

it had been performed. "Ye delivered up, . . . denied him."—It was this same people who in the presence of Pilate, when Jesus stood before him, had cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him." Peter boldly accuses them of being guilty of His murder.

V. 15. "We are witnesses."—That is, of the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead.

V. 16. "His name."—This word as used in the Bible frequently means power. It was the power of Jesus that wrought the miracle. "Through faith in his name."—Faith as exercised by the apostles, and through them awakened in the heart of the lame man.

THOUGHTS.—Unity in mind and purpose enabled the apostles to labor together for God. Like their Master, they were moved with compassion at the sight of misery. Their firm confidence in the power of Christ to heal, enabled them to believe in his willingness to do so in the case of the incurable man before them. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity," and so they believed. Being on the lookout for opportunity to preach Jesus, it was not a hard thing for the Spirit to direct their minds and attention to the right place. It was just the place where the promise: "Where two of you agree," etc., might be fulfilled. The apostles were just the ones through whom the Lord could work, and Christ be exalted. Since the descent of the Spirit they were not overcome by selfish ambitions, or love of money. They lived with an eye single, and were shining lights wherever they were. They were fearless before the face of men, while they had a burning desire for their salvation. They kept in mind the command of Jesus, "to preach," rather than waiting for an invitation to present their views and doctrines. Their holy love gave them fervent zeal. They knew no differences among persons, but affirmed everywhere that Jesus was able to save them from sin. They had the root of the matter within them. They spoke most of what most interested them. Their example seems to say to us: "When thou seest misery in thy brother's face, let him see mercy in thine eye; the more the oil of mercy is poured on him by thy pity, the more the oil in thy crucible shall be increased by thy piety." "The universal command of the gospel, that comprises all our duties, is to walk as Christ walked." Let us mind the same rule, and bear the same record as Peter and John.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

DAILY READINGS.

First Day—The Sick Woman Healed—Luke viii. 41-56.
Second Day—Blind Bartimeus Healed—Mark x. 46-52.
Third Day—The Lame Man Healed—Acts iii. 1-16.
Fourth Day—The Impotent Man Healed—Acts xiv. 1-18.
Fifth Day—"Then Shall the Lame Leap"—Isa. xxxv. 1-10.
Sixth Day—The Apostles Commanded to Heal—Matt. x. 1-20.
PRAYER MEETING TONIGHT.—OUR FAILURES AND SUCCESSSES—Luke v. 1-11. (A question-box meeting suggested.)

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

There is much to be learnt from the history of St. Peter. The strong points in his character, and the weak points too, come out more clearly than in most men. No Christians are faultless; but Peter's virtues seem all to be open before us. It will be interesting to mention some of the instances of Peter's forwardness and courage in the cause of his Master. He was the one to step forward on many occasions when his fellow-disciples shrunk back. If there was a question to be asked he was nearly sure to be the one to ask it. If there was a work of daring to be done, he was generally bolder than the rest. When our Lord questioned His disciples as to their opinion of this authority, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter acting as the spokesman said "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." On that memorable night when the disciples were tossed about in their little ship and they were greatly alarmed a blessed voice is heard out of the gloom a voice, which is sweet and familiar to their ears—"Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid." Peter is the one (after receiving the Master's permission) who boldly plants his foot upon the deep and walks upon the waves. When Jesus is seized by the soldiers, seeing Malchus stretch out his hand against our Lord, Peter can contain himself no longer but strikes him with his sword.

But how often we see men fail just in their strongest point. Moses, who was "the meekest man upon earth," fell into the sin of arrogance. Job, who was a pattern of patience, was guilty of murmuring. And so Peter, lion-hearted Peter, sometimes showed almost a cowardly spirit. When he entered with his Master into the judgment-hall, Jesus a prisoner. And now was the time for Peter to stand by Him. But his heart fails, and he who had

lately made such strong professions, trembles with fear and denies his Lord. But with all his faults, Peter was a true hearted disciple. He loved his Lord, and zealously served Him, see him early at the sepulchre on the Easter morning, when Jesus rose from the grave, He hurries there at Mary's bidding; and is just as anxious as she is to know what has happened to their Lord.

Upon the whole, we may say that he was faithful, and yet on some occasions faithless. He was full of courage, and yet sometimes weak and cowardly. His faith was strong and yet at times it entirely failed.

Oh what a mixture of good and bad is there even in the best of us! What need we have of God's strengthening and upholding grace! Had Peter felt his weakness, he would have sought strength from above, and cried, "Hold thou me up and I shall be safe."

Give us grace, O Lord to avoid Peter's failings, and grant us something, of his bold faith, his ardent love, and his devotedness to Christ.

The lesson that one learns from little successes or failures have great weight in settling one's final success. One success has made some men's lives a failure; one failure or repeated failures have made other lives a success. Living in the past will ruin any career. It is only as the past is made a stepping-stone to the future achievement that progress is made. To gain strength from seeming failures is one great secret of success.

Success does not come by chance: Providence helps those who help themselves.

It is not only by doing the right thing, but by doing the right thing in the right way, and at the right time, that we achieve the great successes of life.

More failures are consumed by want of faith and want of patience than by anything else in the world.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterial and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2465, Toronto, Ont.

It is well known that at certain central agencies a record is kept of the name, position, and standing of nearly every business man in the country. Careful men are employed to collect this information; and it not only includes the amount of property which the parties are worth, but also their standing as regards punctuality, promptness, integrity, temperance, morals, etc. A number of years ago, it is stated, a firm of four men in Boston were rated as "A. 1." They were rich, prosperous, young, and prompt. One of them had the curiosity to see how they were rated, and found these facts on the book and was satisfied; but at the end it was written, "*but they all drink.*" He thought it was a good joke at the time; but a few years later two of them were dead, another was a drunkard, and the fourth was poor and living partly on charity. That one little note at the end of their rating was the most important and significant of all the facts collected and embodied in their rating.

The Endeavor Banner gives this answer to "What makes a true man or a true woman?" Boys are always aspiring to be young men, and girls are longing to be like their grown up sisters. The secret is, that they think if they are older they will be entitled to have more freedom and privileges than now. But what queer notions they sometimes have of freedom. Liberty is not license, and added privileges should not lead to presumption. More freedom does not mean more freedom to do things that are wrong. Many boys think that as young men they will be manly if they smoke, or stay away from the Sunday-school, or play cards, and so on, but this has often been the first step in the downward path so many boys have trod. Many girls think that as young women, they can wear newer and gayer dresses, stay up late in the evenings, and attend the theatre and the ball room. But how far below the ideal which God has placed before us in Christ Jesus. The manly man is the Christlike man, and the true woman is the one who has the Christlike spirit. Christ in us is the Source of true manliness and womanliness. Let us accept Him and follow Him as the great example God has given us.