

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 Tim i. 15.

Our Mission Union,

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To our Readers.

THE Publishers of this paper are determined to spare no expense toward placing it in the front rank among the non-denominational publications of the day. A superior quality of paper is now used, and arrangements are being made for choice illustrations to appear in each subsequent number. With this issue is also printed a 32-page verbatim report of the addresses delivered at the "Moody Convention" recently held in Toronto. It is also intended that other features of interest shall from time to time be added to the work, and we have no hesitation in saying that "OUR MISSION UNION" will furnish an amount of pure Gospel reading, and other items of interest to the Christian public, equal to, if not surpassing that furnished by any other paper of its class, and at a cost which can be met by all. We call attention to the Special Offer made by the publishers, as announced on the last page of this issue. Remember, that while efforts are being made by us to improve the paper, all these will be of little avail unless our readers do their part. We ask each reader at once to decide to help in extending the circulation. We are thankful for the increase which has been secured, but we want a list running up to at least ten thousand. It can be done. Let each help.

OUR WATCHWORDS.

Accept, I beseech thee, the free-will offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me thy judgments.

I will put my laws into their minds, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

By REV. JOHN MCEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

[Dec. 21.] **The Creator Remembered.** [Eccl 12: 1-4.]

Solomon continues in his strain of last lesson; throwing the rein on his neck, dashing on in his course of pleasure. "Rejoice O young man," etc., Eccl. 11: 9-10, but remember there is judgment.

1. A TIME OF JUDGMENT.—Sowing and Reaping.

2. A DAY OF JUDGMENT.—Final Account.

We have, in this closing lesson, two contrasted pictures.

AN OLD MAN,

with tremulous and tottering frame; looking fearfully and vacantly into the future. Read carefully and repeatedly *vs.* 2-7. Sketch it with a free hand for yourself. A sad sight, an old man and a long life without God and without a fruitful hope in the world—alas! how many illustrations you can select from life. Opposite:—

A BRIGHT, BEAMING, FRESH YOUTH,

on bended knees, and upturned countenance—with loving, hopeful look. Ponder this, and contemplate that:

"AND REMEMBER THY CREATOR."

"Will thou not from this time cry unto Me, my Father, Thou art the Guide of my youth."

The selections from History and Biography by which the Bible is built up are grandly illustrative of this lesson; the solemn possibilities of childhood under God's blessing and guidance, are seen in Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Caleb, Samuel, David, Daniel, John Baptist, Jesus. God desires to get as near the cradle as possible, and through believing and faithful parents, to bless as largely as possible. The key word and tone of this closing lesson, is the same as the key note of the opening of David's career. "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth," this was the ground of David's selection and anointing as the future king of Israel. The largest manhood and womanhood for abiding usefulness and influence come from early piety and careful Christian training. Matthew Henry, the great commentator; Richard Baxter, the great preacher; Jonathan Edwards, the great leader in revival times, were all Christians in very early life. Let the parent and the teacher help the children to remember the Lord Jesus who gave the invitation, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," and the commission, "Feed My lambs."

WATCHFULNESS.

SALVATION is through suffering and danger. We are ever walking on the edge of a precipice, and between it and us there is only the hand of Christ; but is not that enough? We must be watchful, prayerful, ready to suffer; but ought we, therefore, to be full of anxiety? The apostle does not think so, for he adds, "Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator."—*Theodore Monod.*