

The questions every teacher should ask himself, in planning his lesson, are, "How much of this do the pupils know?" "What things in to-day's lesson will first attract their attention?" and, "How will their interest travel to the minor features?"

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In common honesty, the man who does not feel constrained to spread the knowledge of Christ should surrender Christ. What right has he to Christ? If Christ is not able to save the world, He is not able to save a single soul. If He can save a soul, it is awful to withhold Him from any, even the lowest. . . . A revival of simple, square-footed integrity is the real missionary need.—Robert E. Speer.

CULTIVATE THE BEST GIFTS

By Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, M.A.

The culture of the Christian life ought to be as scientific in its methods, as horticulture or any other culture. Work, however earnest, if haphazard, can never bring symmetry and the harmony of true proportion—a genuine culture. The word "culture" has been so much abused that the sensitive speaker or writer has begun to avoid it. It has become the catchword of a clique, for whom the intellectual and the æsthetic are everything. Superficial and one-sided, from the very narrowness of their outlook, they are living examples of what "culture" is not. It stands, in its true meaning, for that education and thorough harmony of the full range of man's powers, that exalts every faculty to its highest, and brings them to their rarest and sweetest, suffusing all the sensuous with the spiritual.

Christian culture is a culture, not merely of the mind, but of the heart; not merely of the intellect, but also of the emotions. We have many who have sought the former, but we have vast numbers who have neglected the latter. And yet, after all, of the two, the man is nearest Christlikeness, who has cultivated the heart. But the best man is he who has cultivated both.

We need in our day to lay emphasis on the culture of the emotions. Some of the

noblest and rarest of these have well nigh disappeared from human life. We have plenty of mirth of a kind in the world, but how little joy, true abiding gladness in action. We have much stoicism, bold, brave endurance of adverse circumstances and suffering, but how little peace, calm, steady contentment in God's will for us. We have many acquaintanceships, but few friendships, where the deeps of one heart call and answer to another: much frankness and courtesy, but much less love. We have quite a little happiness, the sunny sparkle that may glimmer on the shallowest pool; we have little blessedness, the full, quiet flow of the fathomless tide. We have much irritability and impatience, little righteous indignation.

Look into your heart, and find the great primitive emotions that God has implanted in you. They have all possibilities for good and blessing. Train them, use them, guide them, control them. Intellectual attainments are good, æsthetic taste is a source of great pleasure; but cultivate earnestly the best gifts, those gifts of emotion that above all pattern and mould the character and life.

Wroxeter, Ont.

LESSONS FOR 1903

FIRST QUARTER

1. Jan. 4—Paul and Silas at Philippi. Acts 16: 22-34.
2. Jan. 11—Christian Living. Phil. 4: 1-13.
3. Jan. 18—Paul at Thessalonica and Berea. Acts 17: 1-12.
4. Jan. 25—Paul's Counsel to the Thessalonians. 1 Thess. 5: 14-28.
5. Feb. 1—Paul at Athens. Acts 17: 22-34.
6. Feb. 8—The Church at Corinth Founded. Acts 18: 1-11.
7. Feb. 15—Christian Self-Control—Temperance Lesson. 1 Cor. 8: 4-13.
8. Feb. 22 Christian Love. 1 Cor. 13.
9. March 1—Paul and Apollos. Acts 18: 24 to 19: 6.
10. March 8—Paul at Ephesus. Acts 19: 13-20.
11. March 15—The Riot at Ephesus. Acts 19: 29-40.