

dining-room pantry. It was quite a distance from the mouse hole, and Snippy had often been told not to go there. But there were lovely crumbs of cake and pie often to be found on the floor, and Snippy had been before and got back safely. So why not now?

He found several crumbs of rich cake that morning, and after making a hearty breakfast, he decided to explore the upper shelves. Now, although Snippy did not know it, this is just what the cook would have liked him to do, for, on the upper shelf, there was a nice little trap put, for the cook meant to find out who had been nibbling the pie and cakes on the pantry shelves.

Snippy saw the trap, and, being a young and foolish mouse, he thought he would find out what that strange thing was. Mother Mouse had told him never to try to find out what strange things were, but what did Snippy care? Flirting his long tail around, he smelled of the mouse-trap, this side and that. Something inside smelled very good. Snippy would like to try it, but he hesitated to do so, and yet it did smell so good that he somehow could not keep away. He went round and round the trap, until in giving one very great flourish of his tail, he caught it in the spring.

Poor Snippy, he gave a great jerk to his tail, but that only caught it tighter in the terribly tight place, and pull as he might, he could not get it out again. Then he thought he heard the cook coming, and giving, in his fear, one last desperate jerk, he did finally get away, but alas, he left behind one-half of his beautiful long tail!

It was a very hard case indeed, but Mother Mouse told him that he should be thankful that it was not his head that was caught in the trap, instead of his tail.—Brooklyn Eagle.

What Ruth Had.

"Oh, there's that Ruth Knolls and her brother again! Do you know Miss Merton, she is just awful dull in school, and we girls laugh at her so much. She hasn't a particle of brilliancy."

Viva chatted this speech out as she walked along the street beside Miss Merton.

"She has something far better than brilliancy," said Miss Merton.

"What?" said Viva, her cheeks flushing uncomfortably, for she felt that she had made a mistake, and she was very anxious to stand well in Miss Merton's opinion.

"She has a courteous manner. That is a grace that is very great, but far too rare. I know Ruth quite well and her kindness and courtesy are unfailing in company or at home. She is going to grow into a lovely womanhood."

"I am sorry I spoke so," said Viva. "I really don't know anything about her except that she stumbles so dreadfully in her lessons."

"No doubt she is very sorry about it. It is a fine gift to be quick and bright in understanding things; but you know, my dear, that it is far more important to be kind, hearted and gentle. When you go out in the world no one will ever ask or know whether you got good grades in algebra or Latin. If you have done your best it is wrought into you whether your best is very good or only mediocre. But be sure of this: Everyone who meets you will know, without putting you through an examination, whether you are a gentlewoman or not. It isn't practical to quote Greek or discuss psychology or read Shakespeare with every one you meet; but you can always speak kindly and listen courteously, and quietly look out for the opportunity to do little deeds of kindness that make our lives so much more worth living."—The Union Signal.

Some Good Advice on Keeping Positions.

You can hold your position if you fit yourself to its mould so as to fill every crevice. Be like a cake. At first it is a soft, spongy dough, and is poured into a mould, which it but half fills. As it bakes it rises, and crowds every dent in the mould. Not contented, it bulges over the top; it makes a cake larger than the mould will hold. So, young man and young woman, be larger than your mould. After you have filled every crease and crevice of your position to advantage, work out at the top. It is the largest cake that brings the most money.

Always keep your promises. Your employer will not ask you to do more than is possible. Remember that an unfulfilled promise is as bad as a downright untruth. Live within your means. Never let a month pass that you do not put something in the bank. Saving is the great basic principle in the foundation of success. Dress neatly and plainly, for an employer marks a man as a fool who apparels himself with extravagance and glaring colors. Never try to win the favor of your employer by slandering your fellow-workers. Slander always sticks. Show kindness to your fellow-employees, but do not let it be forced kindness, for that deserves no thanks. Resolve slowly, and act quickly. Remember, it is better to be alone than in bad company; that you cannot give your employer or yourself full value if you try to work after a night of dissipation; that silence, like cleanliness, is akin to godliness; and that a clear conscience gives sound sleep and good digestion, and clothes one in an impregnable coat of mail.—James J. Hill, in Success.

The Young People

Daily Bible Readings.

Prayer Meeting Topic—March 23.

Monday, March 24.—Ephesians 1. "Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (vs. 13.) Compare Eph. 4:30.

Tuesday, March 25.—Ephesians 2. "Built upon the foundation of . . . Jesus Christ himself" (vs. 20.) Compare I Cor. 3:11.

Wednesday, March 26.—Ephesians 3. "To know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge" (vs. 19.) Compare Rom. 8:39.

Thursday, March 27.—Ephesians 4:1-16. "The stature of the fulness of Christ" (vs. 13.) Compare John 1:16.

Friday, March 28.—Ephesians 4:17-32. "Put on the new man" (vs. 24.) Compare Rom. 13:14.

Saturday, March 29.—Ephesians 5:1-14. "Walk in love" (vs. 2.) Compare Romans 14:15-17.

Our Own for Christ. Ps. 85.

This Psalm seems to have been written after the return of the exiles from the Babylonish captivity. The book of Nehemiah supplies precisely such a background as suits the Psalm. A part of the nation had returned indeed, but to a ruined city, a fallen temple, and a mourning land, where they were surrounded by jealous and powerful enemies. Discouragements had laid hold on the feeble company; enthusiasm had ebbed away; the harsh realities of their enterprise had stripped off its imaginative charm; and the mass of the returned settlers had lost heart as well as devout faith.

To bring back our own from captivity the conditions are revealed:

1. A grateful recollection of the power of God. Thou hast brought back the captivity. Thou hast forgiven the unquity of thy people."

2. Earnest supplication to God. "Wilt thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

3. A desire to know the will of God. "I will hear what God the Lord will speak."

4. Implicit obedience to God. "Righteousness shall go before him and shall set us in the way of his steps."

J. H. MACDONALD.

The Sonship of Believers.

III. THE DISCIPLINE OF SONSHIP.

The analogy between human sonship and sonship in the family of God holds at the point of discipline. It is to human sonship that the writer to the Hebrews is referring when he asks, "For what son is he whom his father chasteneth not?" Heb. 12:8. Then speaking of spiritual sonship he affirms, "God dealeth with you as with sons," Heb. 12:8. Human fathers and the Divine Father alike must needs train their sons if they are to attain to anything worth while.

I. Let us inquire as to the Purpose of the Heavenly Father's discipline.

The inquiry is answered in a general and comprehensive way in such passages as: Rom. 8:29, "Whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son;" and Heb. 12:10, "But he for our profit that we might be partakers of his holiness." When he regenerated us God gave to us the life, the germinal nature, of sons, and by the imputation of Christ's righteousness declared us justified before his holy law. But he desires that his children have more than the nature of sons, they must be brought at last to possess the character of sons, they must be "conformed to the image of his Son." This is the purpose on which the Father's heart is set, and for the accomplishment of which all the discipline of his family is directed.

In working out this great purpose there are intermediate purposes, at some of which we may glance in particular. God's purpose includes a purpose of gradual instruction. He must progressively unfold to his new-born sons the ideal of holiness which is embodied in Jesus. (John 17:3; 2 Pet. 1:2, 5, 3:18.) His purpose includes also a purpose to subject and destroy the old self-life. But there is an awful vitality in the carnal nature, and its conquest involves a life-long warfare. (Rom. 6:6, 12, 13; Col. 3:5-8; Eph. 4:22.) His purpose includes, moreover, the development in the sons of those positive graces which shall conform them in actual character to the holy image of Jesus. No wonder if this takes time. (I Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10-14.)

II. Consider the Means of discipline which the Father employs.

The fact is that everything that affects the life is a means of discipline to the sons of God. Life is just one unbroken scheme of schooling, that by illumination, correction, chastening, training, education, we may be brought to perfect sonship. Some classification of the means, however, may profitably be made.

1. There is the Bible—the text-book of the spiritual life. By the study of it we learn to know what God is and what his will is concerning us. We learn to know ourselves, to know our spiritual enemies, to know the resources of life and help that are open to us, to know the spiritual history of other souls, how they have conquered, how they have found discomfiture and defeat. By the study we discover those mighty motives which sway the soul towards the noblest ends. (John 17:17; Acts 17:11; Jas. 1:25; I Peter 2:2.)

2. Prayer also is a gracious means of discipline. It anoints the eyes for a right reading of God's word; it forarms the soul against temptation; it makes the sense of spiritual things real; it brings the soul into contact with the sources of power, and renews the soul with divine inspirations and replenishings. (Ps. 119:18; Mark 14:38; Luke 9:29; Matt. 7:7, 8; I Thess. 5:17.)

3. The common round of daily duties—these are means of discipline. Whether in the home, the school, the store, the factory, the field, every common task that lies to our hands, every vexation that stings us, every temptation that assails us, every call upon our sympathies—all the round of daily life is a discipline, by which, if we will, we may be daily transformed from nobleness to nobleness as the sons of God. (Mat. 5:44, 45; Phil. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.)

4. Poverty, sickness, bereavement, and other adversities are also divinely used means for the culture and perfecting of the children of God. It is of these painful forms of discipline that the writer is thinking in that tender and beautiful 12th of Hebrews, which has been the pillow for so many weary heads, the availing word of consolation for so many stricken hearts.

III. And now a few words about the Right Attitude towards the Father's discipline.

1. There must be implicit trust in the gracious purpose of it all. If faith misses the clue, if we lose sight of the divine interpretation of the process, sooner or later there will come dejection, rebelliousness, or despair. If on the other hand faith grasps the clue, if we have the living conviction that our lives are embodied thoughts of God's, that he is behind all the wild dance of circumstance, revealing, testing, correcting, luring us on to the heights of holiness, surely our lives will grow up into a nobleness, and settle down into a tranquility, all strange to us before.

See the gallery of worthies in the 11th of Hebrews that we may learn something of the power of faith.

2. There must be humble, patient submission to whatever the Father appoints.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may lift you up in due time," I Pet. 5:6.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous, nevertheless, afterward, it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them that are exercised thereby," Heb. 12:11.

3. If we had faith enough, there is ground why we should rejoice and glory even in the most trying forms of discipline.

The characteristic note of the New Testament is not resignation, but exaltation, victory. The writers write as those who constantly see the invisible. Paul writes, "And we glory in tribulation also, etc.," Roma. 5:3, 4; James writes, "Count it all joy my brethren when ye fall into divers trials, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience, etc.," James 1:2-4. Multitudes of holy souls have shared with Paul and James this spirit of exaltation. The Lord grant us this grace also. T. TROTTER.

Wolfville.

The Meeting of the Executive.

Pursuant to the call of the President the Executive of the Maritime Union met in Truro on the afternoon of Feb. 26th. The cosy study of Pastor McLean of the Immanuel church was our "council chamber," while the excellent entertainment furnished by Mrs. McLean during our stay in town was our delight. Rev. W. N. Hutchins, the newly inducted pastor of the Prince St. church, having been apprehended in his lodgings, was prevailed upon to put his wisdom at the service of the Com. during its deliberations. The meeting opened shortly after two o'clock, and was presided over by Pres. Lawson whose convalescence after a severe illness rejoiced the hearts of his brethren. After a brief season of prayer the Sec'y submitted a statistical report based upon the response received from the local pastors to his recent appeal for information regarding the number, name, membership and studies of their young people's societies. The report showed that, of those to whom cards of inquiry had been addressed, only about one-fourth responded, while a number of those who did reply reported no Y. P. Societies in their churches. It was also revealed in the report that, among the societies pursuing definite studies, there is much diversity in the courses followed. "Our own" studies as outlined in the "MESSENGER AND VISITOR," seem to be regarded by the majority of the societies as being so thoroughly our own that no particular degree of attention is required to make possession of them any more secure. In spite, however, of this apparent unappreciation of the Union's educational endeavors, the Committee considered situation sufficiently encouraging to warrant them in the discussing further possible courses some of which it is expected, will crystallize into shape for recommendation at the annual Convention.

After careful deliberation the Committee outlined a programme for the next yearly meeting. In its preparation respect was had to the general needs of the cause as well as to the making of the annual meeting both helpful and attractive. The Com. believe that, if the men whose names have been elected to appear on the programme, will consent to act the parts assigned them our Convention at Yarmouth shall be full of strength and inspiration to all who may attend.

But the transaction of the Executive which will result in immediate good to our cause was the authorization of Pres. Lawson to spend the spring months among the societies visiting local organizations and holding rallies at central points to deepen and extend interest in the distinctive work of the Union. The local Unions are urgently requested to co-operate with Bro. Lawson in his efforts to advance the work. The making of his itinerary is left entirely to the President himself so that in the prosecution of his mission he may be enabled to take advantage of all favoring circumstances. The Executive recommended also that at all of the President's meetings there be made generous contributions towards the work of the Maritime Union. Out of such offerings the President's travelling expenses shall be paid while the balance shall be sent to the Treasurer.

Your Executive regard the state of the Union as really encouraging. The foamy sweat of its youthful exertions does not, 'tis true, characterize its face today. But, when the muscles of the toiler harden and some skill has been acquired in the performance of his task, perspiration does not so copiously flow as at the first, while the work is being done by him just the same. Nor is the color, which is seen in the face of our Union today, the hectic flush of a galloping and fatal consumption brought on by cold neglect after intense exertion, as some quacks would fain have us believe. Rather is it the sweet rosieness of health superinduced by the strong and steady pulsations of a heart full of the warm blood of purpose to accomplish its heaven-imposed mission—Please send the Treasurer a collection at once.

Port Maitland, N. S. W. J. RUTLEDGE, Sec. Treas.