

a double benefit would certainly result. It would give a new strength not only to the schools but also to the visitor. To see the happy faces of the children, to hear the young voices repeating their texts from Scripture, or verses from the poets,—how could one obtain a better preparation for the meeting hour than this ?

WISDOM.

Paper read by Elgie Zavitz, at Coldstream Y.F.A., third mo. 25th, 1898.

What is wisdom? It is the right use and exercise of knowledge, or good, sound judgment. Wisdom has been defined to be the use of the best means for attaining the best ends, and in this sense implies the union of high mental and moral excellence.

We have all read the wise doings of Solomon, and how he obtained his wisdom, the Lord appearing to him in a dream and bidding him ask what he would, and it should be given unto him. When Solomon was asked this, his reply was "Give me, O Lord, a sound mind and a good understanding whereby I may speak and judge the people according to truth and righteousness ;" that is, he asked wisdom, and with this God was well pleased and promised to give him understanding and wisdom, and this in such a degree as no other mortal man, king or ordinary person ever had, besides riches, honor and victory over his enemies. How many of us would have asked as Solomon? Would not many have desired to have bestowed upon them either silver or gold or and other riches, for these are esteemed by many as alone of the greatest worth and the best gifts.

Wisdom is won by trials. The simplest use of sorrow is to remind us of God. It seems that a certain shock is often needed to bring us in contact with reality. Trials which come in a thousand different forms are sent for our good. The foundation of wisdom

is placed in the hidden depths of the soul that those of misfortune might seek and find in its healthful waters the prevention of their trials. Knowledge and sorrow are blended together. Such is the fixed course of nature ; such is her best and wisest law. When she leads us from the vain and frivolous things of this world in the land of darkness, and brings us to the true and lasting in the land of light, the first act she performs is to remove the scales from our eyes that we may see and weep, for we must first have to mourn and feel before we can know and think.

Do we all justly appreciate wisdom? A right idea of the value and power of wisdom is a great beginning in strengthening us to proceed in the work of educating ourselves. It is knowledge that has made the world what it is, that has changed the homes of savage men to beautiful homes of civilization. What so destructible as fire, so unmanageable as the waves? Yet wisdom has rendered these unmanageable things the means of furnishing supplies to the necessities and comforts of our life. In short, wisdom can draw prosperity from prevention and invention from difficulties.

In wisdom's hands all things become beautiful by adaption, prosperous by their use and useful by their application.

The formula of natural law in the spiritual world is not through nature to nature's God, but through the spirit to nature. Everyone sees the world, its beauty, life and law, but these very things hide God from him. It is through God-vision that the divine view of nature is obtained. It is not nature that always interprets the Spirit, though sometimes it does so ; it is the Spirit that interprets nature. Without the light of God's guidance in the soul, nature or the science of nature is a blind leader to the blind. The God-