

beauty of the flowers which are scattered by the hand of God in rich abundance.

Their growth is secret. However carefully man may search, he cannot find that secret. He may know the conditions favorable to growth, may analyze the material of the soil and the material composing the seed, may discourse learnedly on necessary conditions for its cultivation, but he never finds the secret life of the flower. And this growth is an unfolding of what is within. It doth not yet appear what it shall be until under the ministration of the great forces of nature, which are the angels of God, the hidden life manifests its beauty to the world. So is it with the spiritual life. Whatever good there may be in our rules, the holy life results from touch with God Himself. The secret of all true holiness remains with Him.

See, too, from what apparently unpropitious surroundings this delicate beauty shows itself. The dark clods of earth. How unlike they are to the rare beauty of the lily. How is it that from such uncomeliness should come such loveliness? And the only answer we may make is that it is the will of God. And so though the human life may be set about with unlovely surroundings, yet if there is this communion with God, the spiritual beauty resulting will be only the more wonderful.

This has been a sad springtime. In Europe the earth is scarred with horrible trenches in which men hide themselves that they may destroy one another. Thousands of homes are desolate, hundreds of thousands of lives destroyed. Yet we will remember the master's words and "consider the lilies of the field." We will believe that the divine artist will yet destroy all the hideousness that so often hurts us here, that there will be a new heaven and a new earth, the beauty of which is prefigured in the flowers of God's fashioning.

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A Sunday School Worker's Creed

After forty-eight years in Sabbath School work, writes Rev. A. Macgillivray, D.D., three words make up my creed:

The last child in the Sunday School,

The last scholar a communicant church member,

The last member a worker.

A Temperance Lesson that Wasn't Dry

"What can we do to make the Temperance Lesson take hold this time?" the teacher of a Men's Bible Class asked himself.

A magazine article on Prohibition in Russia, which the teacher encountered shortly afterwards, suggested the answer. He made a note of other current items relating to Russia's lesson for the world, and next Sunday he laid his plan before his Class.

When Temperance Sunday came the teacher occupied a member's seat, and watched proceedings, while the president took complete charge and called upon a member to give an account of the conditions in Russia before the war. Whereupon speaker number one told about the workings of the government vodka monopoly, and explained how it was that while half a dozen other nations in Europe had a greater consumption of alcohol per capita than had Russia, yet drunkenness in the Czar's dominions was attended with more disastrous social and economic consequences than in any other country.

The next member called on told about the successive rescripts and regulations by which Russia had purged herself of her great national cancer. The speaker described the work of M. Tschelisheff, and showed that prohibition in Russia was not merely an autocratic and a military measure, but a great national movement.

The last contributor related or read accounts appearing in Russian papers, which described some of the amazing social, moral and economic results following the closing of the vodka dispensaries. The case of the distillers and the provision of wholesome substitutes for vodka conviviality were also considered.

Then the whole Class plunged into a spirited discussion on the application of Russia's example to Canada's situation.