

conditions and are constantly stimulated to endeavor by the difficulties that they have to overcome.

Spiritual beauty is to be greatly desired, but it is loveliest when it is the crown of strength. The best illustration of a Christian life is not a carefully tended exotic in a conservatory; better far is it represented by the rose that blooms amid the Alpine cliffs and at the edge of the glacier, or by the vine whose fruitfulness results from frequent pruning by the husbandman, or the oak that wrestles with the tempest and grows the tougher and more glorious by the conflict. Strength becomes beauty when love consecrates it to service.—Dr. J. E. C. Sawyer.

Putting Ideas to the Test.

Good ideas in coming to a man put him under obligations to do something with them. Fearful of failure, dreading ridicule, and soothing himself with the thought that the thing might not do any permanent good even if it did succeed, many a man has lazily allowed good ideas to go without anything like a test. What if the Sunday-school superintendent who bemoans the condition of his school should try one in a hundred of the good ideas that come to him prodding him to make improvements that he knows ought to be made? What if the praying and devoted mother who is puzzled about the training of her children should heed and act upon her own present ideas of what she ought to do for her little ones? The school would hardly know its superintendent, nor the children their mother. While casting about for new plans, it is well for us to meet the obligation now upon us to put to the test some of the ideas that have already come to mind.—S. S. Times.

The Loftiest and Lowliest Gifts.

ALEX. MACLAREN.

The loftiest gifts, the most conspicuous positions, have no other purpose than that which the lowliest powers in the obscurest corner are meant to subserve. The one distributing Spirit divides to each man severally as He will; and whether He endows him with starlight gifts, which soar above, and blaze over half the world with luster that lives through the centuries, or whether He set him in some cottage window to send out a tiny cone of light that pierces a little way into the night for an hour or two and then is quivered—it is all one. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man for the same purpose—to do good with. And we have all one office and function to be discharged by each in his own fashion—namely, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.

Prayer.

O Thou Almighty Helper and ever present God, we bring to Thee all our needs. O Thou Author of all good, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, may Thy mercies be our daily song, and may the light of Thy countenance in this world of power and beauty move our hearts to great thankfulness and a sweet trust. Day by day Thou dost appoint our portion, especially revealing Thy glory in the dear Son of Thy love, and calling us into his kingdom of service and blessedness. May this be our love of Thee in Him, that we love one another and keep all his commandments. Amen.—Selected.

There are no fields so fair and sweet as those through which climbs the hard road of sacrifice.—James Buckham.

Our Young People

May 8. Crowns Under Foot.

Some Bible Hints.

A man's crown is his manly character. No one can take it away unless the man gives it away (Rev. 3: 11).

Every man has a crown of pride (Isa. 28: 1) or a crown of glory (Isa. 28: 5). The first grows dim, the second brighter every day.

The drunkard's crown has become a paper fool's cap.

What one swallows, can it swallow him up (Isa. 28: 7)? The riddle needs no solving if one has watched the drunkard.

Suggestive Thoughts.

Men who would never burn a dollar bill will yet burn up nerves that not all the dollar bills in the world could replace.

A crown is a token of power. The central strength of power is temperance.

A man must be very drunk before he will trample on a diamond, but with the very first glass he tramples on something more precious than diamonds, and more fragile.

As a crown encircles the head, so temperance the character. It gives grace to all other virtues.

A Few Illustrations.

No man would drink a liquid that would shorten his stature a foot, but millions of men drink liquids that make them spiritual dwarfs.

Kings do not abdicate their thrones, except under pressure of enemies or compulsion of sickness or age. Every drunkard abdicates his throne of his own accord.

The world has lost the crown of Alexander, but it still possesses and always will possess the crown of Socrates.

The English crowns are kept in the stronghold of London Tower. The crown of a man's character must be kept in the stronghold of his heart.

To Think About.

Do I realize what my true crown is?

Is there anything I value more than my crown of life?

Am I trampling under foot any jewel of my crown?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Smoking and drinking would soon have shattered me, but I kept them under my feet and despised them in every form.—Joseph Parker.

Where Satan cannot go in person, he sends wine.—Jewish proverb.

As surely as strong drink is the foe of God, so surely is the temperance reformation the friend of God.—John Clifford, D.D.

You cannot think about good-citizenship without getting your gun and going for the saloon.—D. J. Burrell, D.D.

Getting, Keeping, and Losing Associates.

Every society should have many associates. It is best if it has as many as it has active members—one for each active member to work with and for.

Get them by asking. If there is any young person who does not consider himself a Christian, show him that nevertheless you have a place for him.

Make that place a definite one. Instruct every leader to call out the associates in some way at his meeting. Have them repeat some verse in concert. Get some of them to read the Scripture. Have some of them recite poems. Place them upon the committees as aids.

And remember that your main business with the associates is to get rid of them. Transform them into active members.

Let each member of the lookout committee take his share of the associates, and work with them, and get others to help him. Find out why they are not Christians. If you cannot meet their difficulties, call in the aid of some one who is wiser. Never stop till they are members of the church.

The associate members are the field of the society. Without a field, how can you get a harvest?

The Christ Look.

It is said of Fenelon, that he had such communion with God his very face shone. Lord Peterborough, a skeptic, was obliged to spend the night with him at an inn. In the morning he rushed away, saying, "If I stay another night with that man I shall be a Christian in spite of myself." Fenelon's manners were full of grace, his voice full of love, and his face full of glory. The invitation, "Come to Jesus," was in every act. He was a "spiritual magnet." That is what God wants us all to be. That is what we all can be by just yielding up all to him, and letting him live again in us. Under no other condition can this transforming power fulfil its mission to our souls. Are you ready for it?—Record of Christian Work.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May 2.—Abuse of wine.	Prov. 20: 1-3
Tues.,	" 3.—Wine and woe.	Prov. 23: 29-32
Wed.,	" 4.—Wine excludes the Spirit.	Eph. 5: 15-21
Thurs.,	" 5.—Wine and wantonness.	Esther 1: 1-12
Fri.,	" 6.—Wine and folly.	1 Sam. 25: 4-11, 36-38
Sat.,	" 7.—Wine and ruin.	Deut. 29: 19, 20
Sun.,	" 8.—Topic— <i>Crowns trodden under foot.</i>	Isa. 28: 1-7; Rev. 3: 11.

There is a vast difference between the man whom his environment makes good and the man who makes his environment good. The virtue of the one is negative and derived; that of the other is positive and inherent.

Uniformity of station and character is not more to be desired in Paradise than on earth. There, as well as here, variety enriches and energizes life. Uniformity is stagnation; variety is stimulation.—J. L. Mortimer.

Our whole trouble in our lot in this world rises from the disagreement of our mind therewith. Let the mind be brought to the lot, and the whole tumult is instantly hushed; let it be kept in that disposition, and the man shall stand at ease, in his affliction, like a rock unmoved with waters beating upon it.—Boston.

Many Appetizing Dishes.

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