

advantage it would be to us, and not the good it would do grandpa."

"And to think that in all this time we have never once offered to take him back to see the old place and grandma's grave," exclaimed Sarah in a remorseful tone. "And it would not have taken two hours of our time either."

"I have been so absorbed in my work," began Elizabeth.

"We have both been too much absorbed in our work," put in Sarah. "The truth is, we are two selfish old maids without a particle of feeling. Grandpa's disease is homesickness, and he's been afraid to tell us."

"Well, it isn't too late to atone for our mistake."

"You mean?"

"I mean that we can't afford to lose grandpa for many years yet. And we can afford to give up our work and plans for awhile."

"Of course we can."

And so the matter was settled.

One morning in early May as grandpa started out for his usual turn in the little garden he was astonished to see his granddaughters, equipped for a drive, stowing away a big basket in the bottom of the old farm wagon. Billy, the family horse, was switching away the flies in his usual lazy fashion, and underneath the wagon lay Jack, the brindled hound, they had left behind when they moved to town.

"I was just about to hunt you up, grandpa," said Elizabeth, running to him and taking hold of his hand. "We are going for a picnic in the woods—you and Sarah and I. We borrowed Billy and the wagon for the occasion. And Jack just would come along too. Here, Sarah, help grandpa into his seat while I go back and get his coat and lock up the house."

"Don't forget to put the key where it can be found," Sarah called after her in a significant tone.

It was all so sudden that even, if he had wished to, grandpa had no chance to protest against such a summary taking-off.

And presently, when they left the noisy gravelled streets and turned into the smooth country road a little flush of enjoyment came into his sunken cheeks. He asked no questions, but, leaning back in his seat, looked straight before him at the familiar landscape until they turned aside and drove into the thick woods. Then he suddenly roused himself and began to talk in his old animated way, stopping now and then to laugh at Sarah's careless driving over the stumps that stood in the road. And once he took the lines and drove for some distance, only relinquishing them when Elizabeth insisted that it was her turn to show her skill as a driver. Certainly grandpa was improving already, was their verdict as they looked at his happy, smiling face. And when at length they stopped and got out it was he who showed them the way to the prettiest nooks—places where in the moist earth, the spring beauties, and squirrel-cups, and dog-tooth violets grew thickest, and where the blood-root, with its waxy petals and round, sheathing leaf shone from the tangle of water weeds and ferns like a white garden lily.

"This is the way I like my dinner—washed down with clear, sweet spring water," he remarked as they sat by a little stream and ate their lunch. And then he looked quite sad for a while in spite of his pleasant surroundings.

It was almost dark when they hitched up old Billy and took their places in the wagon. As they turned into the road again grandpa was too thoroughly tired out to notice that instead of going in the direction of town they were making straight for the old farm. He had filled the empty lunch basket with the wild flowers and mosses he had found during the day, and their fragrance floating up to him through the purple dusk sent him off into one of those strange, half-waking dreams that so often come to the old. Sarah's voice and the sudden stopping of the wagon in a blaze of light brought him out of his meditations.

"Are you asleep, grandpa?" she asked, giving him a gentle shake. "Come, we are at home and I'm waiting to help you out."

He climbed slowly down from his seat and followed her up the long winding path. Yet not until he was in the house did he realize that he was back in the old home. Then he sat down in his chair—the big, comfortable rocker that had been Grandma Merriweather's—and looked at his granddaughters in a helpless way, yet with a smile trembling about his mouth.

"What does it mean, children?" he asked after a little silence.

"It means that we have come back to stay," replied Sarah, trying to speak gaily but with a slight break in her voice. "It means that two foolish old maids have come to their senses at last. Are you glad to come back, grandpa?"

"It's what I've been wishing for—to come back to the old farm and the old life," was his answer. "But I don't understand how it was done," he added in a mystified tone, glancing at the familiar furniture and then at grandma's portrait which hung in its accustomed place on the wall.

"The fairies did it while we were frolicking in the woods," said Elizabeth with a laugh, and yet with a suspicious moisture in her eyes. "But they neglected the other rooms, and forgot to cook us any supper, so we'll have to finish the work ourselves."

And they went away and left him to his pleasant dreams.—W. Recorder.

The Young People

EDITOR,

J. B. MORGAN.

Kindly address all communications for this department to Rev. J. B. Morgan, Aylesford, N. S. To insure publication, matter must be in the editor's hands on the Wednesday preceding the date of the issue for which it is intended.

Prayer Meeting Topic—May 14th.

God's covenant and ours, Psalm 105 : 1-10.

This is a Psalm of thanksgiving. It was written to exalt the name of Jehovah and inspire gratitude in the hearts of his people. It recalls the wondrous deliverance of the chosen people from Egypt. It declares his faithfulness to his covenant with their fathers. The date and authorship of the Psalm are unknown.

The study of God's covenants old and new is one of the profoundest in the Bible. We speak of the old and new covenants. Of the Old Testament as the Scriptures of the former and the New Testament as those of the latter. We sometimes call the old covenant the covenant of works and the new the covenant of grace. But while these distinctions are correctly made it must be remembered that all God's covenants are gracious. That the two Testaments are really one. That the old covenant was preparatory to the new.

God's covenants are immutable. He can never fail to do for us all he has promised. Men may fail to receive the covenant blessings, but the fault is their own. The old covenant with Abraham and his posterity promised them the land of Canaan ; to make them a great nation, and to bless all nations through them. These have all been granted to them, though by their sin they have failed to enjoy these wondrous blessings. But the "new covenant" cannot fail in any sense. It is made between the Father and the Son Jesus, stands for his people. He is their sin-bearer, their righteousness, the head of which they are the members, their "all and in all." Nothing can separate them from his love.

God's covenant of grace offers pardon, adoption and eternal life to all in Christ Jesus. "Whosoever will may come." "It is well ordered in all things and sure." It is an "everlasting covenant." It insures beyond the possibility of a doubt the salvation of every soul that seeks him with the whole heart.

But what of our covenant with him? It included, if real, several things. A full and complete turning away from sin was the first. Nothing short of that can ever suffice. Then there was an implicit trust in his covenant mercies through Jesus Christ. There was also a complete and entire surrender of the will, and there was a joyful, prompt, unquestioning obedience to all his requirements. Are we continuing steadfast in our covenant with him? He abides faithful, let us by his grace do likewise.

Our covenant with him requires of us,

1. To live worthy of our high calling.
2. To do gladly and joyously the service he requires of us.
3. Recognizing that we ourselves and all we have belong to him to give of our means "as good stewards of the manifold grace of God," and,
4. To make the most of ourselves by taking advantage of every opportunity for self-improvement that we may fill the place intended for us in his kingdom and service.

D. H. SIMPSON.

Among the Societies.

HALIFAX, N. S.

The B. Y. P. U., of the First church, Halifax, has undertaken the support for one year, of the three native helpers of Rev. W. V. Higgins, at Tekkafi, Jacob, Sampson and Babioh. We have already sent the first instalment twenty-five dollars, the whole amount required being seventy-five dollars. Great interest is evinced by young people in this work.

April 20th.

L. E. STUART, Cor.-Sec'y.

Waterville, B. Y. P. U.

Since our society was last heard from a few more of our active members have gone away. But we are glad to say a few more have come back from being away during the winter. We feel weak but we know if we trust in God for strength and are sincere in our prayers that we shall be blessed, for His ear is not heavy that He cannot hear, neither is His arm shortened that He cannot save. We ask all who are interested in working for the Master, to pray for us that we may be faithful. Our missionary committee have been at work, on Sabbath evening April 23rd we had a very interesting missionary concert which showed that some interest has been taken in the work. The sum of ten dollars was received which we intend giving to our missionaries. We press toward the mark of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus.

Yours for Christ,

April 28th.

ROSS M. SHAW, Cor.-Sec'y.

Halifax District B. Y. P. U.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Halifax District B. Y. P. U. was held in the Tabernacle church on Friday evening, April 21st. The service opened at 8 p. m. with a fifteen minute prayer and praise, exercise led by Rev. W. E. Hall. At 8.15 the President, Mr. Freeman, took the chair. A short time was devoted to business, various matters being discussed. \$50 was again voted toward the salary of our County Missionary for the coming year. The President was appointed our delegate to the Association B. Y. P. U. in June. The members of the united Unions by a rising vote tendered to Rev. G. A. Lawson their hearty appreciation of his labor in the past, and regret that his connection with the District Union is soon to be severed. During Mr. Lawson's residence in Halifax he has ever been an enthusiastic worker in the B. Y. P. U. A paper prepared by Rev. W. E. Bates, entitled, "Pledge Makers and Pledge Breakers," was then read and appreciated. It was concise and forcible. Objections to the introduction of the Pledge into the B. Y. P. U. were numerated, followed by reasons for its existence. The audience had no difficulty in deciding whether Mr. Bates is a believer in the Pledge or not. Rev. G. A. Lawson then read a paper on "Junior Work." He very earnestly urged the adoption of Junior work by all Societies. "Upon the Juniors of today depends the church of the future; make the Junior Society a preparatory school." Twenty minutes were allowed for a discussion upon both papers. It was opened by Rev. Z. L. Fash, followed by Revs. E. M. Saunders, W. E. Hall, Mr. G. A. McDonald and others, all supporting the ideas suggested by the writers of both papers. Rev. A. C. Chute ably conducted a "Question Box" for ten minutes. Each question asked was supposed to relate to B. Y. P. U. work. A hymn followed by the benediction brought to a close a pleasant and we trust profitable evening. An invitation from the Union of the West End church to hold our next meeting, which will be the annual one, with them was accepted.

MINNIE HALL.

"On to Richmond!" is the cry now of the young Baptists of America, and July 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th is the time. In every State in this proud Union, in every Province in the Dominion of Canada, in the fair and sunny Republic of Mexico, our Baptist Young People's Unions are electing delegates to the great annual convention of the B. Y. P. U. of America, to be held in the capital of the Old Dominion as named above, and these young men and young women, with great purposes, are getting ready for their journeys and for a glorious meeting. Richmond, too, is getting ready for this great gathering. A splendid committee, made up of many of the foremost Baptists of the city, is already diligently at work; the largest auditorium of the city, seating 12,000, has been secured; the railroads everywhere have agreed to the price of one fare for the round trip; many prominent speakers from every section have been secured, and the people of the historic city, of every denomination and creed, are declaring their intention to do their best for the comfort and pleasure of all who come. Surely the Baptist churches of America ought to offer many earnest prayers for the divine blessing upon this great meeting, and surely every church in the land ought to send at least one young member, that he may bring back to the home church a portion of that notable blessing.

On To Richmond

At the expense of the Messenger and Visitor. For fifty paid one-year new subscriptions to this paper transportation from any point in the Provinces to Richmond, and return, will be cheerfully furnished.

For one hundred new subscriptions this paper will pay all expenses of one delegate to Richmond.

These expenses would include transportation, sleepers, meals, hotels, and one or two short side-trips.

Above offerings are most liberal. They offer a delightful and profitable trip to the B. Y. P. U. Convention, in the charming southern City of Richmond, Virginia. They carry one through Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Counties may be so canvassed that the necessary 50 or 100 subscribers will be readily secured. At least ten of our friends should come down upon us for the large expense we are ready to assume. Think it over early and be ready to work yourself and to work your friends. This is half the battle.

ON TO RICHMOND!!!

Life is not victory, but battle. Be patient a little longer. By and by in our hushed and waiting chambers, each in his turn, we shall hear the sunset gun.—Hitchcock.