

that the nurse-to-be thought very little about the money she was to receive. The thing she cared for was the opportunity to influence and shape the life of the child. It turned out to be the greatest opportunity of the age. It was the greatest paying investment made in Egypt in that century. It is still bringing in rich dividends.

The great investments of life are not the ones that bring large and immediate money returns; they are those made in human life; for these are permanent and far-reaching. Jesus warned men not to lay up their treasures where moth and rust consume. To invest life in mere things is to do the very thing Jesus warned against. He told us that if men lay up their treasures in heaven they are safe. There is only one means of transportation between earth and heaven. Anything we want to get into heaven's treasure house must be invested in human life here. We cannot get it across in any other way. Jesus fully recognized this fact, and the only investment that He made while He was here in the flesh was His investment in life. He lived His life into the lives of a few plain folk, and He thus reached the heart of the world. At the time, the work seemed commonplace and discouraging enough. The pupils seemed dull, and little ready to respond to His efforts. Towards the end it looked as though He had made a complete failure. But, having honestly put Himself into the lives of men, He could not fail. His seeming failure has been the greatest victory of all the ages.

No life or effort that is honestly invested in life—in the lives of boys and girls, and men and women—can be a failure. That is what makes the work of the Sunday School teacher the best paying investment possible. The work of that earnest teacher who went into a shoe store in Boston to talk with one of his Sunday School class, and who through a kind earnest word won him to Christ, seemed commonplace enough, and there was nothing said in the daily papers about his investment that day. What was the winning of a poor, ignorant country boy as compared with the big transactions on the stock market? As we look back over the last sixty years, we realize that the little time that Edward Kimball spent in the back of that shoe store

winning D. L. Moody to Jesus Christ, was the largest and best paying investment made in Boston for a generation. Who can estimate that Sunday School teacher's pay? Every Sunday School Class has its possible jewel for the crown of Jesus Christ.

Halifax, N.S.

Growth in Christian Life

By Rev. D. McTavish, D.Sc.

II. THE LIFE-GIVING WORD

In one of the American cities there is an interesting piece of artistic penmanship. Standing near it, you read the sentences of the Declaration of Independence, but if it is seen at a certain angle you discover that the writing is so shaded as to produce the outline of the face of George Washington. Jesus said to the Jewish teachers of His day; "Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness to Me; and ye will not come to Me, that ye may have life." They were reading words and sentences, but did not see the Christ who was the life of these words and of whom the words were the expression. It was not till after Pentecost that, under the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, even the disciples came to see the word from the right angle. The written word is life-giving, because it is just the outward expression of Christ the Living Word. This is surely implied in Christ's own saying, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

One mystery of life is the power it possesses of propagating according to its kind. The symbol Christ uses to represent the word is seed. "The seed is the Word of God." "The Sower soweth the Word." The process of spiritual life-giving is mysterious, but the fact cannot be questioned. It bears the closest analogy to nature, being propagated by a seed, which, having been deposited in a prepared place and quickened by the forces of nature, reproduces the same life. So the seed of the word, quickened by the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, becomes itself spirit and life in the heart of the recipient. This fact is plainly declared by the Apostle Peter: "Being born (or begotten) again, of cor-