

leaves a part for us to do, so we must learn to do our part faithfully, that progress or growth may be assured.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart," is a conditional promise and only one out of many, showing that our part of the work *must* be *lovingly* performed, if we reap the reward. We may *tease* our earthly parents into granting a selfish request, but God will not be mocked for He knoweth the secret promptings of each heart, and is too wise to err in giving, and too good to be unkind to our true lives.

In reading the fifth chapter of St. Matthew we notice that almost every verse is the essence of a great and wise sermon. By all means, let us pray for a right spirit to appreciate the blessings God has sent us. "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust"; do we thank our Heavenly Father for these, or do we simply accept them as a common matter, *thoughtlessly*, because bestowed without our asking. "For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him," and bestows many blessings unasked, does not excuse ingratitude on our part; we should "*in everything give thanks*." That because our Heavenly Father knoweth our needs does not mean that He is going to give us *everything* without our asking. There are *special* things we *must* ask for, else we would not be instructed to "*ask*," to "*seek*," or to "*knock*."

Three *new* things which God has promised to give, we want to obtain. First, a new heart; second, a new spirit; third, a new name; but for these God will be inquired of, so while we pray for these gifts, let us do all God requires of us, that we may attain to the new things. In Eze. 36 : 26, is found, "Thus saith the Lord God,

. . . A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Rev. 2 : 17 the Spirit saith, "To him that *overcometh* will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a

white stone, and in the white stone a new name written, which no man knoweth, saving he which receiveth it. Who ever gains the "*Pearl of great price*" will know by experience, of God's writing upon him or her his new name. May we all so run that we may win.

HOPEFUL BAND.

## THE EARLY LIFE OF JESUS.

Essay read by Louise Pound at the First-day School entertainment held at Sparta at the time of Pelham Half Yearly Meeting.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod. His father and mother, Joseph and Mary by name, while he was yet very young left Bethlehem and came unto Galilee, and there in the city of Nazareth Jesus spent his early life. Nazareth was a city of a conquered province of the Roman Empire in the darkest district of Palestine. Here in this place Jesus grew up in poverty and manual labor, in the obscurity of a carpenter's shop, far away from universities, academies and libraries, with no help as far as we know, except his parents' care, the wonders of nature, the Old Testament Scriptures, the weekly service of the synagogue at Nazareth, the annual feasts at Jerusalem, and above all his soul's secret intercourse with God his Heavenly Father. His home was poor, his father was a carpenter and his mother a woman of all kinds of work. Their house would be of the common Eastern type, workshop and kitchen in one, there being no windows the door serving for ventilation and light. The furniture consisted of mats strewn upon the earth floor, a few earthen dishes and a stool. At meal times the stool is placed in the middle of the floor, covered with a tray and upon this is placed a large dish of rice, meat, or stewed fruits, which ever it may be, this being all the meal consisted of. After this is done each one helps himself. Both before and after the meal the servant or youngest member of the family pours water over the hands of each from a brazen ewer into a bra-