

the opening, and the Class was very happy because the whole congregation, and strangers as well, were delighted with the beautiful circular seats that looked so well and made the church so cosy.

When the seats were ordered, the funds being low, the members pledged themselves to stand together until the bill was paid. A subscription list was opened, and every young man in the Class who had ever earned any money for himself, subscribed something. The envelope system was also started. The Class was divided up into convenient groups of six or seven, of whom one was chosen group leader, whose duty is to distribute envelopes, properly numbered and dated, and to see that each one in the group contributes regularly. Besides this, the girls made fancy articles for sale and several socials were held; but the Class feels strongly that such expedients to raise money are only legitimate when there has been liberal voluntary giving.

The putting in of the furnace and seats, that is the raising of money, was not the most important thing that the Class did for the new church. It enlisted and drilled a company of young men and women who continue to take an active part and enthusiastic interest in the church; who are attentive and diligent students of the Bible; who are regularly present at all services, not as spectators, but as interested workers; who regularly and systematically give to Christ's cause; who can be counted on whenever help is needed to "lend a hand"; and who are anxious to see the church make progress.

Another Bible Class, which, for good reasons does not raise money as a Class, has developed these other qualities to even a greater degree. Every class, however young, can be trained in the same way. One member can take the offering, another look after the library books, another the Helps and Papers, etc,—the class making its own appointments. It can have seats arranged and everything in order when the teacher comes; it can perhaps plan a little picnic and invite the teacher; it can contribute a motto or map to the school, and help in many other ways that will suggest themselves to the wide awake class. In this way, principles are translated into life and conduct. Above all, the members can be true

to the class and to each other. The object should be to make it the best class possible, a helping class, of which teachers and scholars are proud. Every member should be able to say, "That is the best 'gang' of boys, or the best 'set' of girls, I ever met." Then teachers will be glad to be assigned to it, and all will point to it with pride because of what it has done for the church.

Black River Bridge, N. B.

Bible Strong Men

III. JOHN THE BAPTIST

By Rev. Wylie C. Clark, B.D.

There are many ways in which a man may be strong. "Shock", in Ralph Connor's story, *The Prospector*, was a mighty man on the foot-ball field, because of his large body and hard muscles. He was a strong man also because he always tried to keep his temper, no matter how many cracks and kicks he received. Then, too, he was strong, because he would not tell a lie on the very smallest point, even to win a most important match. Shock got these points of strength from clean living, his mother's teaching and faith in God, and they became the foundations on which he built his life work for men and God in the great West.

The New Testament says nothing about the physical strength of John the Baptist; but it does say that he went away from the luxurious living of the place where he was born, and lived a simple life in a desert place, subsisting on locusts and wild honey. From his godly parents he must have received a knowledge of the Law and Prophets, and they had held up before him the Hope of Israel, the coming of the Messiah. Perhaps they spoke to him of the miraculous circumstances surrounding his own birth, and told him the angel's message.

When the time came for him to receive a wider education and be specially fitted to do the work of a prophet and the herald of the Messiah, he was willing to respond, forsaking everything to do the will of God.

His strength became more evident, when people came to him in the wilderness and he began to preach. His message, like those of the Old Testament prophets, was not an easy