

Some force must act upon it, else it remains inert. Just as truly in human life and history there is no effect without a sufficient cause to produce it. Now, history tells us of nations ceasing to be savage and becoming civilized. Their people, instead of being selfish, become brotherly. They come to regard other nations as friends, not as foes. The reason is, that in the breast of every man there is a light, more or less clear, guiding him in the upward path. And that light comes from "the life" manifested in the Son of God.

His own received Him not. But—, vs. 11, 12. Settle this in your mind, that nothing can hinder God's purpose. He comes seeking to make us the channels of His

Our
Opportunity
grace to others. We may close our hearts against the divine inflow. That will be our bitter blame and unspeakable loss. But some other channel will be opened up and flooded from the ocean fulness. Pleasure, wealth, fame—from these gifts of the world, let us turn away if we will, but let us not miss the splendid opportunity of helping to fill the world with the knowledge of God!

Of his fulness have all we received, v. 16. The rainbow is made up of varied hues, but they are all derived from the light of the sun, the different colors depending on the angle at which the rays strike the raindrops. No two disciples of Christ are precisely alike in their character or mode of service. But it is the one divine energy that works in and through them all, and they are all needed for its full expression.

The only begotten Son... hath declared him, v. 18. When the Prince of Wales, the king's son and heir, made his tour of the Empire, how enthusiastic was the loyalty everywhere manifested towards the British throne! The Prince, by his speeches and intercourse with all sorts of people, made known the character of our sovereign and his care for his people, thus kindling their devotion into a brighter flame. Is our love to God growing cold, or our zeal for Him flagging? We have only to look again and again at the Son who has revealed the Father's love to us; then the smouldering fires will become a strong and steady blaze.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

By Rev. John H. MacVicar, B.A. Fergus, Ont.

Try your best all through to maintain the unity of the double figure here employed—Life and Light.

It will be no use to waste time over attempted explanations of what life is. The term still "wanders through science without a definition." Ask, rather, what life does. Drop a seed into the ground. What does life do with that seed? It makes it germinate, burst the husk, push up the stem, and grow, till at last the golden grain bends in the full ear.

Now get your scholars to illustrate the relation between light and life. Picture the bleak prospect for vegetation in a world of eternal night, in which all growths pale and die. Why does a gardener roof with glass his hot-bed or green house? Not simply to get heat. He wants the utmost light from

heaven for his plants, in order to get in them the utmost life.

Turn the talk to show how Christ is the Life and Light of men. He came into the world both to give us life, and to give it more abundantly (John 10:10)—to secure the conditions most favorable for growth. Make perfectly clear the need for getting life from Christ, and the need for growing when we do get it. Then encourage your class to point out every verse in this passage that suggests the kind of deadness and darkness that need to be overcome by Christ.

Connect, for instance, what is said in v. 3 with Gen. 1:2, as disclosing originally a dark and lifeless chaos to be set in order.

Connect what is said in v. 5 with ch. 3:19, to show the state of moral darkness into which our race was plunged in consequence of the fall.

Connect what is said in v. 11 with ch. 5:40, to show the dark impulses of the human will, left to itself.

Connect what is said in v. 13 with ch. 3:7,