

people, it must mean that there is something immediately responsive in the life of the individual to this new ideal.

Our nation is in a transition stage between immense untried possibilities and a coming of self-conscious and assured power. The cause of the strenuous life of our leaders, our bankers, our business men, even our ministers, is the individual attempt to readjust personality to the new conditions.

The strenuous life is a sign of readjustment; a reawakening of some things in character that have been atrophied, and it causes sensation, just as one's arm sometimes tingles after it has been asleep, because there is life in it which for a time has been dormant.

"'Tis life, more life and fuller that we want!"—The Philadelphia Westminster.

### Unblinded.

BY EDWARD ROLAND SILL.

My tower was grimly builded,

With many a bolt and bar,  
"And here," thought I, "I will keep my life  
From the bitter world afar."

Dark and chill was the stony floor,  
Where never a sunbeam lay,  
And the mold crept up on the dreary wall,  
With its ghost touch, day by day.

One morn, in my solemn musings,  
A flutter and cry I heard;  
And close at the rusty casement  
There clung a frightened bird.

Then back I flung the shutter  
That was never before undone,  
And kept till its wings were rested  
The little weary one.

But in through the open window,  
Which I had forgot to close,  
There had burst a gush of sunshine  
And a summer scent of rose.

For all the while I had burrowed  
There in my dingy tower,  
Lo! the birds had sung and the leaves had danced  
From hour to sunny hour.

And such balm and warmth and beauty  
Came drifting in since then,  
That the window sill stands open,  
And shall never be shut again.

### Prayer

Thou God of nations, bless our country.  
Thou art the only rightful Lord; and we worship thee as supreme. Grant to our rulers the spirit of Christ, that they may rule for him and as he would rule if he were in their place. Teach us how to be good citizens and show us how we may do our part for the preserving of our country's honor and for its purifying and ennobling. We thank thee for all that our country is to us, for all the blessings that come to us through it. Grant to us grace and wisdom so to live that we may do something to make the country a better and safer place to live in, truly a part of the kingdom of heaven in this world. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.—J. R. Miller.

Tell me what you feel in your solitary room when the full moon is shining in upon you and your lamp is dying out, and I will tell you how old you are, and I shall know if you are happy.—Henry Frederic Amiel.

### Daily Readings.

M., Oct. 17. Abram's horizon. Gen. 12:1-9.  
T., Oct. 18. David's aggressiveness. 2 Sam. 8:1-18.  
W., Oct. 19. Solomon's enlargement. 1 Kings 4:29-31.  
T., Oct. 20. Christ's bold programme. Mark 16:15-18.  
F., Oct. 21. Antioch reaching out. Acts 11:21-26.  
S., Oct. 22. Paul's ambition. Rom. 15:23-32.  
Sun., Oct. 23. Topic.—How can we enlarge and improve our work? Matt. 21:17-22; Isa. 54:1.

## Our Young People

### Enlarging our Work.

Some Bible Hints.

A fig tree bearing no figs may continue to live and grow, but a Christian bearing no fruit is sure to wither away (Matt. 21:19).

The mountains that we are to remove in these times are mountains of difficulty, of opposition, of sloth and indifference. They are more than Mt. Blanc (Matt. 21:22).

Our prayers that Christ promises to answer must, of course, be in harmony with His will; how otherwise could we dare to ask and desire an answer? (Matt. 21:22).

It is our tent here, our transient abode; but as we enlarge it by faithful service, we are enlarging our permanent home, or our mansion in the skies (Isa. 54:2).

Suggestive Thoughts.

The most obvious way for a society to enlarge its work is by enlarging its membership; and this is one of the best ways.

One way to enlarge our work for God is to enlarge our hearts. Great-Heart makes great plans.

Enlargement of work usually brings stimulus to and improvement of work. Emergencies make men.

To aim at one improvement is ten times better than to aim at ten improvements; but reach the ten before you get through.

A Few Illustrations.

God's welling power is like the ocean—the larger the canal and reservoir, the more water will rush in and fill it.

When the moon is not waxing it is waning, and so with the Christian; only it is possible for the Christian to grow all the time.

No athlete would race well with two goals in view. Choose one point of improvement and make for that alone.

A child is known to be growing by the fact that it outgrows its clothes. Has your society outgrown any of its customs and methods.

To Think About.

What can I do to make this the best year my society has ever had?

Am I ready for any work to which my society may call me?

Am I enlarging my spiritual life, that I may enlarge my outward work.

A Cluster of Quotations.

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,

As the swift seasons roll!—Holmes.

The vendors of flowers in the streets of London are wont to commend them to customers by crying, "All a blowing and a-growing!" It would be no small praise to Christians if we could say as much for them.

—Spurgeon.

Forget the things that are behind. That is not where you live. Your roots are not there. They are in the present.—Beecher.

Though we may have none of the splendid products of piety that impress the world, our Lord will reward us for downright faithfulness to place, opportunity, and promise.—Nathrow.

### The Calling Committee.

It should call on the strangers, making the young people feel at home, and inviting them to the society.

It should call on the sick, cheering them up in their time of trouble.

It should call on those that are getting careless regarding the society, and tactfully remind them of their pledge.

It should call on the old folks and bring some youthful good cheer into their lives.

It should call on the pastor and other church officers and make them feel the loyalty of the Endeavorers.

It should plan its calls, seeking to make them contribute whatever the society at the time most needs.

And often it can do more by getting others to call than by calling itself.

### Listening.

There was a family of culture living in a beautiful home. The members knew about God and that He had revealed Himself through His Son; but to them He was a God far away, they did not in the smallest way realize His infinitely tender love. The Heavenly Father wanted to use them in His kingdom, so He sent an angel to them with blessings which they accepted, but not as coming from Him. A friend suggested to them to acknowledge Him in these gifts but they refused. Again the angel visited them, but this time with sorrow and God seemed to them further away than ever, they did not want Him in their lives. Still darker days came to them with the weight of heavier sorrow, until in desperation they flew to the arms of the Heavenly Father for refuge and He received them. They listened to His words and afterwards he used them in his service. Had they been attentive and obedient to the Lord's first message, without doubt they would have been spared those months of discipline. If people would but realize the love of God! How He has made all things possible through Jesus the Christ, by His death and resurrection, surely they would be more attentive when he comes to them; they would be watching lest He should speak to them and they make no response. He is always speaking to us, if we would but listen to Him; there is not a moment when he is not near, and it is the privilege of everyone by faith in the Christ to live consciously in His presence. How different the world seems, how changed the attitude toward people and circumstances when viewed as in the presence of Christ. If one wills it, desires it more than all else Christ will continually manifest Himself and whatever comes it is well, for we are with him, Jesus said.

"If a man love me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Thus is fellowship with him made possible; He is our counsellor and Guide, while our part of the wonderful work is to listen and obey.

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I do not think a man need shrink from praying definitely and earnestly because he is in doubt as to whether it is wise to ask for this or that specific answer. Let him go right on in faith, and God will either show him that the petition is a mistake, or He will pour summer into his lap instead of spring.—R. J. Campbell.