

wherever else you fail you are a success.

That great and only worthy end may be reached by the ministration of circumstances and the discipline through which God passes us. These are not the only ways by which he makes us partakers of his holiness, as we well know. There is the work of that Divine Spirit which is granted to every believer, to breathe into him the holy breath of an immortal and incorruptible life. To work along with these there is the influence that is brought to bear upon us by the circumstances in which we are placed and the duties which we have to perform. These may all help us to be nearer and liker to God.

That is the intention of our sorrows. They will wean us; they will refine us; they will blow us to his breast, as a strong wind might sweep a man into some refuge from itself. I am sure there are some who can thankfully attest that they were brought nearer to God by some short, sharp sorrow than by many long days of prosperity.

But the sorrow that is meant to bring us nearer to him may be in vain. The same circumstances may produce opposite effects. I dare say there are people who will read these words who have been made hard and sullen and bitter and paralyzed for good work because they have some heavy burden to carry, or some wound or ache that life can never heal. Ah! brother, we are often like shipwrecked crews, of whom some are driven by the danger to their knees, and some are driven to the spirit casks. Take care that you do not waste your sorrows; that you do not let the precious gifts of disappointment, pain, loss, loneliness, ill health, or similar afflictions that come in your daily life mar you instead of mending you. See that they send you nearer to God, and not that they drive you further from him. See that they make you more anxious to have the durable riches and righteousness which no man can take from you, than to grasp at what may yet remain of fleeting earthly joys. So let us try to school ourselves into the habitual and operative conviction that life is a discipline. Let us beware of getting no good from what is charged to the brim with good. May it never have to be said of any of us that we wasted the mercies which were judgment, too, and found no good in the things that our tortured hearts felt to be also evils, less God should have to wail over any of us, "In vain have I smitten your children; for they have received no correction."—Alexander Maclaren.

The Hero.

The English schoolboy, like the American, adores his leader in athletic games just as a grown man prizes his chief in politics and war. Whatever may be a boy's shortcomings in scholarship, says Blackwood's Magazine, his athletic attainments will establish him as a hero.

One day, years ago, when a boy on his vacation from Harrow was walking with his father, a Cambridge youth who had just performed some feat in a university cricket match passed them and gave the lad a nod. The boy grew pink with excitement. He nudged his father.

"Look, father, look!" he exclaimed. That was Cobden."

"What, my boy? Who was it?"
"Cobden."

"Ah, yes, to be sure, Cobden," said the father. Then, feeling that cordiality demanded his expressing some interest in the stranger, he added, "Now I wonder whether he is any relation to the great Cobden?"

The boy spoke up proudly, "He is the great Cobden!"

Our Young People

July 6th. Universal Peace.

Some Bible Hints.

God alone can "make wars to cease" (Ps. 46: 9). The progress of the Hague Tribunal will be no faster than the progress of Christianity.

Each contending army—like those of the North and the South, the English and the Boers—is quite sure that "the Lord of hosts is with" it (Ps. 46: 11). Can it be God's will that two nations, both praying to God, should fight each other?

Does any one believe that if we really set ourselves to have God the "Judge among the nations" (Isa. 2: 4). He will be reduced to the clumsy code of powder and shot?

When plowshares are made out of swords (Isa. 2: 4). God will be able to give us such harvests as the world has not yet seen.

Suggestive Thoughts.

Men are what their ideals are, and even though there is no war, yet while we dream of killing men we shall not love them.

Never should a Christian nation engage in a war in which it would be difficult to imagine Christ engaging.

The greatest cost of a war is not in money, though that is enormous, but it is in men—though not a man may be killed.

It is commonly said, "But our nation must maintain armies until all the other nations abandon them." What if Peter had waited to be a Christian until all the other Jews were ready to be Christians!

A Few Illustrations.

To maintain vast armies in preparation for war is to keep rotting vegetables in the cellar in anticipation of a plague. It is not a prevention but an invitation.

The nations, in seeking peace through the arts of war, are like monkeys who bridge a stream with their own bodies instead of building a bridge of stone.

The motto, "In time of peace prepare for war," is as if one should say, "When your house is not burning, start it with kerosene."

One may condemn war yet praise warriors, just as one may condemn a disease yet praise a sick man.

To Think About.

Do I realize the enormous loss to the world through war?

Does my conversation minister to war or peace?

Am I supporting the peace movement, its aims and organizations?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Brother should not war with brother,
And worry and devour each other.

—Cooper.

And peace is of the nature of a conquest.
For then both parties nobly are subdued,
And neither party loses.—Shakespeare.

Religion should extinguish strife,
And make a calm of human life.—Cower.

If war is to be made by money and machinery, the nation which is the largest and most covetous multitude will win.—Ruskin.

Keeping up the Enthusiasm.

You can well afford to lose froth and gush, but never zeal and enthusiasm.

Maintain enthusiasm by keeping in touch with other societies and other parts of the Christian Endeavor world, through letters, through the press, and through attending union meetings.

Maintain enthusiasm by keeping a goal before the society, some fine new plan, and

as soon as that is accomplished, another one.

Maintain enthusiasm by maintaining your standard. Though you have only four members, be a quartette to be proud of!

"Enthusiasm" means "God within." Maintain it, therefore, best of all by maintaining at its height the inner spiritual life.

Christ in Disguise.

Not simply do good men entertain angels unawares, but sometimes they entertain unawares the Christ himself, who comes, wearing strange disguise. Those two disciples who met that stranger on the way to Emmaus, recognized not even their own Master. He talked with them indeed with his old fire and eloquence. As was his wont, he threw light upon problems that had been dark. He breathed into them a new hope, but not until a long time had passed did they realize that hearts had burned within them as they talked by the way. At last in breaking of bread he was made known unto them. And he who once came in physical disguise now comes disguised in events. He makes weakness his minister. He makes troubles and defeats his messengers. He makes old age, yea, suffering and death itself, to mean deliverance. He knocks at the door of the house of a man's soul, and the keeper of the door trembles, suspecting the coming of an enemy, but in the hour when men fear most of all the approach of death, itself, behold, behind the mask is one whose face is filled with light, the Lord of life and death, who comes bringing release, convoy, and guidance homeward.—Rev. Hewell Dwight Hillis, in Christian Herald.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	July 11.—The God of Peace.	
Tues.,	" 12.—The "Prince of Peace."	Ps. 72: 1-7.
Wed.,	" 13.—Peacemakers blessed.	Isa. 9: 6, 7.
Thurs.,	" 14.—Animals at peace.	Matt. 5: 1-9.
Fri.,	" 15.—Universal amnesty.	Isa. 11: 6-9.
Sat.,	" 16.—Peace and plenty.	Ezek. 39: 8-10.
Sun.,	" 17.—Topic. The world again through universal peace.	Micah. 4: 2-4. Ps. 46: 9-11; Isa. 2: 2-4.

Prayer.

Hold us in the hollow of Thine hand, we humbly pray Thee, Father of our spirits and God of all grace. They only are kept who are kept by God. Hide us in Thy pavilion from the strife of tongues; hide us in Thine almightiness from the assaults of every foe. How are the mighty fallen! But thou dost deplore a greater fall; Thine heart is moved towards Thy people, because Thou hast nourished and brought up children and they have rebelled against Thee. Forbid that we should shed our tears only over historical falls; may each man remember that he too may fall and droop and die. Hold thou me up and I shall be safe, is the cry of every broken heart. Keep us, and we shall not stray; love us, and mightily restrain us by all the ministry that can guard human character from apostasy, and we yet shall be saved. Give hope to those who are in great sorrow of heart because of fear and apprehension concerning their ability to finish the race and to receive the crown.