

used to that word that some regret the change. When we have become accustomed to it we shall prize the word *Love* much as giving fresh force and beauty to this beautiful chapter.

**Topical Analysis.**—(1) The characteristics of love, 1-8. (2) The eternal supremacy of love, 9-13. On the first topic note that the characteristics given are of two kinds—*negative*, something that love is not—*positive*, something that it is. It is not *envious*, dwell for a moment on each of these characteristics and illustrate them as you easily may from daily life here, it would the rather rejoice in the success and pre-eminence of another. In the spirit of John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease," not *vain*, *proud*, *selfish*, *hasty*, *prejudiced*, or *pharisaical*. How beautiful, but how rare, the character free from all these blemishes; how hard some of them especially are to root out of the heart, but if the love of God is there, and supreme, they will all be cast out. Read the First Epistle of John through, and see what a place he also gives to love—love to God and the brethren. Reading this description one thinks of a group of children boasting of their strength, quarrelling for the best things, breaking into hot words which are answered by blows, till all is confusion and misery; and then comes the elder sister, sweet in face and gentle in voice, and by the very charm of her bright, unselfish spirit, the rude tones are quieted, smiles, kisses, and pretty acts of kindness change the place to a heaven. We have taken the figure from the nursery. Alas! that full-grown people should be so slow to put away childish things.\* But there is a positive side: love is active, it is *kind*, long-suffering, *believing the best*, and, where belief is impossible, *hoping the best*, *patient to the end*. What a world this would be if in all walks of life these principles prevailed. Love, or in other words, the Spirit of Jesus entering into all trade—into the dealings of man with man. What an extraordinary political newspaper, for instance, that would be, conducted on the principles of vers. 5-7, and what a church, and what a school also. Strive to impress these principles on your scholars; strive to illustrate them in your own life.

On the second topic, show how transient all gifts are compared with Love. Man dies, and the knowledge acquired by a life of study, or the gifts of intellect with which he may be richly endowed, all cease, but if he has love in the heart he carries it into the realm of love and it abides with him forever. Greater also than Faith and Hope which are the steps to the perfect Christian Character, while Love is that character. Faith is the eye, but Love the heart, Hope the anchor, but Love the precious freight. Faith and Hope the virtues of creatures, God can have neither, but Love is of God; 1 John, 4:7; and God is Love, 1 John, 4:8.

**Supplementary.**—The lesson would fail unless we pointed to the incarnation of love in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. All the characteristics of love were seen in Him, forgetting for the moment that it was love brought Him to earth. How does every incident in His life show its spirit, how kind, how gentle, how humble, how long-suffering, how forgiving, how patient with the dullness of His disciples and the opposition of the people. The life of Jesus is, in fact, a living comment on to this lesson, and just as we strive by the grace of God to be like the Master shall we be filled with the spirit and power of this lesson.

#### INCIDENTAL TRUTHS AND TEACHINGS.

Supernatural gifts have long passed away, but Love abides.

Love is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending of the Christian character.

Love finds good where others find only evil and hopes to the end.

\* Monday Club Sermons.

Without Love we are nothing before God.  
Christ, and Christ alone, the perfect embodiment of Love.

He our model set before us.

"He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things both great and small."

**Main Lesson.**—Follow after love.—John 13:34; 15:12; Romans 13:8; Col. 3:14; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 John 2:9-10; 4:7.

#### THE COAST-GUARD.

Do you wonder what I am seeing,  
In the heart of the fire, aglow  
Like cliffs in a golden sunset,  
With a summer sea below?  
I see, away to the eastward,  
The line of a storm-beat coast,  
And I hear the tread of the hurrying waves  
Like the tramp of a mailed host.

And up and down in the darkness,  
And over the frozen sand,  
I hear the men of the coast-guard  
Pacing along the strand.  
Beaten by storm and tempest,  
And drenched by the pelting rain,  
From the shores of Carolina,  
To the wind-swept bays of Maine.

No matter what storms are raging,  
No matter how wild the night,  
The gleam of their swinging lanterns  
Shines out with a friendly light.  
And many a shipwrecked sailor  
Thanks God, with his gasping breath,  
For the sturdy arms of the surf-men  
That drew him away from death.

And so, when the wind is wailing,  
And the air grows dim with sleet,  
I think of the fearless watchers  
Pacing along their beat.  
I think of a wreck, fast breaking  
In the surf of a rocky shore,  
And the life-boat leaping onward  
To the stroke of the bending oar.

I hear the shouts of the sailors,  
The boom of the frozen sail,  
And the creak of the icy halcyards  
Straining against the gale.  
"Courage!" the captain trumpets,  
"They are sending help from land!"  
God bless the men of the coast-guard,  
And hold their lives in His hand!

—Emily Huntington Miller, in *St. Nicholas* for March.

At the University of Zurich there matriculated this winter 459 students; fifty-one were women, and thirty-eight of these entered the medical classes.

CHINAMEN have fitted up a gymnasium in San Francisco. Most of the apparatus is American, but there is a contrivance of Chinese origin. A heavy upright post has a handle like a pump. The lever is movable, so that an attached weight can be made hard or easy to lift by it. This is for developing the muscles of the forearm and wrist. The handle is not grasped, but the wrist is placed on it, with the arm nearly vertical.