

## The Iron did Swim.

Read the story in 2 Kings vi. 1-7. It tells of a miracle that God wrought by the hand of His prophet Elisha. The borrowed axe head fell into the water. Elisha "cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim."

If it was "some great thing," we would like it better, and would be more ready to believe it. We are so little that we notice the differences between things that come before us. We are apt to think that God is like ourselves, and that His thoughts are as our thoughts.

But all that God tells us about Himself ought to assure us that God's perfect work is carried on sometimes by what we call small things, and sometimes by what we call great things. If we knew our own smallness, we would not cavil at God's ways. Nay, a little thought concerning the common course of things on earth would abate our pride and put an end to our complaints. For do we not constantly employ ourselves in the doing of little things, and do we not find that the veriest trifles are intimately connected with the most serious of all things?

One day we sinners "sank as lead in the mighty waters." Exodus xv. 10. Another day one "cut down" a Tree; and on that Tree the Saviour of the world was "lifted up," that He might "draw all men" unto Him. May this miracle be wrought in us all!

For stomach troubles use K.D.C.

## Culpable Ignorance.

For the enormous and incredible ignorance that prevails both within and around our own communion, we are in a great degree responsible. And every Sunday-school teacher throughout the land, every district-visitor, every godfather and godmother, ought to feel the keenest shame when they realize how much ignorance there is among their own very families—ignorance of the very simplest ecclesiastical matters; ignorance of the first principles of Churchmanship, or that there are any such principles; ignorance of Church history; ignorance of symbolism; ignorance of almost every doctrine—at least of the secondary and auxiliary kind—"which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health."

## Fresh and Brilliant.

Take very fine sand, wash it perfectly clean, and when dry sift it through a fine sieve into a pan. When the sand is deep enough to hold the flowers in an upright position, take some more sifted sand and carefully cover them. A spoon is a good thing to take for this, as it fills in every chink and cranny without breaking or bending the leaves. When the pan is filled solidly leave the flowers to dry for several days. It is a good plan to warm the sand in the oven before using it, as the flowers will then dry more thoroughly. In taking the sand off great care must be taken not to break the leaves, as they are now dry and brittle. Pansies preserved in this way will keep their shape and brilliancy of colour all winter, and many other flowers can be equally successfully treated—anything, in fact, where the full pressure of the sand comes on both sides of the leaf; otherwise they will shrivel. To fill in flowers with cuplike shapes it is better to lay them on the sand and with a small spoon fill in and around each flower. Ferns when preserved in this way have a more natural look than when pressed, and the maidenhair fern looks almost as well as when it is freshly gathered.

## Severe Electric Shocks.

It was, recently suggested that suitable instructions should be drawn up and printed to meet cases of severe electric shock, and that cards containing such instructions should be hung up conspicuously in central stations and factories. Dr. W. S. Hedley now gives some concise rules for the guidance of those who have to deal with electric accidents. He says: Cut off the current at once if you know how and if there is an interrupter close at hand. If not, proceed to rule 2, which is: Do not touch the man's body with your bare hands, but, if rubber gloves are at hand, pull him off the

cable by his coat tails, or fold your coat or some such dry article into two or three thicknesses, and use this as a pad to take hold of the body; then pull it away from the circuit and resort to rule 5. Rule 3. If you cannot get him off, raise with covered hands that part of the body which is touching the earth or one of the poles of the circuit. The circuit can then be broken and the object can then be drawn away, and rule 5 can be promptly acted on. Rule 4. If you cannot sever his connection with the wire, make another pad and place it between the ground and that part of the body in contact with the ground and continue your efforts. Rule 5.—Having pulled him away, free his neck from clothing, and treat the case as one of drowning, *i.e.* (Rule 6), open the mouth and take hold of the front part of the tongue with your fingers—covered with a handkerchief, if you have one—draw the tongue forward and gradually let it go back sixteen times a minute. Be sure that the root of the tongue is acted upon and drawn forward. If the teeth are clinched and you cannot get them apart with your fingers, gently separate them with the handle of a pocket-knife or a small piece of wood or cork. Rule 7. Do not on any account allow the bystanders to pour stimulants down the throat until a medical man arrives to take charge of the case.

## The Autumn Lane.

A song for the autumn lane  
O'erhung by sumacs and pines,  
Where the spider weaves a tremulous skein  
In a mist of silvery lines;  
And the asters gleam  
By the wayside stream  
And peep through the yellowing vines;  
And the wild mint's prayer  
Floats quaint on the air  
In the shade of the muscadines.

A song for the autumn lane  
Where the withered thistles sigh  
Like weird old folk that dream in vain  
Of love 'neath a summer sky;  
While sweet scents roam  
Through the thickening gloam—  
Flower souls that will not die—  
And the crickets trill  
A dirge on the hill,  
And the dark wind sobs, Good-bye!

## Juan Fernandez Island.

It is not generally known that Juan Fernandez—the island on which Alexander Selkirk, the Robinson Crusoe of romance, lived for so many years—is at the present time inhabited. Two valleys, winding down from different directions, join a short distance back from the shore, says *The Melbourne Argus*, and there now stands a little village of small huts scattered around a long, one-storied building, with verandah running its whole length. In this house lives the man who rents the island from the Chilean Government, and the village is made up of a few German and Chilean families.

The tiny town is called San Juan Bautista, and the crater-like arm of the sea on which it is situated, and where Alexander Selkirk first landed, is now called Cumberland Bay. The island is rented for about \$1,000 a year. The rent is paid partly in dried fish. Catching and drying the many varieties of fish and raising cattle and vegetables wholly occupy the contented settlers, and much of their income is obtained from the cattle and vegetables sold to passing vessels. The cattle need no care, and the vegetables almost grow wild. Turnips and radishes, first sown here by Selkirk himself, now grow rank and wild in the valleys like weeds.

There is, also, a race of wild dogs, which completely over-run the island, depending for existence mainly upon seals. They are descendants of a breed of dogs left by the Spaniards.

At the back of the little town, in the first high cliff, is a row of caves of remarkable appearance hewn into the sandstone. An unused path leads to them, and a short climb brings one to their dark mouths. About 40 years ago the Chilean Government thought that a good way to get rid of its worst criminals would be to transport them to the Island of Juan Fernandez. Here, under the direction of Chilean soldiers, these poor wretches were made to dig caves to live in. I

1854 they were taken back again, however, and the caves have since been slowly crumbling away.

The narrow ridge where Selkirk watched is now called "The Saddle," because at either end of it a rock hummock rises like a pommel. On one of these is now a large tablet, with inscriptions commemorating Alexander Selkirk's long and lonely stay on the island. It was placed there in 1868 by the officers of the British ship "Topaz." A small excursion steamer now runs from Valparaiso to Juan Fernandez Island. The round trip may be made in six days, and three of these may be spent on the island in fishing and visiting those lonely but beautiful spots which nearly 200 years ago were the haunts of Robinson Crusoe.

## Use Your Own Voice.

It is hard for people to talk when they have nothing to say. The object of speech is to convey men's ideas; but if they have no ideas, what then? Borrowed thoughts, borrowed words, stolen ideas and stolen sermons raise the question whether persons who have nothing to say might not as well wait until their minds are more fertile.

Of all borrowing, the most transparent imposition is when people utter borrowed ideas in a borrowed voice. It sometimes is the case that a person will speak or read, perhaps by the hour, and not in the whole time for a moment make use of his own natural voice. He starts with some sort of a false pitch or artificial tone, and then goes on, mimicking, to the disgust of all sensible people. And so soon as persons of any intelligence detect this artificial tone and manner of speech, they are quite likely to infer that the words and ideas are borrowed, as well as the tones in which they are uttered.

If you have anything to say, say it, but say it in your own voice. Do not try to talk as someone else has talked; do not undertake to use the tones or gestures of someone whom you have been led to admire. What might be admirable in another person may be contemptible in yourself. Borrowed ideas and borrowed tones are quite sure to be detected some time; and even if no one knows whom you are imitating, the fact that you are acting a part will rob what you say of all weight and interest, and discerning people will say, "How do we know whether he believes what he says or not?" What the world most needs is downright honesty of purpose; for the utterance which comes from the heart of him who speaks goes to the hearts of those who hear. The great secret of effective speaking is to have something to say worth saying, and then to say it in your own natural, honest voice, talking as man with man, and convincing by the power of ideas rather than by the strength of lungs.

## The Human Family.

The human family living on earth to-day consists of about 1,450,000,000 souls—not fewer, probably more. These are distributed liberally all over the earth's surface, there being no considerable spot on the globe where man has not found a foothold. In Asia, the so-called "cradle of the human race," there are about 800,000,000 people, densely crowded, on an average of about 120 to every square mile. In Europe there are 320,000,000, averaging 100 to the square mile; not so crowded as Asia, but everywhere dense, and in many places over-populated. In Africa there are, approximately, 210,000,000, and in the Americas—North, South and Central—110,000,000, these latter, of course, relatively thinly scattered over broad areas. On the islands, large and small, there are probably 10,000,000 more. The extremes of the blacks and the whites are five to three—the remaining 700,000,000 intermediate, brown, yellow and tawny in color. Of the entire race, 500,000,000 are well clothed—that is, they wear garments of some kind that will cover nakedness—250,000,000 habitually go naked, and 700,000,000 only cover the middle parts of the body; 500,000,000 live in houses, 700,000,000 in huts and caves, the remaining 250,000,000 virtually having no place to lay their heads.

Sour tempers sweetened by the use of K.D.C.