

is able to do as well as any other, provided the opportunity presents itself, and he is blessed with good health. Much of what I would advise you young men to do is contained in the old counsel, 'Trust in Providence, and keep your powder dry.'

Prayer.

Most Gracious God, who hast been infinitely merciful to us, not only in the year past, but through all the years of our life, be pleased to accept our most unfeigned thanks for thine innumerable blessings to us; graciously pardoning the manifold sins and infirmities of our life past, and bountifully bestowing upon us all those graces and virtues which may render us acceptable to Thee. And, every year which Thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives, add also, we humbly implore Thee, more strength to our faith, more ardor to our love, and a greater perfection to our obedience; and grant that, in a humble sincerity and constant perseverance, we may serve Thee most faithfully the remainder of our lives, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.—Selected.

Distrust and Suspicion.

It is impossible to calculate the effects which may be produced by distrust and suspicion. They make the heart collapse, and wither the character. I believe that universal distrust would ruin any character. If anything like insincerity or aiming at effect be hinted, it is but natural to endeavor to remove such impressions; but this can only be done by making every word and act look as probable and as natural as is possible. True feelings and true words are suppressed, if they do not seem likely, even supposing that untrue ones are not simulated instead, because they seem likely. All this produces a secret sense of acting a part; true it is that the part is only this, to seem what we are; but that itself is acting, and it is the commencement of a habit of insincerity. Not really insincerity in itself, it is yet in feeling so like to the feeling of insincerity that the transition from one to the other is fearfully facilitated. When the feeling of real duplicity or insincerity actually presents itself, the mind is already half familiar with it, having been familiar with the semblance, and does not recoil with that vehemence which makes a heart that has never suspected itself, nor been suspected.—F. W. Robertson.

Of Supreme Value.

There are few things that have an enduring human interest. The subject which engrosses our attention to day is apt to be forgotten to-morrow, and that which will hold the attention of humanity from year to year must be something of real and permanent value. One of the most effective testimonies to the inherent value of the Holy Scriptures is found in the supremacy which they enjoy over all other forms of literature. The Bible to-day is the one book of supreme interest to all mankind. Notwithstanding the immense volume of books which are published bearing upon all subjects of human interest, there is a large and constant demand for copies of the Book of Books which far exceeds the call for any other publication, and which shows no sign of diminution. From every possible point of view the Bible is a book of supreme value. As a masterpiece of literature it is without a peer in the English language. As a text-book of morality it is superior to the ablest treatise on ethics which has ever been written. As a guide in spiritual matters it is the one infallible rule of faith and practice, the sole and sufficient fountain of heavenly inspiration which has been vouchsafed to man for his guidance and instruction in the way of salvation.

Our Young People

Jan. 17. Overcoming Temptations.

Some Bible Hints.

There would be no harm in thinking we were standing if we were, but it is not so; we are merely upheld (1 Cor. 10: 12).

God makes a way of escape with the temptation (1 Cor. 10: 13)—a part of it. For instance, it is a temptation to avarice, the way of escape is to use liberally all the money God gives you.

Christ's understanding of us is not only because He sees us through and through, but because He has passed through all our experiences in His own earthly life, since all temptations are essentially one (Heb. 4: 15).

What we need in times of temptation is not knowledge—we know enough about it already; it is grace—that is, the divine passion for what is good and true and beautiful (Heb. 4: 16).

Suggestive Thoughts.

Satan tempts us, but he tempts us with little effect if we do not help him to tempt us.

We have not finally conquered a temptation until it has ceased to be a temptation; until we have ceased to desire it.

Nothing is forgotten so quickly as remorse, and no ally in the struggle with temptation is so necessary as memory.

The real temptation always comes from within, and you can no more conquer it in your own strength than in your own strength you can lift your weight from the earth.

A Few Illustrations.

A temptation, like a screw, goes in more easily every time, and the only way to keep it out is to block up the hole.

Temptations, like cyclones, send no warning ahead of them.

Sin is like mesmerism. The oftener a man is mesmerized, the easier it is to mesmerize him.

The earthly physicians give medicines, but cannot give strength. "The Good Physician" gives remedies, but He also gives efficacy to them.

To Think About.

Am I trying in my own strength to conquer temptation?

Am I satisfied with any half-way conquest of sin?

Am I closing my eyes to any of my sins?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Temptations are a file which rub off the rust of self confidence.—Fenelon.

Being in straits I cried,

"Lord, make a way!

Open a door for me;

Help me, I pray!"—Anna Warner.

Temptation often comes upon a man when he is nearest to God. As some one has said, "The devil aims high."—Moody.

Only those temptations which we encounter in the path of duty our Lord promised we should conquer.—Phillips Brooks.

Points for Presidents.

While you are president, you are assistant pastor of the young people. It is a solemn responsibility.

Consult with the pastor at the very start, and form plans with him for the development of the society.

The less you can do yourself, and the more you can get others to do, the better will you fill your office.

The society is a business, and the com-

mittee chairmen are your heads of departments.

The meeting of the executive committee is your council of war. Always have some forward movements to discuss there.

No part of the society work is outside the domain of the president; but everywhere he is to appear not as a dictator but as a modest helper.

The president can always accomplish more by a word of praise than by ten words of fault finding.

Covering Sins.

There are two ways of covering sin—man's way and God's way. You cover your sins, and they will have a resurrection some time; let God cover them, and neither devil nor man can find them. There are four expressions in the Bible with regard to where God puts sins. He puts them "behind his back." If God has forgiven me, who shall bring a charge against me? "He has blotted them out as a thick cloud." You see a cloud to-night, and to-morrow there isn't a cloud to be seen. "He casts them into the depths of the sea." Some one has said, "Thank God that it is a sea and not a river; a river might dry up, but the sea cannot." The greatest blessing that ever comes to me this side of heaven is when God forgives me. Have you been forgiven? The fourth expression is that he removes them "as far as the east is from the west." Do you know how far that is? Perhaps some good mathematician will figure that up. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Then make sure that you are forgiven.—D. L. Moody.

Do Your Duty.

A number of men were once talking about the burdens of duty, and one of them declared that they were sometimes too heavy to be borne. "Not," said another, "if you carry only your own burden, and don't try to take God's work out of His hands. Last year I crossed the Atlantic with one of the most skillful and faithful captains of the great liners. We had a terrific storm, during which for thirty-eight hours he remained on the bridge, striving to save his passengers. When the danger was over I said to him: 'It must be a terrible thought at such a time that you are responsible for the lives of over a thousand human beings.' 'No,' he said solemnly, 'I am not responsible for the life of one man on this ship. My responsibility is to run the ship with all the skill and faithfulness possible to any man. God Himself is responsible for all the rest.'

Daily Readings.

Mon., Jan. 11.—Tempted by Satan. 1 Pet. 5: 8-11
Tues., " 12.—Tempted through riches. Deut. 8: 11-18
Wed., " 13.—Tempted by men. Prov. 1: 10-16
Thurs., " 14.—God does not tempt. Jas. 1: 12-16
Fri., " 15.—God delivers. Ps. 22: 4-8
Sat., " 16.—Works patience. Rom. 5: 1-5
Sun., " 17.—Topic—How may I overcome temptations? 1 Cor. 10: 12, 13; Heb. 4: 14-16.