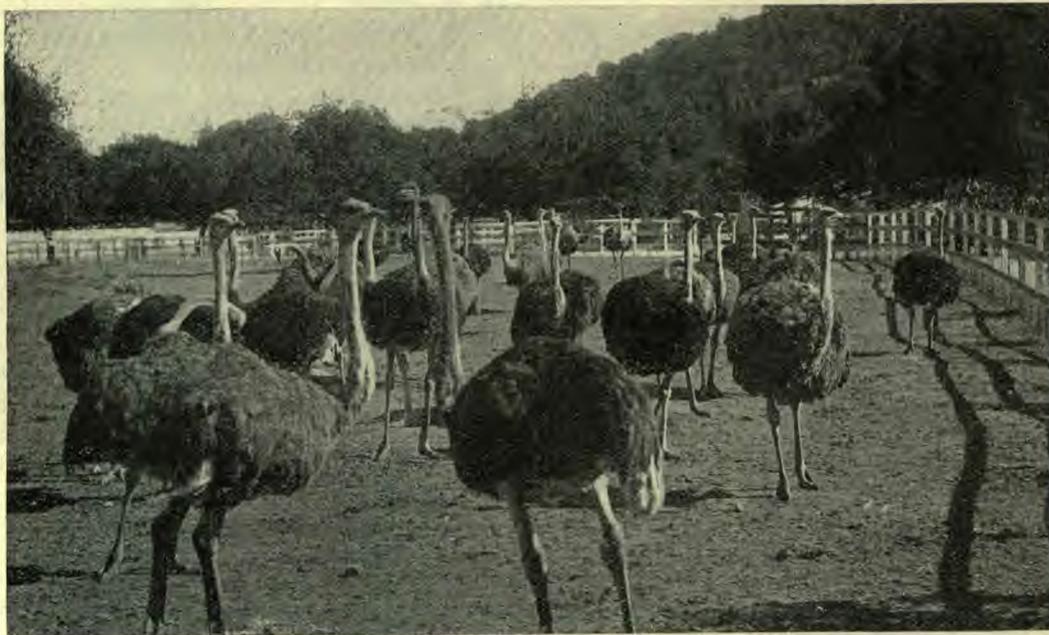
FARM WORK AND THE BOY

"TELL you what," said Roger, one day, "this chore and errand business is getting to be a little more than I can stand!"

Roger was lately from town, and life on a large farm seemed a "hard row" to a boy who was not accustomed to it. His brother Dick thought about as Roger did; and together they were not long in making up their minds to see something of the world,—in other words, to run away. A few days ago they came back from a three-weeks' trip, which had been anything but a pleasant one.

Of course they expected punishment from their father; but when that kind but very busy man saw their torn clothes and sober faces, he decided that their act had been its own sufficient punishment, to which he would add nothing. Calling them to him, he said:—

"Boys, I know exactly how you feel about this farm work, and it is just as a million other boys have felt about it,—just as I myself once felt about it. But there is a future ahead of you, and you will find some day that this work you are doing now has been a priceless training for anything you may do later. The regular round of chores gives you the same training a cadet at the military academy receives; it places regularity and duty before everything else. You can't



AT THE PASADENA OSTRICH FARM.

any effort to build a nest. See Job 39:14. But instead of going away and leaving them, a divine instinct seems to tell them that California sand is not warm enough to hatch their eggs, so the males sit on them at night, and the females during the day. The eggs require forty days to hatch. The newly hatched chicks are about the size of a full-grown quail. The illustration on page 5 shows three ostriches just hatched, and a fourth out of the shell.

powers has resulted in the universal prevalence of dyspepsia.

In order to satisfy the vanity of humanity, these poor birds have to sacrifice their beautiful plumage every nine months. Each such picking will yield about fifty dollars' worth of feathers. If the average young woman would intelligently cultivate health, and harbor sweet and wholesome thoughts, improving every opportunity to make the lives of others happy, she would be rewarded

afford to miss that. The work you do for us, the errands you are called on to run, will teach you generosity and helpfulness of a kind that will make you loved and respected. Besides these and other advantages, you are getting good constitutions. So, boys, I don't want to make you feel like servants at all; but when I looked back over my own life, and to the success that had been mine, I saw it was due to the training my father gave me on the farm; and I wanted you to have the same training and the same success."

"That puts a different color on the whole thing," said Roger, when he had thought it over; and I was happy to hear him singing at his work the other morning as I drove past. I tell you what it is, boys, you can get an education on the farm that nothing else in the world can give. You may not think so; nevertheless, the boy who tries it faithfully and contentedly, will some day say, "That's so!"

EDISON DRIVER.

THE HOUSE WE USED TO LIVE IN

The house we used to live in looks at us
So wistfully as we go driving by;
The wind that makes its near tree murmurous
Flies swiftly after with entreating sigh.
Come back! come back! we hear it low implore;
Lift up the grass-choked gate, the earth-stained
door,
And enter in your childhood's home once more.

Ah, no! let us make merry with light speech
Of newer days, and push the past aside.
Close to that door the baby used to reach
The knob, and play with it—before he died;
He used to sleep on the broad window-sill,
A sunbeam in his curls—no, not that hill—
This level road. Drive fast—oh, taster still!

How small it was! Before the birds are grown,
They lie so warmly in one tiny nest;
But all the world is theirs when they have flown,
And foreign roofs replace the mother's breast.
Ah, well—God careth. See, before us now
The ampler home beneath a lofty bough.
Lift up the saddened heart and clear the brow;

For in that empty nest beyond the hill
Are blessed pictures for the memory's ease,—
The sun-crowned baby on the window-sill,
The happy children underneath the trees.
Old house, look not so piteous. Thou art
Of larger lives the very sweetest part,—
The first love of the unforgetting heart.

—Ethelwyn Wetherald, in *Youth's Companion*.

MARGINS

How mean and stingy and out of proportion
would a printed page look without a margin!
The finer the book mechanically, up to a certain limit, the broader the white border of its page. A life filled to the very edge with the day's business, day after day, is as unsightly, as cramped and dwarfed, as the unmarginated printed page.

To develop beautifully, harmoniously, it needs the margin for rest, for recreation, for the flinging wide of its windows to friendship, to visions



A NOVEL TEAM

of beauty, to the earthly joys that type the purer and more permanent. If "getting a living" is all there is of life, the game is hardly worth the candle.—*Selected.*

A LITTLE FELLOW AND A BIG FELLOW

THERE were thirty-six plump muskmelon seeds, and Bobbie planted them very carefully, tucking nine in each one of the four mounds of earth his fat hands had heaped, smoothed, and patted down.

"My garden's to be all melons this year. I'll have enough to eat, and lots to sell," he called out, proudly, to Harry Wood.

Now Bobbie and Harry were great friends, though the former was only five years old and recently out of kilts, while the latter wore a stand-up collar, a butterfly necktie, and was even thinking about "putting on long trousers."

Harry's tone, though patronizing, was kind as he inquired, "So you really think that you'll have a big crop of melons?"

"Of course!" and Bobbie's voice was full of pride. "I mean to take good care of the plants."

And, indeed, as the weeks went by, Bobbie did tend his melons faithfully, and in spite of many discouragements. For in two of the brown mounds the seeds failed to appear,—whether they had been planted too deep, or whether they had been nibbled by some wandering worm, nobody could tell.

However, the other two mounds soon bristled with luxuriant green plants. These, under Uncle Jed's advice, Bobbie thinned out carefully, weeded, and watered. Then, alas! one night when the little boy was sound asleep, an evil-minded cutworm sawed away in the moonlight, and when morning came, half the plants lay wilting and dying.

Bobbie would have cried over them, but then, salt water wasn't good for plants, Uncle Jed said; and so, instead, he did his best to save the rest of his plants. Soot from the kitchen stovepipe, and tobacco from another pipe, routed the cutworms. Then a warm rain, followed by sunshiny days, made the melons grow fast. They got ahead of weeds, bugs, and worms, and began to put forth pert little runners dotted with yellow blossoms.

Then, one woeful day, Mrs. O'Brien's cow got out of the pasture, and wandered about until she reached the Barker garden; and on her way to reach the dozen rows of young corn, what must she do but place her feet right on his last hill of melons—smashing every trailing vine but one!

And this time Bobbie cried. And Harry Wood, who came over to see the extent of the damage, tried to whistle cheerily, as he said, "Well, the old bossie didn't tread on your very best vine. See, you have one left, and,—I declare, if there isn't a melon on it as large as my biggest agate marble!"

Now Bobbie hadn't noticed this, and he was so delighted that he quite forgot his tears.

The one lonely melon grew rapidly until it began to look very well. Then one day, Bobbie and his family being away, the young Plymouth Rock rooster squeezed himself through the chicken-yard palings, and what else must he do but stalk boldly up to that melon, and begin to peck at it! Tap, tap, tap! went his yellow beak, until he

broke right into the juicy, salmon-pink heart.

It was Harry Wood who saw him, and drove him back into the hen-yard. But most of the melon rode away in the stomach of the Plymouth Rock.

Harry looked down mournfully at the bits of rind, scattered seeds, and pulp remaining on the melon-hill; then he gathered up the mess, and threw it among the burdocks on the other side of the garden fence. After which his long legs carried him down to the Italian's fruit-store, and, when he came out again, he bore a bulging paper bag. Hurrying up street, he reached Bobbie's ill-fated melon-patch, and then—and then!

When the Barkers came home, Bobbie went out to his "garden." He bent over the brown mound, parted the green leaves, and—oh, wonder of wonders!

"Ma! ma!" Bobbie shouted. "Do come here.



FOUR BABIES AT THE OSTRICH FARM

Why, my melon has grown lots just while I've been gone! And it's so ripe that it's loosened itself from the stem. Oh-ee! it's perfectly lovely!"

The Plymouth Rock stuck his red comb through the chicken-yard fence, and crowed derisively, but Bobbie didn't notice him.

And Harry Wood was chuckling to himself across the street, as he said, "That quarter I was saving toward my new microscope is gone, but I don't care. The joke was worth twenty-five cents. And, anyhow, a big fellow kind of ought to look out for a little fellow."—*Sunday School Times.*

"If Thou hast named a joy to be mine own,
To-day, to-morrow, when thy love sees best,
I shall not bring it nearer, though I moan
Impatient with the hunger in my breast,
Leaving my work to watch in sharp unrest."

HIDDEN TREASURE

Not long ago a man living near London bought a parcel of old books at an auction room for a few shillings. Among them was a Bible. One Sunday evening his wife was looking through the Bible, when she discovered that two of the leaves were pasted together. She began at once to separate them, and found a pleasant surprise awaiting her. For between the leaves six five-pound Bank of England notes were hidden, and on the back of one was written: "I have had to work very hard for this, and having none as natural heirs, I leave thee, dear reader, whosoever shall own this holy Book, my lawful heir. July 17th, 1840."

Here was a hidden treasure that had been lying for many years not sought for, because no one knew it was there. But do you know that you have in your Bible hidden treasure far, far greater than that which this woman found? Perhaps you have not yet begun to seek for it, because you did not know it was there.

In ancient times, men used to bury their treas-

ure in the earth, because they thought this was a safe hiding-place. But sometimes they would forget where they had buried it, or the owner might die without telling any one about it.

So when Jesus told the people the parable of the hid treasure, he was talking about something that often happened in those days. Do you remember the story?

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

No doubt his friends would think him very foolish, and even crazy, to part with his goods for the sake of buying a barren field. But the man himself is joyful; for he knows that he is getting far more than he gives up.

The treasure hidden in the Bible is the precious truth. Jesus said, "I am the Truth;" and in Christ, the Truth, are hidden "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Now hear what God tells us about this wisdom that can be found only in Jesus Christ, who gives it to us in his word:—

"The depth saith, It is not in me:
And the sea saith, It is not with me.
It can not be gotten for gold,
Neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
It can not be valued with the gold of Ophir,
With the precious onyx, or the sapphire.
The gold and the crystal can not equal it;
And the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.
No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls:
For the price of wisdom is above rubies."

This is the treasure that is hidden in the Bible. And if we would find it, we must be willing to dig in this precious mine of truth.

Do you think that the man who found the treasure in the field would think it a hard task to dig for it?—No! he would not rest until he had gone carefully over the whole field; and each piece of gold or silver, each precious gem that he found, would give him fresh zeal to go on with the work.

Yet "the earth itself is not so interlaced with golden veins, and filled with precious things, as is the word of God." And for any one who will dig in any part of it, there can be no disappointment; for the promise is, "Seek, and ye shall find."
EDITH E. ADAMS.

WHAT'S THE NEWS?

WHAT'S the news?

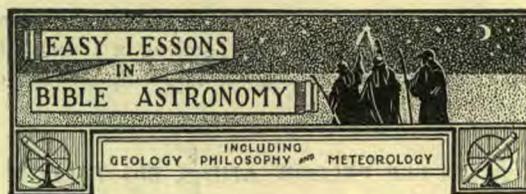
Philip Smith has killed himself?
Broker Jones has lost his pelf?
Cashier Brown's embezzlement,
Two eloped, and where they went?
Other plots to kill the czar?
Wars, and threatenings of wars?
Scandals down at city hall?
Mrs. Dazzle's fancy ball?
Three alarms, a fearful fire?
Offices, and who aspire?
Great divorce case, shocking tale?
Jacob Drivum's Bargain Sale?
These, and such affairs as these
You'd palm off as novelties.
They're no news!

This is news:

Doctor Large has saved a life!
Reuben Grim has kissed his wife!
Dives builds a hospital!
Bookworm Rusty makes a call!
Jack and Jim are friends once more!
Tippler passed the bar-room door!
Baby's got a second tooth!
Mrs. Tattle's told the truth!
Here's a man has helped a boy!
There's a youngster shares a toy!
Here is comfort for a tear!
There's a bit of sunny cheer!
Hardened sinners born again!
Christ's new life in worn-out men!
That is news!

—The Christian Endeavor World.

"BETTER to say, 'This one thing I do,' than to say, 'These forty things I dabble in.'"



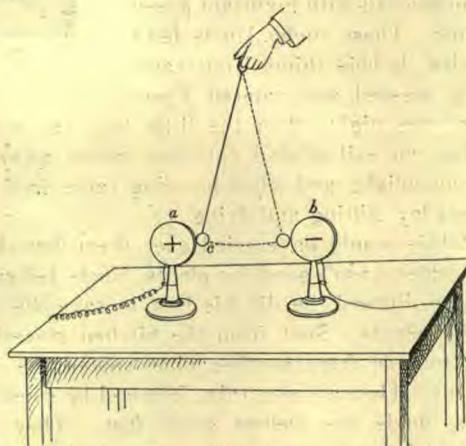
DIVISION II—PHILOSOPHY;

Chapter XXI—Attraction and Repulsion

§ 213. One of the most important factors in our preparatory study of astronomy is the attractive and repulsive properties of electricity. Many things we know to be true, and wonder at the fact; but when we understand the reason for the existing phenomena, we enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the workings of God as would otherwise be impossible. In the attractive and repulsive effects of electric, or magnetic, vibration is the explanation of many of the wonderful manifestations of the workings of God in the celestial and terrestrial fields of study.

§ 214. To illustrate what is meant by electrical, or magnetic, attraction and repulsion: Place upon your table two copper balls mounted upon insulated stands, as shown in the illustration. The one marked (a) is connected with a battery, and is positively charged with electricity. The one marked (b) is connected by a wire with the ground, and being close enough to (a), which is positive (+), to be under its influence, it becomes negative (—). Now suspend, between the two, by a silken thread, a pith-ball (c), and watch the result.

It is a well-known law of physics that "opposites attract, and likes repel," and so with these. The pith-ball being placed under the influence of the positive (+) electrode, immediately be-



comes negative (—), and so is attracted to the positive electrode. The moment it touches it, it becomes positively electrized itself, and being the smaller and lighter of the two, is quickly repelled, or thrown off, from the positive ball. The moment it leaves this positive electrode, it is attracted to the negatively electrized electrode, to which it flies as rapidly as it first went to the positive one, being not only attracted to it, but also driven toward it by the one which it left. But it does not remain long in touch with its negative neighbor; for the moment it gives off its load of positive electricity, it, in turn, becomes negatively electrized; and as likes repel, it is thrown off from this electrode, and driven back to the first, only to repeat the vibration, which is kept up as long as the first electrode is positively charged. This simple experiment will be of value in our future study of astronomy, and we trust that none will neglect it.

§ 215. Now let us review a few of the facts we have learned regarding vibration, and put them to a practical test. The lowest, crudest form of vibration is sound. Strike a large gong, triangle, or bell, and you can actually see the edge vibrate; or if the tone is too high to see the vibrations, you can distinctly feel them. Speak into a tin can or basin, and the bottom will vibrate in exact accord with the varied tones and modulations of the voice. Attach a hard-twisted cord or small wire to the center of the bot-

tom of the can, connect the other end of the cord or wire with a similar can some rods away, and speak into the one, holding the cord taut, and the exact vibrations of the voice will be reproduced in the can at the other end of the cord by the mere vibrations of the bottom of that can. This is the most simple form of telephone; but when properly constructed, will do good service for some distance. Parchment, or even leather, forms an excellent drum for such a telephone.

§ 216. In the magnetic telephone—the one commonly in use—the sound-waves, or vibrations, are carried by magnetic impulses that exactly correspond with the vibrations of the diaphragm against which the person speaks. These impulses are carried over the wire, which becomes an extended magnet; and this by its impulses causes the diaphragm at the other end of the line to vibrate in exact unison with the one into which the person speaks, thus accurately reproducing the sound.

§ 217. The phonograph is, as the name indicates, a machine for writing sound. A sharp needle, or point, is attached to the center of the drum, or diaphragm, against which the operator speaks. The point of the needle is caused to rest lightly upon a rapidly revolving cylinder of wax in such a manner as to trace a spiral thread running round and round from one end of the cylinder to the other in the same manner as the threads are cut in a very fine screw, or bolt. As the tone of the voice causes the diaphragm to vibrate, the needle pricks little holes, or rows of holes, in the rapidly revolving body of wax, each hole representing one vibration, and each group, or row of holes, representing one tone. All that is needed to reproduce the sound is to place the needle back at the beginning of the little line of dots that it has made in the wax, and start the machine in motion. The needle drops rapidly into the punctures that it has before made, and in so doing causes the plate to vibrate, and thus produce the same sound that first caused the punctures.

§ 218. When the higher forms of vibration, such as electricity, are caused to pass over a poor conductor, the resistance is such that the vibrations become slowed down, and manifest themselves in the forms of heat and light. When a moderate amount of electricity is used, the conductor merely becomes warm; but when a stronger current is applied, it blazes out in the form of light. The resistance afforded the current by the platinum wire is sufficient to change the vibrations from that of electricity to light in the glass bulbs that afford us light in our homes and offices. The same is true regarding the carbon points in the arc-lamps that light our streets at night. This merely illustrates the change that takes place in the forms of vibration.

§ 219. The reason the electric light is white, having its full amount of indigo and violet rays, is that it is a higher order of light than is the yellow flame of the candle, or light from a poor grade of petroleum. The more refined and perfect the oil, the whiter the light.

Questions

State a universal law of physics relative to attraction and repulsion. Describe the illustration of the pith-ball. When a conductor of electricity is brought under the influence of a positive electrode, what polarity does the object take on, positive or negative? What polarity have the ground, trees, and buildings over which a heavy thunder-cloud is passing? Dry air being a poor conductor of electricity, when will the rubbing of a cat's back produce the greater number of electric sparks, before a thunder-storm or afterward? Why? Explain the philosophy of a simple telephone. Why will a phonograph repeat the exact words spoken into it? How is the electric light produced? Why is its light whiter than the light of a candle?

Note

We are sorry these lessons have been interrupted during the past few weeks, and trust our duties in the future will not be such as to hinder their preparation. Having laid the foundation facts, we are now ready to enter upon that most interesting of all studies, "Bible Astronomy."

Those who have carefully preserved their INSTRUCTORS will now have an excellent basis for this study, and those who have not, would do well to secure these back numbers if possible, as constant reference will be made to the points brought out in the different sections gone over, all of which have been preparatory to the coming study. From letters constantly coming to us from all over the United States and parts of Canada, we know we shall have a large and interesting class, and we shall gladly do all we can to make this important study so simple and plain that the children, and those who have never studied science at all, can not only understand it, but also teach it to the pupils in their schools and families.

DR. O. C. GODSMARK.

2005 Magazine St., Louisville, Ky.



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON NO. 12

PARABLE OF THE LABORERS (March 22)

MEMORY VERSE: "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matt. 20: 16.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matt. 20: 1-16.

LESSON HELP: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 390-404.

Synopsis

When Christ said, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" the disciples were greatly astonished. They had been taught to look upon the rich as the favorites of heaven, and worldly honor and riches they themselves hoped to receive in Messiah's kingdom. If the rich failed to enter, what hope would there be for the rest of men? As Jesus repeated his solemn warning, they exclaimed, "Who then can be saved?" Peter was the first to rally from the secret conviction wrought by the Saviour's words, and, thinking of all that he and his companions had forsaken for the Master, asked what they should receive as a reward for their sacrifice. His question revealed a spirit that, uncorrected, would unfit the disciples to be messengers for Christ; it was the spirit of a hireling. Lest they should lose sight of the principles of the gospel, Christ related the parable of the laborers to show the manner in which God deals with his servants, and the spirit in which we ought to labor for him.

Questions

1. Two questions were asked Jesus, which led to his giving the parable of the laborers; what was the first? Matt. 19: 16.
2. When Jesus told the young man how he could be made perfect, what was the result? Matt. 19: 22.
3. What did the Saviour then say about riches?
4. Who asked the second question? what was it?
5. What prompted this question? See Synopsis.
6. What kind of spirit did it show? *Id.*
7. In the parable which Christ then gave, to what is the kingdom of heaven likened?
8. At what time did the householder go out to hire laborers?
9. What did he agree to pay them? How

much is a penny in our money? See Bible dictionary.

10. At what other hours of the day did the householder go out to hire laborers?

11. "Early in the morning" means six o'clock: what time is meant, then, by the third, sixth, and ninth hours?

12. When the householder went out at the eleventh hour, what did he say to the men standing in the market-place? What time of day was this?

13. What answer did they give the householder?

14. What did he then command them? What wages were they to receive?

15. When evening came, what did the lord of the vineyard say to his steward?

16. Of the men hired, who were to be paid first?

17. How did their wages compare with those of the men hired early in the morning?

18. When those first hired were paid, what complaint did they make? To whom did they make it?

19. How did the steward uphold his master in what he had done?

20. What conclusion does the parable draw from this experience?

21. In applying it, who is the *householder*? What is the *vineyard*? Who are the *laborers*?

22. What is the basis of the reward which God has to give? Titus 3: 5; read Quotation.

Quotation from the Lesson Help

"The householder's dealing with the workers in his vineyard represents God's dealing with the human family. It is contrary to the customs that prevail among men. In worldly business, compensation is given according to the work accomplished. The laborer expects to be paid only that which he earns. But in the parable, Christ was illustrating the principles of his kingdom,—a kingdom not of this world. He is not controlled by any human standard. . . . His reward is given, not according to our merit, but according to his own purpose, 'which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.' 'Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us.' . . . Not the amount of labor performed, or its visible results, but the spirit in which the work is done, makes it of value with God. . . . It is not the length of time we labor, but our willingness and fidelity in the work, that makes it acceptable to God. In all our service a full surrender of self is demanded. The smallest duty done in sincerity and self-forgetfulness, is more pleasing to God than the greatest work when marred with self-seeking. . . . And however short our service or humble our work, if in simple faith we follow Christ, we shall not be disappointed of the reward. That which even the greatest and wisest can not earn, the weakest and most humble may receive. Heaven's golden gate opens not to the self-exalted. It is not lifted up to the proud in spirit. But the everlasting portals will open wide to the trembling touch of a little child. Blessed will be the recompense of grace to those who have wrought for God in the simplicity of faith and love."—Pages 390-404.

YOUR life journey leads by a way you know not. It is best you should not know. When you come to the rugged hills, climb them. Enjoy the beautiful landscapes as you pass them. And rest assured that at the end of your journey every good thing that has entered into your aspiration, plan, and purpose will greet you in that world where hope is changed into fruition, and the longing for perfection shall find its realization. Your highest dreams of spiritual purity, exaltation, and blessedness now are sure prophecies of what you shall be then. What you put into your dream here, God will put into your destiny there.—*Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald.*

(Continued from page 8)

Manchuria, the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and all other nations shall be on a footing of exact equality as to tariffs, port dues, shipping regulations, and commercial conditions. It has been assumed, rightly or wrongly, that Russia sought special advantages for herself and her commerce over other nations, especially in Manchuria, which she has been suspected of a design to annex. The 'open door' to China's trade is at present worth a little over \$18,000,000 a year as a market for our exports. The total imports of the empire from all countries are valued at \$148,383,000 a year."

A MONTH OF FIRES.—February was marked by a number of serious fires, which caused a vast destruction of property and considerable loss of life. On the night of the second the town of Waterbury, Connecticut, famous for its manufacture of watches, was visited by a fire which covered about five acres of the business center, and resulted in a loss of \$2,500,000. This was followed, on February 8, by a still worse fire at Paterson, N. J., called the "Lyons of America," because of its position as center of the silk manufacturing interests in this country. Twenty-six blocks of the business part of the city were burned, including practically every important public structure, besides five hundred residences. One thousand persons were made homeless, and upward of ten million dollars' worth of property was destroyed. On the 22d, in the burning of the Park Avenue Hotel, New York City, nineteen lives were lost, and property to the value of \$750,000 was destroyed.

A GIGANTIC DAM.—By order of the State General, and with the approval of the queen, the government of Holland will undertake to reclaim the 2,500,000 acres of the Zuyder Zee. The dam will reach from the north Holland shore to Priaam on the opposite mainland, by way of the little island of Wieringen. It will be twenty-five miles long, will be twenty years in constructing, and is estimated to cost about \$42,000,000. A railroad will run along its top from shore to shore. The reclaimed land will be divided into homesteads for farmers.

SHORTHAND BY MAIL

YOUR spare time can be well improved by studying shorthand, and this can be done at small expense to you by taking a mail course at your home. We are using "The Rogers Compendium of the Graham System of Shorthand," a method arranged especially for home study, and giving an epitome of a system of shorthand acknowledged to be the best, the briefest, and the most complete. The only presentation of Standard Phonography in which all shorthand outlines are written as first learned, thus greatly abbreviating the work on the part of the student. A complete course in thirty lessons, illustrated by facsimile notes, with key. The correction of all students' papers given special attention by experts. Reasonable tuition rates. If interested, write for full particulars. Practicing stenographers wishing to prepare for rapid reporting work should secure the last twenty lessons.

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PUBLISHED BY THE
 REVIEW AND HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY
 BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

ADELAIDE BEE COOPER - - - EDITOR

Subscription Rates:

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION	- - - - -	\$.75
SIX MONTHS	- - - - -	.40
THREE MONTHS	- - - - -	.20
TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES	- - - - -	1.25
CLUB RATES:		
5 to 9 copies to one address, each	- - - - -	\$.55
10 to 100 " " " "	- - - - -	.50
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The Advertising Rate

Is fifteen cents per agate line, one insertion. Reading notices, thirty cents per brevier line, one insertion. Further information upon application.

Entered at the post office at Battle Creek, Mich., as second-class matter.

You can not bear your trouble? Of course you can not. O, do not try! Lay it down: leave it with the Burden-bearer: accept the comfort he will give you. Thus, sorrow-taught and comfort-healed, you will be able to "comfort them which are in any trouble by the same comfort" where-with you yourselves were "comforted of God."

It is not a sign of strength of character to seek an "easy" place or task. We all admire the spirit of that soldier who, in speaking to his general, said: "If you have a post that is harder than any other, send me there." There has been many

THE CHILDREN RESPOND

A FEW weeks ago we gave on the Children's Page a little sketch of a Sabbath-school in a Michigan lumber camp, with a call for any who felt inclined to send copies of the INSTRUCTOR to the sister who is carrying on this work. The first response comes from two children, a little brother and sister of six and seven years, who spent the winter in a lumber camp in Wisconsin. Here, though shut away from meeting with other children in Sabbath-school, they have had the INSTRUCTOR, and have studied its lessons and enjoyed reading it. When they read of this little school in the woods, they wanted to do something for it; so they decided to send two copies of the INSTRUCTOR there, for six months, paying for them with money they had earned themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN attractive series of studies in plant life is begun in this number of the INSTRUCTOR under the general heading, "Plants of Forest and Field." They are written by Brother B. E. Crawford, instructor in advanced botany in Union College. The paragraphs of the series will be numbered consecutively for the convenience of those who may wish to refer to the different subjects taken up. A large number of pen-and-ink drawings will be prepared by the author fully illustrating the text.

We are also pleased to announce that at the request of the Committee having the general work in charge, Elder Luther Warren has consented to write, for use in the Young People's Societies,



WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD.

GREAT SHIP CANAL.—It is reported that Russia is contemplating the construction, across her southeastern territories, of an immense ship canal, deep enough for the largest ships of war as well as vessels of commerce. The canal will connect the Baltic and Black seas, following the course of the Dnieper, and its tributary, the Beresina, and entering the Baltic by the Duna. In many places the rivers will have to be deepened, and forty miles of dangerous rapids in the Dnieper must be done away with. Altogether, the undertaking is looked upon as one of the greatest of its kind in the history of the world.

THE METEOR LAUNCHED.—February 25, in the presence of his brother, Prince Henry of Prussia, the German emperor's new yacht, "Meteor III," was christened by Miss Alice Roosevelt. The yacht was launched at Shooter's Island, and in spite of bad weather, the crowds were large, and the affair altogether very brilliant. The people cheered the president, the prince called for cheers for Miss Roosevelt, and everybody cheered the prince. In short, if cheers are to be taken as an evidence, there never would be anything but the warmest good feeling hereafter between the two countries represented on that occasion.

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.—On January 30 an important agreement was signed by the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Lansdowne, and Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister to Great Britain, for the purpose of preserving the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea. It also provides for "securing equal opportunities in those countries for the commerce and industry of all nations. The contracting parties agree that if either should become involved in war with another power because of an attack upon its interests in China or Korea, the other will remain neutral; but that if a second power joins in the attack, the other party to the contract will go to the defense of its ally. It is generally understood that Russia is the power whose possible aggressions the agreement is meant to provide against, and that the alliance has been hastened by the discovery that Russia is pressing upon China two distinct conventions relating to Manchuria, in one of which she seeks to secure, through the agency of the Russo-Chinese Bank, concessions which she dropped from the other. The United States as well as Great

Britain and Japan, protested against these conventions."

The treaty was officially announced on February 11, and caused considerable surprise in diplomatic circles. It is generally thought that in bringing about this alliance, Japan has done very well indeed for herself. But in all these events the student of prophecy will read a deeper meaning.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE "OPEN DOOR."—Now that the new Anglo-Japanese treaty brings the term "open door" prominently into print again, it may be well to explain just what is meant by the words. The New York World recapitulates thus: "The open door means that in all the ports and provinces of China, including

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VIEW OF THE SANITARIUM AS IT APPEARED AT FIVE O'CLOCK FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN

a Christian soldier who has been led by the same high spirit to go into the darkest places of earth to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those in darkness, and that is the spirit that should actuate all who work for the Master. Not the easy places, but the hard, yes, the hardest, places—remembering always that where the need is greatest, there is his Spirit given in greatest fullness.

OUR INSTRUCTOR MISSION FUND

For sending a club of INSTRUCTORS to India for the present year, has been completed by a gift of three dollars from Brother E. C. Boylan, of Colorado. Let us not forget to pray that these papers may be blessed of God as they go to this distant land.

a series of lessons covering the distinctive points of our faith. These lessons are designed to help the young people to give an intelligent reason for their hope, as well as to build them up in the most holy faith. Elder Warren has expressed his wish to make the lessons so simple and plain that the youngest can understand the truths brought out, and yet at the same time present a field for deeper study to all who have the inclination or the time to enter it. The first of these studies will appear next week, in the department devoted to the Young People's work.

The publication of that long-delayed series of articles on Mexican Horsehair Work, by J. Edgar Ross, will soon be begun. The first three articles of the series were received several weeks ago, but their publication was for a time delayed by the making of the illustrations.