

are possible, a little outlining of the great fields may be given, a few foundations laid, some methods of investigation shown, students may be told how and where to look. Little else in science can be done. In the next place, we want studies that bear more directly upon the moral conduct of life; studies that touch heart and conscience; that awaken sympathy and kindle imagination; studies that recognize the visible world as a symbol of the invisible, a changing vesture veiling the unchanging goodness and loveliness and power. Well says the Earth Spirit in Faust,

In being's flood, in action's storm,
I walk and work, above, beneath,
Work and weave in endless motion—
Birth and death, an infinite ocean—
A seizing and giving the fire of the living—
'Tis thus at the roaring loom of time I ply,
And weave for God the garment thou seest
him by.

The scientist at best but studies garments. We want to know the weavers, to know man and to know God. "I would rather," says Thomas Arnold, "that a son of mine believed that the sun went round the earth, than that he should be entirely deficient in knowledge of beauty, of poetry, and of moral truth."—*Education*.

(To be continued.)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS, FOR SCHOOL AND HOME.

SPECIAL LESSON FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE.

To read—I Cor. ix. 24-27.

INTRODUCTION. A new year—how bright it seems—how many such have we seen? Last year, with its troubles, cares, sins—gone beyond recall—this year stands before us with its hopes, struggles, joys, and sorrows. Is like a blank page in a book—what will be written on it? All striving for something—but what? To get on with lessons? To get more money? To succeed in life? Quite right to try, but something else far more worth trying for—viz., to win the heavenly prize. St. Paul compares this trying to two things:—

I. THE RACE. Most children fond of running races—very old custom. Near Corinth a great race-course—people from all over Greece came to see the races, running, boxing, etc. Prize was only a crown of laurel leaves—yet thought greatest possible honour to win this. How is the Christian race *like* this? (a) *Wants*

determination. Determine to run—not keep back at last minute—determine to win—to reach the goal—receive the prize. Therefore must run with patience. (Heb. xii. 1.) (b) *Wants training.* What had these runners to be? (Verse 25.) So must Christians be temperate, sober, honest, virtuous. They wanted long years of training—Christian's whole life must be so. Then best to begin early—acquire good habits—makes much easier to persevere. How is Christian race *unlike* this? (a) *All win.* In other races how many get prize? Others come in behind—have gone whole course, but receive no prize. (b) *Lasting prize.* Crown of laurel soon fades—this prize never. What is it? A crown of glory—i.e., a home in heaven perfectly holy, happy, joyful. Saints and angels for companions—above all, presence of God. (1 Pet. i. 4.)

II. THE BOXING-RING. (Read verse 26.) Refers to another kind of match, boxing and wrestling—carried on with strict rules—if these broken,