

whom one has known in youth, and whose acquaintance has been renewed after a long interval of years, only to find them as frank, as sincere, as full of enthusiasm, and as unspoiled as in the days of childhood.

We do not often read that Jesus was displeased, but it is once written that He was "much displeased"—the disciples were discovered driving away from His presence a group of little children. When He called them back and put His hands on their heads and prayed, they were not afraid. With the unerring instinct of childhood, they saw the child-soul in His eyes and were drawn to Him. On another occasion He frankly told the disciples that unless they abandoned all assumptions of greatness and became as little children, they could not set their feet upon the threshold of the kingdom.

Does any one wonder how Sunday Schools were held together before the days of conventions and pedagogics? It was done then, as indeed it is best done now, by an elect number of men and women with the child-soul. They loved the child, they understood the child, they sympathized with the child; and they were led unconsciously into the best methods of teaching. Teacher, is your soul "a little child?"

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### He Knows <sup>26</sup>

*By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.*

"I know thy works"—thus begins the message from their living and glorified Lord to each of the seven churches of Asia. And in this perfect knowledge there is inspiration and comfort for all who serve Him.

Two elements enter into Christian service—activity and endurance. These are found in individual lives in very different proportions. There are some whose robust and vigorous health marks them out for a large place in the aggressive work of the church. Others by weakness or disease or infirmities of advancing age are confined to a limited sphere. Not by chance does this difference arise. He "knows" the way in which we may do most for His cause, and with this in view He fixes our lot.

Our service, at best, is full of imperfections. So poor, at times, it seems to us, that we are tempted to give it up as not worth while. But He knows the faults of our work, and makes infinite allowance for them. There were blemishes enough in the seven churches, and yet their Lord uses as the symbol of each a golden lamp burning with a clear and steady flame. The twelve disciples had often grieved the Master with their wilful and wayward conduct. But He said of them to the Father, "They have kept Thy word." So generous is He in overlooking defects in performance where there is honesty of purpose, so keen-sighted for every desire and effort after the good.

Others can see only the results of our service, and these often appear meagre enough. Concealed from human gaze are the efforts it has cost us to accomplish ever so little, the struggle we have gone through to acquire even a small measure of self-control and patience. These secrets are not hid from Him. He knows them all, and He will not measure His praise by any outward achievements, but by the diligence and faithfulness we have shown.

He knows, too, why we serve Him. And if only it is for His "name's sake," because we love Him who is altogether lovely, because in our inmost heart we honor Him who is worthy of all praise, then, be our service never so little and never so lowly, He will be glad, and will gladden us with His approving smile.

*Toronto*

### "Why Stand Ye Here All the Day Idle?"

*By Rev. Principal R. A. Falconer, Litt.D.*

That great scholar and saint of the nineteenth century, the late Bishop Westcott of Durham, says in one of his letters, "Are not those poor, whose feelings are atrophied? Are not those unemployed, whose powers of devotion and service find no exercise?"

Much of the Bishop's time in his last years was occupied with social questions, and the problem of the poor and the unemployed was ever before him. It seemed to press more heavily upon his soul than almost any other. And yet to his earnest, simple heart