

Him. They cannot be strong to do all they ought apart from Him. And they cannot eventually go where they might if they have him not. So character, service, destiny—all depend on our appropriation of Christ. If He is sufficient, our first concern should be of Him, for only He can satisfy. And, finding in Him our satisfaction, what hopes shall be fulfilled in Him, what explanation of our mysteries He will give, what contentment of our longings! All we require, all we can obtain, all we may accomplish, in time and in eternity, are in Him. "Lord, evermore give us this Bread!" Let this be our prayer, lest we foolishly attempt to feed ourselves on husks that have not one element of vitality or nourishment in them.

### Training the Vines

Watching a friend recently busily arranging cords for some climbing nasturtiums, we remarked that it was somewhat early for such provision, as the plants were but young and so far had evinced no disposition to run. The answer was to the effect that she would rather that they should find something to cling to as soon as they needed it than straggle all over and become a matted mass needing a lot of difficult later treatment and care. And that was wise philosophy. It set up a line of thought that suggested an application to training children from the very commencement of developing life, and reminded us of Horace Mann's statement: "Where there is anything growing, one former is worth a thousand reformers." Our little people are alive. They will grow. Whether the course shall be as their true nature prompts or not, depends much on the provision we make for them. The nature of our friend's nasturtiums was to climb, but they surely would have crawled had she not provided otherwise. As she afforded them the guiding and supporting string, must we both direct and strengthen every faculty for growth in moral beauty in our children. Otherwise they, too, will crawl, and God never made one of them for such ignoble ends.

### The Worst Infidelity

There is an infidelity more to be dreaded than that of the intellect. It is the unfaithfulness of the heart. The trunancy of the affections is one of the deadliest diseases that can attack the spiritual nature of a young Christian. The heart is, after all, the source and centre of life. From it issues moral and spiritual power, and by it are great enterprises sustained. It is supreme. Not that right thinking is unimportant. It is of great weight; but right living is more important. And love is the motive power in such living. The ancient lawyer put his appeals in proper order, and "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart" came first. It must be ever so. We need not fear the intellectual questionings of a youth whose heart is supremely set towards God. Wrong opinions of the Bible will not long prevail in the minds of young Christians whose affections are definitely fixed on Christ and who study the Word with a passionate love for its Author. We are more concerned for what our Leaguers feel than for what they think. We are more anxious that our young Christians shall have and maintain a healthy personal religious experience than that their theological views shall be after one pattern. For we are persuaded that unless the heart be right towards Christ as Saviour and Lord, no acceptance of creeds, no compliance with forms, no observance of ceremonies, no subscription to dogmas, no obedience to statutes, can be effective of the highest good. When the heart is aglow with the love of Christ, and His Word is studied in the spirit of affectionate communion with His Spirit, the doctrines will not be far astray. As long as the Bible is used as a personal communication from God to the soul of the individual, as long as it is interpreted in the light of a controlling affection for Jesus Christ, it will not be other than the positive Word of the Lord. Not by any processes of reason alone may we develop the highest characters, but when we have an experience that is sure and well founded, the believers will not dishonor God, and the resultant growth of spiritual being will glorify His

Name and verify the constructive power of His Word. We are supremely anxious that our young Methodists shall have what constituted one of the chief glories of their fathers—an experience so personal and definite that they shall be able in happy confidence to say, "One thing I know," and thus "publish to the sons of men the signs infallible."

### When We Have More Time!

We heard an experienced minister reprove a youth once. The young man had excused himself for not doing a certain piece of work by saying, "I hadn't the time," and quick as a flash the older man replied, "You have all the time there is." The statement is true. The trouble with the most of us is not the lack of time, but the failure to wisely arrange and expend it. The waste of time is the most extravagant and disastrous of all wastes, and the majority of our young people are more or less guilty of it. There are twenty-four hours in every day, and yet to many persons the day is much shorter, for only that period of time is worth counting that is well used. Spurgeon once said, "They who have most time have no time to waste," by which remark he intended to teach the priceless value of every hour and the need of utilizing it to advantage. Not when we have more time will we do more and better work, but when we learn the judicious and economical use of the time we have. On this point Susannah Geweber son most excellent advice, and we commend it to every young Methodist still. She wrote to her son Samuel in 1709, when he was at Oxford: "My son, you must remember that life is our Divine gift—it is the talent given us by our Father in Heaven. I request that you throw the business of your life into a certain method and thus save the friction of making each day anew. Arise early, go to bed at a certain hour, eat at stated time, pray, read and study by a method, and so get the most out of the moments as they swiftly pass never to return. Allow yourself so much time for sleep, so much for private devotion, so much for recreation. Above all, my son, act on principle, and do not live like the rest of mankind who float through the world like straws upon a river." In many of her letters to both John and Charles, Mrs. Wesley gives such advice as this: "We are creatures of habit; we must cultivate good habits, for they soon master us, and we must be controlled by what is good. Life is very precious. We must give it back to God some day, so let us get the most from it. Let us methodize the hours so we may best improve them."

It was this economy of time that resulted from the practice of studied method in the use of it that enabled the Wesleys to accomplish so much. Modern Methodists might well exemplify and emulate their habits in this regard.

### Making the Best of Everything

It was a beautiful tribute we heard recently given to a young lady's kindly social disposition: "She makes the best of everything." Few words were in the statement, but they contained a gracious significance. And coming as they did from her own associates, they meant very much. What a different world this would soon be if this habit were generally cultivated. We so easily make the worst of everything that it is little wonder troubles are multiplied and heart-aches abound. To see the best side in another's character, to impute the best possible motives to another's actions, to allow no selfish thought to control us in passing judgment on another's record; these surely are most excellent and commendatory traits that should be encouraged. And have we not a duty to perform in making the best of one another? Few people do this to the extent they should in the various relations of life. What bickerings would be prevented in the home if this duty were daily done. What misunderstandings among friends would never arise if it were the prevailing habit. Everywhere the world would be the brighter and millions of hearts be lightened of heavy loads, if men and women, boys and girls, would thoroughly cultivate the happy Christian disposition ascribed to our young friend above.