

wizard's hand. But by faith Abraham looked for a city; and the city which will comfort the heart that is worn with the changes and disappointments of the tent, is no city made with hands, but rather the city whose Designer and Fashioner is God.

Dwelling in tents, and looking for the city—does not that describe the life of the profounder souls of every age? And into every life, however unreflecting, there come times when the awful uncertainties which beset us behind and before, and which on the smoother plans of life are so easily and conveniently forgotten, assume an almost ghastly reality. Death makes inroads, numerous and surprising and cruel, upon our friendships. Within a few weeks, friend after friend goes away to the silent land, till we feel that the very ground is trembling beneath our feet. We are so appalled by our impotence to keep with us those whom we love and by their impotence to remain with us, so vexed by the might of powers that we can neither control nor persuade, that we yearn in our anguish for a city with foundations. We need a sight of the city whose foundation is the Rock of Ages.

The city has foundations, the tent has none. The writers of the Bible were haunted by the insecurities of life; they knew themselves to be but pilgrims and strangers, and their life to be but as "a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." But they lifted up their heart in the thought of the security of the city of God. It was for foundations that they longed, and they found them in the city whose Builder and Maker is God. Every earthly friendship is sundered some day. Sooner or late, every fabric raised by earthly hands will totter. But

"They stand, those halls of Zion,
Conjubilant with song."

That is the vision which can make every man feel secure amid the insecurities. In that he can take refuge when the earth seems to reel and a sense of homelessness gathers about his heart. His citizenship is in heaven, and nothing can rob him of the portion that is laid up for him in the new Jerusalem, the city of the living God that standeth fast forever.

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Teaching and Life

By Rev. J. W. McNamara, B.A.

One autumn night I was driving with a man who had called for me in haste. Out of the darkness ahead came another vehicle. As we were passing my friend hailed it: "Is that you?" "Yes, master," came the reply. Question and answer followed, and we parted. I could not see the face, but I was struck with the tone of the young man's voice and they set me thinking deeply. The man beside was a school teacher who had spent many years teaching in the district. What was the result of his labors? What had been his influence upon the community? I seemed to have my answer in the tones of the young man's reply. It seemed to express confidence, frankness and respect. No longer a scholar, up and away into the world of work, clearly he had not gone to school in vain, nor had the master's influence ceased with school days. From what I knew of the community, I feel sure that this man had a large share in moulding the character of the people, and his work must have been thorough and his influence helpful, to win the confidence and respect of young men, when school bounds were past.

What a privilege, I thought. Yet may not every Sunday School teacher share it? His time with the class is more limited, yet the conditions are more favorable than is the case with the day-school teacher, and the aim is the noblest—that for these scholars, life may mean life as it is made known in Christ. Surely this work is worth while; but it demands that we be worthy of the work. It is an important thing to be able to teach, to impart knowledge and truth; but it is even more important to inculcate right principles of life, and to mould and develop character. The test comes when the scholar is through the Sunday School curriculum. What will remain of teaching and work? Perhaps much, it may be but little, good seed to grow slowly through the years. But not least among the influences that will help to mould aright that life stepping out into a sterner and more trying school, ought to be the character and personality of the teacher, manifest in work and life.