

cared for the stranger, and visited the sick, and succored the prisoner, who will be counted "blessed of my Father," and who shall "inherit the kingdom," Matt. 25. Philanthropy is a crowning characteristic of Christianity. A Christian or a Church at ease in the face of poverty or distress or oppression is a libel on the name of the Christ.

"*This he said to prove him,*" v. 6. Emergencies reveal character. In the moments least suspected we declare our inner selves to others. Hence the necessity of young people attending faithfully to the little daily duties of their childhood that they may be fitted for the great crises of life. Those who learn to be true in the former are not likely to fail in the latter.

"*He Himself knew what He would do.*" He always knows what to do in the time of extremity. Does He not often lead His people into desperate straits that, in delivering them, they may know His wisdom and love and power? Did we say that Jesus always knows what to do? There is one exception. He does not know what to do with the heart that persists in rejecting Him. On the other hand, He delights in doing the best possible for everyone that seeks to obey Him.

"*A lad here....five barley loaves,*" v. 9. A few years ago a little boy saved up his pennies until he had a dollar. With that a book on mission work in Korea was bought, and placed

in the library of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. One of the students read it, and was led by it to devote himself to work among the Koreans. This was Rev. W. J. McKenzie. And, although he sleeps his last sleep in that far Eastern land, three missionaries from our Church have taken up the work which he began. Let no boy think lightly of what he can do.

"*The disciples to them that were set down,*" A lesson on their share in the work of helping and saving men. The miraculous goes just so far, the providing of the food. Then human effort becomes indispensable for the distributing of it. Without the aid of the disciples the miracle would have fallen short. And so it ever is. God has provided salvation, full, rich, marvellous, in Christ Jesus; but men must make it known to their fellows. It is a glorious task, a task which ranks us as "laborers together with God," and if the disciples here stand for an example and encouragement to the teachers, not less does the lad giving his loaves and fishes stand for boys and girls who may and should help in giving the Bread of Life to a perishing world.

"*Gather up the fragments,*" v. 12. An emphasis on the value of littles. As the kindergarten motto runs: "Trifles make perfection; perfection is no trifle." Most people have only fragments of time for direct Christian work, and they are here encouraged to use them. A little apprentice to a worker in stained glass constructed a memorably beautiful window from the broken bits on the shop floor.

TOPIC FOR BRIEF PAPERS

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous. Only one topic should be given to each scholar. Sometimes all may be asked to write on the same topic. The papers to be read out in the class.)

1. Jesus' care for the distressed.
2. The lad whose luncheon fed the thousands.
3. Gathering up the fragments.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

FOLLOWING
The 5,000 FAMISHING
FED