

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

## The Quiet Hour

YOUNG  
PEOPLE

## TEMPERANCE LESSON.\*

By Rev. C. MacKinnon, D.D.

All things are not Eke lent, v. 23. "I am out of patience with that boy," wrote a father to the head master of the school to which he had sent his son, who still continued to distress him with his dissipated habits. It was somewhat surprised by the questions the head master asked. In reply, he had to acknowledge that he himself was a moderate drinker, and that his father and his wife's father had also been drinkers. Yes, it was all too true. There were the facts and it was impossible to evade the consequences. It may seem lawful enough to dally with the wine cup, if it is not used to excess, but it is expedient, for the sake of those who are to come after?

Let No Man Seek His Own v. 23.—The store was filled up with groceries in the front, and a bar room in the rear. The proprietor said, "Come back and have a glass. We've the foaming liquor was drawn, little Willie, five years old, looked up and asked, "Papa, what are you drinking?" The father evaded the question. But going out of the store, and again as they walked down the street, the little fellow persisted in his inquiry, until the unhappy man exclaimed, "I would give anything in the world if I could take that act back. I am afraid it will have a bad influence on my poor little boy." Every act is a seed, and the keen, bright eyes of children are the most fertile of soils. Those who are older may well be very careful what they do.

The Earth is the Lord's, v. 26.—The church is putting up its assessment too high. "How much do you pay?" "Five dollars a year." "How long have you been converted?" "About four years." "What did you do before you were converted?" "I was a drinking man." "How much did you spend for drink?" "About \$250 a year." "How much were you worth?" "I rented land, and ploughed with a steer." "What have you got now?" "A good farm and a team of horses." "Well, you paid the devil \$250 a year for the privilege of ploughing with a steer on rented land, and now you complain because you are asked to give God five dollars for the privilege of ploughing with horses on your own farm." And the farmer felt that he had been mean. It is God's goodness that has saved us from many a terrible sin. Let us cheerfully acknowledge that all we are and have, we owe to God, and let us be honest, and give Him his rightful share.

For Conscience Sake, v. 25.—A Scottish sergeant was drilling one of the Duke of Connaught's children, when he was noticed by Queen Victoria. She was particularly pleased by what she saw of him, and as a reward sent him a special invitation to attend one of her private theatricals. The sergeant hesitated, and then asked if her Majesty would graciously allow him to decline, for the theatre had been a snare to him in the past. The good Queen, who always admired moral conviction in those about her, was pleased to observe the conscientious scruples of the sergeant, and afterward sent him a mark of her royal favor. The eye of One greater than any earthly sovereign is upon us. May we ever seek by a consistent life to merit His approval.

My Liberty, v. 23.—On the lawn was a goat, tethered by a rope to a stake. Why was he not at liberty? Why was the rope not cut and the goat allowed to do as he pleased? Because he would

gnaw the bark of the young trees, trample down the garden beds and pull up the strawberry plants by the roots. Yet the collar was tethered by no rope; for he had learned obedience, and so had earned his liberty. When once we have become willing to obey God, He permits us the glorious liberty of His children. It is surely a small price to pay for a great privilege. If we will not pay the price, we will not be His children, then He restrains us by the severe restrictions of His law and the threats of His judgment.

That They May be Saved, v. 22.—This is the testimony of a young half-bred Indian as to the influence of the saloon in his town: "It spoils the place for everybody except the drinking fellows. My brother began to hang around that saloon. His wife told him to quit, or she'd leave. One night he came home and she wasn't there. She had gone to another town where they fight the saloons hard. He followed her, and they won't come back any more." Why should harmless citizens be driven from their own town, to avoid temptation? Why not abolish the evil, and save them where they are?

## CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US.

This gem is found in "Christ's Service of Love," by Dr. Hugh Blackie:—"Christ's love does not depend on our faith, but our faith depends on his love. Our service depends on his love, also. We need to feed our faith there if we are to serve him at all. 'If any man serve me, let him follow me.' The way to serve is to be a disciple: to sit at his feet, to learn of him, to submit to him. Before we can do his work, we must drink of his spirit and let him teach us his secret. Before we can serve him, we must be humble enough to let him serve us. 'Behold,' said Thomas a Kempis, 'all things are thine which I have and whereby I serve thee. And yet contrariwise thou rather servest me than I thee.'

"This is the root of our worth," the source of our strength, and the very heart of our communion—namely, that the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. There are other aspects of religion—the fight of faith, the witness to the truth, Christian service, and the whole issue in practice of Christian love, but this first, and last also, and this all the time, that our spiritual life depends utterly on Christ. Creep close to the warmth of his love; get near to the source of all your joy and service. Let the Son of Man minister to you, serve you with his own sweet courtesy."

## KEEP COURAGE.

Many people are so afraid to die that they have never begun to live. But courage emancipates us and gives us to ourselves, that we may give ourselves freely and without fear to God. How sweet and clear and steady is the life into which this virtue enters day by day, not merely in those great flashes of excitement which come in the moments of crisis, but in the presence of the hourly perils, the continual conflicts. Not to tremble at the shadows which surround us, not to shrink from the foes who threaten us, not to hesitate and falter and stand despairing still among the perplexities and trials of our life, but to move steadily onward without fear, if only we can keep ourselves without reproach—surely that is what the psalmist meant by good courage and strength of heart, and it is a most comfortable, pleasant, peaceful, and happy virtue.—Henry van Dyke, in "The Friendly Year."

\*S. S. Temperance Lesson, Sept. 26, 1909—1 Cor. 10:23-33. Commit to memory v. 24. Golden Text—Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.—Romans 15: 2.

## LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

By Rev. James Ross, D.D.

Shambles—Now means only a slaughter house, but once it meant a bench or stall on which goods, and especially meats, were exposed for sale, and hence it was rightly used to denote the provision market of Corinth, the open square frequented by cooks, fishermen, poulterers, and butchers for the display and sale of their wares. Parts of the meat offered to idols were the perquisite of the attendant, and when he had more than he could use, some of it would go to the market. Occasionally all the meat in the market was consecrated in the morning by a libation to some god, so none could be procured that had not been offered, at least technically, to idols.

Idols—Were representations of imaginary beings, and yet the sacrifices to them were really made to evil spirits. According to the belief of their worshippers, these gods were subject to an iron fate, they were liable to delusion, and reproached one another with folly and crime. Jupiter was cheated by his wife, was kept in ignorance of the events before Troy. He threatens his fellow deities with blows, and makes Olympus tremble when he shakes his locks in anger. The whole of them were full of envy and wrath, hatred and lust, they prompted men to crime, and provoked one another to lying and cruelty, perjury and adultery.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

M.—Faithful prophets, 2 Kings 2:1-8.  
T.—A faithful apostle, Acts 23:23-31.  
W.—Wisdom, Prov. 3:1-17.  
Th.—Better days coming, Isa. 35:1-10.  
F.—God's kingdom, Ps. 97:1-12.  
S.—Objections to missions answered, Acts 13:1-5.

## PRAYER.

Almighty God, how do they praise Thee who stand in the unclouded light and sing Thy name and do Thy service evermore? We wonder, but we cannot tell. We long sometimes to be of their number even but for one moment, that we might return again and praise Thee on earth as they do in heaven. How sweet their song, how undivided their thought, how complete their loyalty! Yet may we be growing up toward all this by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, becoming wiser, purer, tenderer, more like Thyself at least in our love of holiness. Help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Save us from foolish and vain notions concerning Thyself. Deliver us from the power of superstition, lest we forget how really to pray, and how truly to worship the threefold name. May we know Thee as a Father, King, mighty one, yet tenderer than a mother, more patient than a nurse who serves for love.

## IRREVERENT.

One of our fellow editors in another church objects—very reasonably, we think—to the practice on the part of evangelists and pastors of injecting exhortations to "sing faster," or "slower," and of shouting "All sing," or even of interrupting the singing altogether and making the congregation repeat a verse. He believes, as we do, that this is inconsistent with the use of song as a part of the service of worship, and destroys reverence. Such proceedings might be proper in a musical rehearsal, but not in an evangelistic service. There it is as much out of place, says our editor friend, as it would be for some one in the congregation to exhort the preacher to "speak louder" during prayer.—Western Christian Advocate.

Eternity holds time's best, purified and perpetuated. It is a land of homes where there are no breakings up, and no uncongential traits in any member of the household.