

SEEING GOD IN NATURE.

MABEL BOYNE.

"The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work." Psa. xix. 1.

"Thou art, O God the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from Thee.
Where'er we turn thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are Thine."
—*Thos. Moore.*

There are many lessons to be learned from Nature.

The thought of seeing God in her should bring him nearer to us because we are a part of his great plan of nature, the finger prints of the Almighty One.

We must believe in God in order to see him in all his works; it is then that they will declare his glory unto us.

Think for a moment on the wonderful system shown in day and night.

Go forth under the deep blue sky and gaze upwards in admiration. Earth is silently laying aside her dark mantle of night. Yonder in the east is the reflection of the coming monarch of light, and as onward he rises we behold his glory ever brighter. The stars one by one go out, the monarch's rays excelling their feeble light. We still watch as he mounts higher and higher in the heavenly pathway; and as the hours leave us passing on into the great past, he has reached the zenith and now begins his downward course.

We look again and see the fiery ball descending to its hiding place (as it were) but only to begin its work in another place beyond our view. We mark its trailing lines of gold in the west, watching their changing glories till they die away, leaving us wrapped in the soft, grey, soothing cloak of twilight, and,—

"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven, blossom the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

All is silent now save the rustling of leaves or the chirp of some bird which has awakened from its first nap and is calling sweetly to its mate. Night steals on, and as Wordsworth says,—

"How glorious the firmament with living sapphires;
Hesperus that led the starry host, rode brightest
Till the moon, rising in clouded majesty,
At length, apparent Queen, unveiled her light
And o'er the dark earth her silver mantle threw."

At the end of this lesson we think nothing is misplaced in this great, wonderful system.

It shows us that good order is the main-spring of life, and should also teach us that behind it all is a mighty power, guiding the reins of the universe.

As we look upward and see the sun, moon, and stars, how can we help saying with David, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Does it not make us feel that we are naught compared with God's many mighty works? We find humility in this thought and should feel a reverence which will make us bow before our wise Creator.

When we think of the glories of the heavens, do we wonder that there are be-

nighted souls who have worshipped, and do still worship these glorious orbs? Their very instinct seems to teach them that there is a something in them which they can have for a god.

Oh! if their minds could but go farther that they might love and praise the great Creator, the living and true God who is mightier than his mightiest work. He has bid us worship him, not his works. So let us "serve him in the beauty of holiness."

God is everywhere! David tells us (Psa. 139: 7-12) that we are not able to hide from him, there is not a place in the heavens above nor the earth below but he is there. Light and darkness are alike to him and nothing is hid from him. This should teach us that fear which is the beginning of wisdom," we should remember "Thou God seest me."

Now let us leave the busy, every-day scenes of life and go to the woods, where the deep blue sky is smiling around and above us, where we can hear the voice of God in the gentle breezes, in the twitter of the birds, as they flit to and fro in their leafy homes. We can see God's smile in the sunshine. We cannot help feeling his presence where everything seems to whisper peace and love. We are better for being in the company of nature alone for awhile. Our spirits are soothed and the best within us seems to manifest itself. Why? We are nearer our Maker.

"God hath a presence, and that you may see
In the fold of a flower, the leaf of a tree.
In the sun of the noon-day, the star of the night,
In the storm-cloud of darkness, the rainbow of light,

In the waves of the ocean, the furrows of land,
In the mountain of granite, the atom of sand;
'Turn where you may, from the sky to the sod,
Where can ye gaze that ye see not the God?"

This shows us the nearer we live to God the purer, happier our lives will be.

When I watch the birds in their innocent little lives they are an example to me of peace, love, purity and diligence. They make us think of God's care and guidance of his creatures, great and small; his loving-kindness and tender mercies. When we think of the mighty mountains and deep valleys and all the wonders of the earth, let us pray that we may have eyes that will see in these things the love of the Father who hath given us such a beautiful home while we sojourn here below. The majesty of the sea shows us God's mighty strength, for is he not able to hold 'he tossing billows in the hollow of his hand?

In nature we find clouds as well as sunshine, great black clouds from which burst storms; but still there is the "silver lining" which teaches us that God sends these storms for the good of the earth. So the clouds that come in our lives in the form of troubles are our blessings, and will as surely pass away as the clouds pass off from the sun.

Let me tell you what I think is nature's greatest lesson: The resurrection of our bodies. The blade of grass coming forth in the springtime after its sleep in the earth, the trees putting on a new robe of beauty, and everything awakening from a temporal death to a new life, tell us to hope for life beyond the grave. But his promises are more lasting than works, and has he not said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away."

HOW TO MAKE THE SCHOOL ATTRACTIVE.

LOIS M'DOUGALL.

We are accustomed to think of attractions as pertaining to appearances. We wish to go deeper. Appearances are sometimes disappointing. They draw, but do not hold. If we wish to attract those outside, make the school interesting to those inside, and each member will be a recruiting agent.

The first necessity is an earnest, enthusiastic superintendent, who is always prompt, attends to the little things, selects suitable hymns, knows what kind of work his teachers are doing, secures maps, charts, pictures, or any accessory that will interest as well as benefit.

But the school is made up of classes; and, it is said, "the teacher makes the class." Then much depends upon the teacher. I do not need to say that he must be an earnest, consistent follower of the Master, one whose life adds strength to his teaching—simply a Christian—"the best that can be said of any man, the least that can be expected of a teacher."

He needs to come before his class full of the lesson and full of enthusiasm. A grand help to that condition is a good live teachers' meeting, in which the lesson has been discussed from all sides; with a free exchange of ideas, illustrations and suggestions.

Then the teacher must study his class as carefully and thoroughly as he studied his lesson, must make himself acquainted with each individual, his or her ability, attainments, peculiarities, likes and dislikes, hopes and aims, and outside influences; must be in sympathy with them and make them feel it, put himself in their places, look at things from their standpoint, and he will be better fitted to lead them to see things from his point of view. He will have a pleasant and special greeting for each.

If the class is restless and distracted, he will tell them a story, weaving in the lesson, if possible; if not, putting in another that will be equally beneficial; or show them some Bible picture and draw from them the story connected with it.

The teacher needs to study his lesson carefully and prayerfully, bearing in mind the peculiarities, ability and needs of each member of his class; but must leave his helps at home.

He must have illustrations, wisely chosen and carefully prepared, for they make the lesson doubly strong by making it more interesting and clear, and thus more lasting.

He will induce the class to give their ideas on the subject and tell what they would have said or done under similar circumstances.

The teacher ought to have a blackboard. Much has been done, more can be done by the use of a blackboard than many dream of doing. Have a light portable blackboard for the lower grades, if possible; if not possible then the maps and other drawings will have to be made on paper; for they must be