

the mighty safeguard that protected him from the fierce assaults of the evil one. "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" is the weapon that he hurls in the face of this temptation, and the fear of God taught him prudence, for he fled from the temptation.

#### SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

Joseph in prison is the same man that he was in the house of Potiphar. Circumstances do not change a true and loyal character. They neither make nor unmake the man.

Joseph's life was a series of trials and triumphs, and every triumph came out of a trial.

Joseph becoming lord of himself, God made him lord of others.

The life of a good man comes up against many obstacles just as the water of a strong stream, but the obstacles are the mill-wheels of God's great designs.

Read Genesis 49, 23, 24, for an explanation of Joseph's strength. He stood against temptation because God gave him power.

His bow was like that of William the Conqueror, no one could bend it but himself. His truth, his chastity, his piety, were his bow, and it did not fall him.

The most tremendous word in the English language is that little word "no." It has been the pivot upon which many destinies have turned.

There are young men who can say "no" to everybody but themselves. They say "no" to their teacher, to their parents and friends, to the counsels of wisdom, to the warnings of conscience, but they cannot say "no" to themselves.

#### QUOTATIONS.

The one great lesson which the life of Joseph teaches us—a lesson which I would fain write upon your heart with the earnestness of a brother—is this: True religion furnishes the only sure foundation of character and the only safeguard against temptation.—C. H. Payne, D.D.

O when will men learn that the spirit of God may be in them when they are buying and selling, and arranging all the details of business or home?—F. B. Meyer.

"Whichever way you turn a diamond it flashes out rays of light of various hues, but all exquisitely beautiful. Such a gem is the story of Joseph. From whatever standpoint you look at it you will ever find it beautiful, interesting and profitable."

When his fellow servants were squandering the golden moments Joseph was filling them with activities. When they were content with a poor surface appearance, he toiled upward to success with carefully-laid foundations. While they worked simply to avoid the frown or the lash, he worked to win the smile of the great Taskmaster whose eye was ever upon him. They often pointed at him with envy, and perhaps said: "He is a lucky fellow." But there is no such thing as luck, except that luck means character.—F. B. Meyer.

#### SCRIPTURAL APPLICATIONS.

Gen. 41, 41. "I have set thee over all the land of Egypt." The king had no special liking for Joseph's religion, but was desirous of having at the head of his affairs a man whom he could trust. There is a commercial value in religious character.

Gen. 39, 2. "And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man." The question is sometimes asked if a man

be a consistent Christian and be successful in business. The highest kind of prosperity and success came to Joseph, and it was largely because of his devotion to God. There is an intimate connection between the two parts of this passage: "The Lord was with Joseph"—"He was a prosperous man." Success followed him as closely as his shadow.

Gen. 45, 5. "God did send me hither." Joseph believed in divine providence. He felt that he was the servant—not so much of Potiphar—as of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Gen. 39, 20. "And Joseph's master put him into the prison." This was an experience that did him good and added to his strength. God wants iron saints, and since there is no way of imparting iron to the moral nature than by letting his people suffer, He lets them suffer. "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous," etc. The iron crown of suffering precedes the golden crown of glory.

#### QUESTION PAPERS.

Are we submitting ourselves gladly to God's plans for us?

Is my life such that God can conduct to great ends?

What was the secret of Joseph's strength?

May we be ended with similar strength?

How may we get it?

#### District Literary Work

Rev. T. G. Bethel, B.D., is Literary Vice-President of the Winnipeg District League, and believes in doing something to help this department. He has recently sent out to all the Leagues of the district the following circular which we quote entire as it will be suggestive to other Literary Vice-Presidents.

Stonewall, Man., Jan. 10th, 1907.

My Dear Epworth Leaguer:—  
For the first time I address you in this formal way in order to acquaint myself with the literary department of your league and the working out of its many and various problems.

And now that the holiday season is over and the year still "New," it may not be out of place for us to renew our efforts in this special work, a work vital and essential to keep permanent and effective the spiritual forces of our church.

Here I might say that many of our Leaguers are finding "the literary evening" both popular and entertaining and others are working the "reading circle" with good results and where this is not practicable owing to numerous meetings of the "Literary Club" has proved a success. This club is composed of individuals pledged by a neat card to read systematically some book or set of books during the winter months.

But we have reason to think that the most popular phase of this work at the present moment is "the lecture course," and it is in this particular connection I wish to write you in this letter.

A number of our best men in the district have volunteered to help the leagues in this matter, and we would suggest that you put yourself and league into immediate touch with the men of your choice on this list which we now submit to you with the titles of their lectures.

Rev. Dr. Elliott. Title of lectures, "Elements of Success," "Life's Ideals."  
Rev. J. H. Morgan, B.A. Title of lectures, "The Union Jack," Henry Drummond.

Rev. R. Milligan, B.D., "The Puritans."  
Rev. T. E. Holling, B.A., title of lecture, "The Romance of the English Language."

Rev. H. Hull, B.A., title of lectures, "Church Oddities," "David Corson."

Rev. R. E. Spence, B.D., title of lecture, "A Trip Abroad."

Rev. F. W. Mann, title of lecture, "The Human Voice."

Rev. R. O. Armstrong, B.D., title of lectures, "Possibilities," "Wesley,"

"Luther," China, Japan, etc.

Rev. J. Churchill, M.A., title of lectures, "Hits and Misses," "Wooded and Won,"

"Push and Pull."

None of the lectures have stipulated any charges with the exception of the last two which in both cases is \$10. We trust, however, that no league will abuse this generous offer.

In order to help each other and the leagues of the district let me hear from you and something of your methods, and the degree of success you have had.

Wishing you every prosperity.

Sincerely Yours,

T. G. BETHEL.

#### Quick Return!

The Editor has just received a letter from a Western town which brings joy in a very practical way. It reads as follows:

"Your appeal in the March number of The Era, for \$300.00 to provide clothing and food for eleven Japanese orphans at the Kanazawa Orphanage, Japan, comes to me with favor, and I wish to assume the payment of this amount and shall send you \$300.00 monthly for this year to meet this expenditure. If this meets with favor, kindly let me know, and I shall attend to the balance. This is a result of the Tithing System. "I am, yours in the work for the Master."

#### A Song of the North

BY WALTER CORNISH.

To the lowly folks of God  
Comes the Spirit's mighty cheer,  
Rushing, laughing like the wind,  
Breaking down the reeds of fear.

Sing the song and hate the ill  
Hiding in its evil dens;  
Keep the powder clean and dry;  
Watch and pray across the fens.

Climb the hills and leave the swamps;  
Turn the face from dirt to sky;  
Meet the rocks and thorns with smiles,  
Get the Hero in thine eye.

Tighten belt and strengthen arm;  
Let the good axe make its mark,  
Cleaving through the tangled maze;  
Finding sunrise after dark.

Ye that plod the trails of life,  
O'er dim and stony ways,  
Grip God's hand and His lead;  
This shall hallow all thy days.  
Temiskaming Lake, New Ont., Canada.

#### Christian Endeavor Almanac

"World Wide Christian Endeavor" is the title of a souvenir almanac recently published by Rev. John F. Cowan, D.D. It is a review of this wonderful world-wide movement, and is prepared in most attractive form, profusely illustrated by group pictures of Christian Endeavorers in many lands, together with interesting information concerning the growth of the Society. It is published by the World's C.E. Union, Boston, at 10 cents a copy.

"The Bible is a large or small book, a dark or bright one, according to the spirit in which we read it."

"The highest critical and grammatical knowledge will find the Bible a sealed book without the teaching of the Holy Ghost."