

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR JANUARY.—That churches, and Young People's Societies, and individual Christians everywhere may receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that the Week of Prayer and subsequent weeks of the month may be marked by a great ingathering into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Warnings.

First Day—Against covetousness—Luke xii. 13-21.

Second Day—Against selfishness—Mark ii. 17-27.

Third Day—Against harshness—John viii. 1-11.

Fourth Day—Against insincerity—Matt. xxiii. 23-28.

Fifth Day—Against pride—Luke xiv. 7-11.

Sixth Day—Against carelessness—Mark xiii. 33-37.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Feb. 3.—CHRIST'S WARNINGS, Matt. vii. 21-27. (A memory meeting suggested.)

Like the glare of the red danger light revealing the broken tressle that threatens with destruction the on rushing train, there gleams from the Word athwart the Christian's path a warning ray that tells of dangers which must be avoided. There is the pit-fall of covetousness into which we are so apt to stumble; we wish we were better off that we might give more, and the wealth of our neighbor makes us hate him. The Master in warning against this evil said, "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth." It is not having much, but doing much with the little we have that ennobles our lives. Then there is that hateful shadow of selfishness that so often darkens our pathway. It is all because we put the Son of Righteousness behind us instead of before. If He shines on ahead there can be no self-shadow darkening the way. And harshness is another danger against which the Master warns. How prone are we to say a bitter word of reproof or reproach, when the words of Jesus would be of tender sympathy and love. God give us the love that could say to the outcast woman "Neither do I condemn thee, go, and sin no more." It is right to hate sin, but it is Christ-like to love the sinner. The danger of being insincere is a most insidious one. Motives are so difficult to deal with and to analyze; but we should give them very close scrutiny when in alternative courses, one is to our advantage and the other not. The only safety lies in being yielded to the Holy Spirit, and making His will and wisdom the mainspring of all we do. Pride is a frequent obstacle to Christian growth, perhaps the greatest. It is pride that prevents you and I getting empty so that the Spirit may fill us. It is pride that often prevents us co-working with fellow Christians, because they do not estimate us at our full value. It is pride that prevents our getting into the place of strength, by recognizing our own weakness. May God destroy our pride. And lastly we are warned against carelessness in watching and working for the Master's return. It is a warning greatly needed in these last days when one half the Church is idly sleeping, and muttering to itself "Our Lord delayeth His coming." Comrades let us not fall into this snare, but let us be up and doing, for already the sound of His returning chariot wheels may be heard in the air.

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON VI.—THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.—FEB. 9.

(Luke vi. 41-49.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"—Luke vi. 46.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Heart Goodness.

ANALYSIS.—Fruits, v. 41, 42.

Fruits, v. 43-45.

Foundations, v. 46-49.

TIME AND PLACE.—A.D. 27, in the plain of Gennesaret near Capernaum.

INTRODUCTION.—Soon after He had healed the palsied man, Jesus went to the seashore near Capernaum, followed by a multitude whom He taught. Coming upon Levi, or "Matthew," a publican, sitting in his toll-house. He called him into His service. Mark ii. 13, 14; Luke v. 27, 28. The feast at Matthew's house (Luke v. 29, 30), probably occurred some months later. On a Sabbath not long after Matthew's call, Jesus' disciples plucked and ate handbills of grain while walking with Him through a field, whereupon the Pharisees accused them of Sabbath-breaking. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and asserted His own lordship over the Sabbath. On the next Sabbath He cured a man with a withered hand. This so enraged the Jewish rulers that they began plotting to destroy Jesus. He then withdrew to the seashore. Luke vi. 1-11; Mark

ii. 23—iii. 12. After a night spent in prayer alone upon the mountain, He chose His twelve apostles. In the meantime a great crowd had gathered upon the mountain side. After healing their afflicted, Jesus spoke the Sermon on the Mount. Luke vi. 13, etc.

VERSE BY VERSE.—V. 41 "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye?"—Yes, Christian reader, how is it you are forever finding fault with your fellow Christians? May not the mote you see in the eye of your brother be but the reflection of the beam in your own? "Judge not that ye be not judged," (Matt. vii. 1.) "He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone," (Jno. viii. 7.)

V. 42. "Cast out first the beam out of thine eye."—J. T. Brownell tells of a journey he made in the early days of railways on the roof of a car in company with some seventy-five others. As the train sped rapidly along with much jolting and twisting, a volume of smoke and cinders swept over the travellers lying prostrate in their exposed and comfortless position. Brownell suddenly smelt linen burning and shouted loudly, "Somebody's clothes are on fire!" But no one heeded. Again he cried, and this time a burly laborer, with grimy, genial face, shouted back, "Mebbo you'd better look to hum!" He did "look to hum" and found the handkerchief in the pocket of his linen duster in flames. It taught him a lesson. Now when moved to warn or rebuke others that grimy face rises before him and he hears a voice saying, "Mebbo you'd better look to hum!" Notice the order of the Psalmists prayer, Ps. li. 7-12.

V. 43. "A good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit."—The life of the tree is the life of the fruit, and if the one be good the other will be good also. A man's life is judged, and rightly so, by his words and deeds. The sinner swears, but the saint praises. "Faith without works is dead," and a profession without practice is worse than dead, for it kills others. Some one said to Wendell Phillips, "Hindooism is as good as Christianity." He replied, "India is the answer."

V. 45. "Of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."—Reader, what is the general tone of your conversation? How often does your every day talk deal with the things of the Kingdom? If the abundance of your heart is to be judged by the things you most often speak about, in what does your heart abound? As in days of old roads lead to Rome, so to-day, the conversation of the Spirit-filled Christian, should ever lead to Christ.

V. 46. "Why call ye . . . and do not."—We have no right to call Christ Lord, until we have acknowledged His Kingship in our lives. It is a simple matter to confer a title, it is another thing to bow beneath a yoke. Many are willing to call Christ Lord, when they want Him to exert His power against their enemies, who are unwilling to admit His claim to control their lives, their time and their possessions.

V. 47. "Heareth . . . and doeth."—These are the kind of followers Christ wants. There are some who are forever hearing, running from meeting to meeting, and enjoying such blessed conventions, but never putting into practice the truths they seem so greedy for. Be not among that number; they are spiritual dissipators. God gives you spiritual good to make you strong for His service.

V. 48. "A man which built an house."—We are all of us builders, whether we think so or not, and we are building for eternity. The house is the character which you and I by thought and word and deed are erecting each for himself. Its nature will be revealed in that day when we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive for the deeds done in the body. "Laid the foundation on a rock."—The foundation is the most important part of the work. The superstructure may be strong and massive, but if the foundation be not secure its fall will only be the greater for its strength. The rock on which to build is Jesus Christ. Our own erection of good works may not stand the testing time, but if it be built upon the finished work of Jesus we ourselves will be saved, "yet so as by fire," (1 Cor. iii. 11-15). Notice that they who build on the rock are they who *hear and do*.

V. 49. "A man that without a foundation built an house."—What an absurd thing to do, we say, yet how many are doing it. Look at the palatial structures of fame for wealth, charity, power, genius which men are rearing, and the ground beneath them is the shifting sand of self-complacency. Ah well, the flood is coming; it is greater perhaps than we think, and when it comes these monuments of reputation, to-day a source of admiration and wonderment will be first to fall amid the general ruin of poor humanity's most treasured buildings.

India, like China, is to have its own medical missionary journal. Each of the following countries have medical missionary magazines: Scotland, 1; England 2; America, 3.