

materials to rest upon. It is so in the building of character.

"On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure supere?  
With salvation's wall surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes."

#### THE ONLY SAFE TEACHER.

There is only one safe religious teacher for humanity and that is Jesus Christ—the complete Saviour, the perfect Teacher; the all-glorious Lord. "Whosoever," he says, "heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man." He claims to understand life and its outcome. He allows no place for possible doubt. To every soul he says in effect, "I know what you ought to do." Woe to us if we do not heed him! So remarks McLennan, whose suggestions on this topic we shall freely use.

In the previous study the Apostle Paul has revealed the wonderful change that comes to those who accept Christ as their Lord. In this scripture the Lord himself reveals the test by which all men are to be tried. Some may claim to be alive to Christ who are not. In every age there will be those who will say, "Lord, Lord," but bear no fruit. "The language clearly implies that there are some who profess to be Christians, who acknowledge Jesus to be the Lord and pray to him as Lord, and praise him as the Lord, who nevertheless have no part in him." The real test has to do with the foundations.

#### ARCHITECTS OF FATE.

This is one of the great truths which our Lord indirectly declares. Not all are building wisely. But everyone is building something. This is a truth we are all apt to forget. We are apt to think that we can pass along through life and sometime in the last hours make everything right with God and Christ. But the truth is we are building all the while some kind of a house in this world there are numerous kinds of houses. Some are the merest makeshifts, having only the form of a real house. Houses are built of many kinds of material—some of earth, some of wood, of brick, and of stone. There are many kinds of architecture. Some houses are put up with a board here and a plank there, without much regard to utility or beauty. Some houses are evidently built for mere show, as a well-known architect recently said, "Queen Anne in front and Mary Ann behind." How well do these various kinds of houses represent the different lives around us!

#### CHOOSE YOUR FOUNDATION.

Every house, whatever its character, must have a foundation of some sort. It cannot be built in the air. The wise builder is revealed more by his choice of a site even than by his choice of plan and material. In the mind of Christ there are just two kinds of builders—those who choose the rock and those who choose the sand.

1. *The rock foundation.*—When an architect wishes to put up a permanent building he always searches for bed rock, or what as nearly as possible corresponds to bed rock. Even if he cannot put his house upon a rock he seeks for what is of the nature of rock. He always gets the best foundation possible. Now, every individual in the world may have heard of Jesus Christ. But if he gets as close to Christ as he can there is every assurance that his house will stand. And that is the point that Christ seeks to make. He that heareth Christ's sayings and doeth them is building his house upon the rock. Those who have not heard Christ's words but live according to their best light will find a rock foundation somewhere, sometime.

2. *The sand foundation.*—They are building on the sand who are building carelessly, thoughtlessly. All who, having heard Christ's words, do not do them are building upon the sand. And the sand represents everything that is insecure.

#### ALL FOUNDATIONS TRIED.

This saying of Jesus would have peculiar weight with a people who were liable to sudden changes of the weather, with rains and drought. Thus every structure would be tried.

"Their mountain streams are of a peculiar character. These water courses, called wadies, are in the summer perfectly dry; in the rainy season they are swollen streams. A friend journeying through Palestine pitched his tent one fair night in one of these wadies, and was before morning awakened by the sound of water, from which he and his party had barely time to escape with the loss of clothing, books, and instruments. So the trial of the last great day will come without warning and overwhelming those whose exterior was fair, but the foundation of whose life was insecure."

#### ONE FOUNDATION STANDS.

This is the point of the whole parable. Our Lord warns the people of his day and of all times that there is only one thing that will stand in that day that will try all men, namely, a character built upon him as the foundation rock, a character modelled after the pattern he has set. We are all building; we all have a choice of foundation, and the ability to choose what sort of structure we will build. The Lord warns us in advance that our house will surely be tested. The testing time may come suddenly, or with certain signs of its coming. We may be overwhelmed, as was Galveston, by an unexpected test, or we may go down gradually, like some of the ancient cities now buried under the dust of centuries. Eternity will try everything. Those only will stand who, having accepted the Lord's words, live every day in accordance with them.

#### FLASHES FROM ANOTHER FORGE.

Christ is like a rock, because he is enduring—the Rock of Ages.

Because he gives rest: "The shadow of a great rock in a weary land."  
Because he gives safety: "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

The worldling's house seems as solid as the Christian's—until the storms come.

The book of Ecclesiastes is a wonderful story, showing how wealth, pleasure, learning, power, are all "vanity of vanities," and nothing is a permanent joy except what Christ has to offer.

Sand is rock—but torn down. The worldly life and the heavenly life have the same outward constituents, very often; but there is an infinite difference between them.

Few forces are so terrible as the gradual approach of wind-blown sand; towns and whole forests have been buried by it, though the process takes years for its completion. Thus insidious is the victory of worldliness.

Nothing in the world—not even a rock—can fitly represent Christ's firmness. In an observatory, though it is founded on a rock, they must make allowance for the warping of the rock as the sun moves from one side of it to the other in the course of the day.

#### POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Have you a "Whatsoever Committee" in your League? It is a very useful institution. Its business is to do the little things that other committees do not do:

Be the very first to take part.  
Fill the hymn-books in good order.  
Keep up the front seats at the meeting.  
Now and then attend the Junior meeting in a body.

See that the room is properly ventilated and comfortable.

Act each one of them as an aid for some other committee.

Arrange the seats that may have been disturbed.

Offer themselves to the president for any service he may call upon them to perform.

The "Whatsovers" may be a very useful adjunct to League work. Try it!

#### A MAGNIFICENT SCHOOL.

An assemblage of bright young men and women, gathered from many parts of our Dominion and united in the pursuit of practical knowledge under the direction of Twelve experienced and capable teachers, may be seen any day by visiting the Central Business College, Toronto.

Modernity is really the mistress of this splendid school, and when supported by thoroughness and careful attention to every detail which can be worked out for the benefit of the student, it is not surprising that the up-to-date business man selects this school for his son or daughter.

A Correspondence Department has been added during the past year, which opens the door for many young people to acquire a very good knowledge of business subjects who find it impossible to attend a school of this kind. See advertisement in this issue.

#### SHE WANTED TO BE QUEEN.

Richard Whiteing, who has made a study of life in the east end of London, was once talking with a grizzled old woman, when he chanced to refer to the Queen.

"O, 'ow I would like to be the queen!" said the ancient beladame.

"Why?" asked Mr. Whiteing.

"It isn't because of her 'orsen, because if I were queen I would 'ave a donkey cart with red wheels; and it isn't because of her band of musicians on 'orselock which goes ahead of the 'orse Guards, for I'd much rather 'ave a Hitlitan with a 'and organ; but just think, if she wakes up at three o'clock in the morning and wants a bite to eat she can touch a bell and 'ave beef and boiled cabbage right away."

And there are a lot of us wearing ourselves out trying to become kings and queens, when, as a matter of fact, all we require to make life truly happy is just a little more beef and cabbage.—*Good Cheer.*

#### ALBERT COLLEGE.

It is probable that Albert College, Belleville, is having as marked success as any institution in Canada. The enrolment last college year was 258, 130 males and 128 females, which was double that of a few years ago. This year nearly 300 students have been enrolled, over 150 of whom are boarders. The success in both departmental and university examinations has been phenomenal. All the work of the college in music, commercial science, fine arts, elocution, physical culture, etc., is in charge of specialists of large experience. The buildings comprise "Massey Hall," residence and gymnasium, which are heated throughout with steam and lighted with electricity, 250 incandescent lamps being used. Large additions must be made to the present building if the rapidly increasing attendance is provided for.

#### PULPIT PERSEVERANCE.

A priest who had delivered what seemed to him an excellent and striking sermon, was anxious to ascertain its effect on his flock. "Was the sermon to-day to y'r liking, Pat?" he inquired of one of them.

"Troth, y'r reverence, it was a grand sermon entirely," said Pat, with such genuine admiration that his reverence felt moved to investigate further.

"Was there any one part of it more than another that seemed to take hold of ye?" he inquired.

"Well, now, as ye are axin' me, begorra, I'll tell ye. What tuk holdt av me most was y'r reverence's perseverence—the way ye went over the same thing agin and agin and agin."—*Youth's Companion.*