

## Our Members Testify.

The following sentence by Dr. Pelouhet, the distinguished Sunday school writer, is a good one for busy people. He says: "Make Christ first, and there will be time for all other duties."

Dr. Miller says that we ought never to be willing to live any year just as we lived last one. And I might add that if we are satisfied with the year that is just past, we are quite certain to make the next year not as good a year as that has been.

If we put God first, He will see that we do not want. When David was an old man he could say that he had never seen the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging bread. Satan makes large promises, but he never fulfils them. He is like the beaten politician after the election.

In laying the stones for a stone fence, if a stone that ought to go on top gets placed at the bottom, then some stone that should go on the bottom will have to go at the top. And so, I think, in our lives, if first things do not get first place, second things will not get second place, and all our lives will be wrong.

When you are seized by some sorrow, what do you seek first? Do you seek first the removal of the sorrow? That proves that you need to have it continued. Do you seek first the kingdom of God, that is, God's will in the sorrow? Then the sorrow has done its work for you, and God can wisely remove it.

We can learn a lesson about first things from Abraham. The first thing he looked after when he reached Canaan was not water and grass for his flocks, his only wealth, but an altar on which to worship God. Imitating him, let us put conscience before our bank accounts, the spiritual side of our lives before the material side.

Many persons say they cannot afford to give God's work the first place in their lives. "One must live," they say. Christ's answer to that excuse is this: "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." God will see to it that we have our living in the world if we only place His will first in our lives.

Once at Stockholm the king of Sweden sent word to the great singer, Jenny Lind, and bade her sing at the king's palace. It was an important festival, but it was to be on Sunday, so Jenny Lind refused. Then the king called personally upon her, and repeated the command. This was a high honor, but still the brave Christian singer refused. "There is a higher King, your majesty," she said, "and I owe first allegiance to Him." She put things first.

The Romans told a story about Charon, who rowed the dead across the river Styx. He saw how gloomy they all were, and one day he went up to earth to learn why. Standing on top of a high mountain, he looked down upon the cities of men. "No wonder they are gloomy," he said, "when they come down to me. Why, they are spending all their lives building birds' nests!" That is a fair symbol of what a great many men really are doing—putting trivial things first.

## Our Young People

## The Christian Endeavor Meeting for January 5

Topic : That which comes first.—Matt. 6 : 33. Gen. 12, 7, 8 ; Matt. 8 : 22.

Most of us have read in our school readers the story of Jeremiah Horrocks. He was the English minister who made the first observation of the transit of Venus. This observation was a wonderful one, and of great importance, but he wrote in his diary that, as the time approached for the transit, it also drew near time for a little service in the humble village church. He was doing perhaps the most valuable secular work he could do, but he broke it off, not knowing but he might miss the great observation altogether, and went to perform his duty. He returned, and found himself just in time for the marvellous event in the skies. The sentences in his diary in which he tells about this are inscribed on his monument in Westminster Abbey.

No knowledge of worldly matters is so important as to know heavenly and eternal things. The earth and Venus and the sun and all the stars will pass away in time, but the soul and God are never to pass away. If we seek first the interests of the soul and the interests of God's kingdom, we shall be putting first things first. Any other order will throw our lives into confusion and disaster.

Mr. Meyer tells about an old Dutch picture of a little child who is dropping from his hands a beautiful toy. Looking at the painting, one is surprised to see the plaything so carelessly abandoned; until, following the child's eye to the corner of the picture, one sees a lovely white dove flying into the child's outstretched hands.

That is the way it will be with all of us as soon as we actually begin to see the pure beauties and joys of the higher life. All our silly playthings will be allowed to fall out of our hands. We shall let go of fashion and luxury, and idle dissipation, and proud ambition, and greed for gain, and desire for men's applause and for advancement in the world, and we shall stretch out our hands for the things that are best worth having. Those are the things which will stay with us. They will give something of their nature to our lives, and will ennoble everything they touch.

This will be indeed a meeting worth while if it causes even a single person to place his eternal life first, and the things of time second. May God grant us that result!

## Daily Readings.

Mon.,	Dec. 30.—First fruits for God	Exod. 23 : 14-19
Tues.,	Dec. 31.—First the blade, Mark 4 : 26-29	
Wed.,	Jan. 1.—First, the natural.	1 Cor. 15 : 42-49
Thurs.,	Jan. 2.—First, their own selves.	2 Cor. 8 : 1-7
Fri.	Jan. 3.—First, be persuaded.	Luke 14 : 28-33
Sat.	Jan. 4.—First, see clearly Matt. 7 : 1-5	
Sun.,	Jan. 5.—Topic. That which comes first.	Matt. 6 : 33 ; Gen. 12 : 7, 8 ; Matt. 8 : 22.

God has not promised to His people Adamic, Angelic or absolute perfection, but He has promised to deliver them out of the hands of their enemies, and give them power to do His will on earth, as it is done in heaven.

## Prayer.

Almighty God, we know Thee in all ways, some by this, and some by that; but we all know that behind what is seen is the unseen, the eternal, the all-shaping, the all-ruling power. Thou hast made us variously, yet are we one; herein is the mystery of Thy own being. We see without looking, we look without seeing; we feel without reasoning, we reason without feeling; in the dark we see; when there is no one present we lay the hand of our love upon a life that cares for us and redeems us. It is all mystery, radiant mystery, tender, enlarging, ennobling mystery; verily this night is full of stars. Come to us, Thou Son of God, and make us feel that Thy chariots are twenty thousand in number, and that thou dost ride forth in each as it doth please Thee, and blessed is the man who sees Thee in some respect, in some light, in any way, for he, too, is caught by the beauty of the vision of God. Saviour wounded, Saviour crowned, hear us now, and always hear us, for Thy hearing is an answer. Amen.—Selected.

## Omnipotent.

BY M. H.

Why worry and fret to your heart's unrest?  
Your life must be just as He planned it;

Can an ending be  
To this life for thee  
One moment before he intended?

We all take our place  
In this great plan of life,  
Like the cloth in a loom,  
If one thread break too soon,  
Lost all the design of the maker.

If with love all divine, your life be enrolled  
Why speak of a death as untimely?

The designer knows best  
When the heart needs a rest,  
Knows best when your life work is ended.

Cannington, Ont.

Christmas is reassuring. From the cradle to the end of live poor humanity needs encouragement. Life being full of vicissitudes and unrest, any sound that gives courage and cheer is welcome. It was fitting that the first angelic words heralding the birth of the Savior should be hope inspiring and fear-dispelling. In the midst of anxious days and hours we should listen to the angels' song, "Fear not!"

Some one once asked Joan of Arc why her white banner was always victorious, and she answered, "I send it forth against the enemy, and then I follow it myself." So the first thing to do, if we would win in the battle of life, is to see that in front of us is the banner of the cross; the second thing to do is to follow it ourselves.

Professor Drummond once, in talking to some students, gave them this good advice: "Above all things," he said, "do not touch Christianity unless you are willing to seek the kingdom of God first. I promise you a miserable existence if you seek it second."

Men who reason expect the people of God to be holy.