

places and the groves and the images, fostered the spirit of idolatry, so he knew the house of Jehovah, the sacred temple with all of its altars and vessels and services, would foster the spirit of true religion. And so he next set about restoring and repairing the house of God. It had been desecrated, and permitted to fall into decay. Josiah went about making it beautiful

again. There was true philosophy in what he did. A tumbledown church in a community lowers the religious spirit. An attractive house of worship does not make people religious, but it helps. We must everywhere set up the external signs of the higher life, for the signs will help to the development of the life.

THE LESSON PRAYER

O God, our youth are born to responsibility, even as the young king was born whose life we have been studying. They, too, must make their choice as he made his, whether they will follow the example of good or of evil men. And upon their heads also thou art putting crowns, and for them thou art preparing thrones; for to every one life is a kingdom which he must either build up or destroy. Speak, we pray thee, to the hearts of all the young, as thou didst speak to the heart of the boy king, and incline them to seek thee as he sought after the God of his father David. Set thou before them for their guidance the lives of good men and women, who in the past feared thee and wrought righteousness; and, having cleansed their own hearts through thy grace, may they go forth to help in the overthrow of the evils of the world, and in restoring the world to the beauty of holiness. Amen.

The Lesson Coin Thoughts

I

It is as true as it was of John the Baptist that there was a man sent from God whose name was *Josiah*.

As a rule the men whose lives will affect the world for good to its latest day are the men who began their goodness early.

The days of great manhood usually dawn in the days of boyhood.

The water that flows in the rill is the same in kind as that which flows in the river.

A spark of fire is the same in quality as that which fills the furnace.

Each note is a part of the whole song.

The characteristics of manhood are the characteristics of boyhood full-grown.

Yes, a man may put away "childish things," but he can hardly efface the stamp they put on his soul.

II

God has lighted the torch of some great life in every dark day of history.

When the strength of a nation has utterly failed there is one more thing to do; that nation can lean on the unfailing strength of Jehovah.

Though the oil in my lamp may be exhausted there is plenty of oil in the well.

Not until the throne of God can crumble can the cause of good be hopeless.

He only is building well to-day who is building for to-morrow.

He who falls out with the purpose of God is already foredoomed to fail.

III

Constructive goodness is always destructive of evil.

There is no place for pagan shrines in the temple of Jehovah.

The prophets of Baal must retire when the prophets of God arrive.

Josiah could not build up the nation's life without tearing down the nation's idols.

Righteousness is the only thing that is unsatisfactory to wickedness.

IV

Every great deed that the true reformer does to-day links his life with the larger life of to-morrow.

Every great work is like a great wave—it moves the whole sea.

Every great deed of man is a part of the growing aggregate of all good.