

taken to be a lawful Bishop, Priest or Deacon except he has had Episcopal Consecration or Ordination."

The teacher will also find in this Preface the Church's rule as to the age at which persons may be admitted to either of the three Orders, and also that the Bishop is to see that those who are proposed to him as candidates for Deacons are fitted by their character and learning for the office.

Reference might be made in teaching the lesson to *Ember Week*, which occurred directly before Trinity Sunday, as one of the four seasons in the year when prayers are offered in the Church for those who are to be admitted to the ministry on the following Sunday.

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Family Reading.

Love's Mastery : Or the Gower Family

NUMBER 3—CONTINUED.

"You do not know her then?"

"Scarcely a bit. I have had more consecutive talk with her this evening than ever before; so you may imagine how much that is. I get no chance, you know. She is studying or practising from morning till night, I believe; and one never sets eyes on her except perhaps for a few minutes at dessert, or in the evening; and even then her head seems full of something else fifty miles away; and you cannot get at her real self."

"Do you think she has a happy home?" asked Mrs. Fleming simply.

Captain Flamank started, almost as he had done before in the drawing-room. "A happy home?" he repeated questioning.

"Yes. Do you think she gets the love and sympathy which a motherless child needs?"

"What can she need more than Lora?" he was beginning, when the new and not altogether pleasing thoughts, which had presented themselves to his mind once or twice that evening, flashed again across him, and he was silent.

"Do you think Lora is fond of and kind to her?" Mrs. Fleming asked again. They had known one another from childhood, she and her cousin, and there was no need between the two to shun plain speaking.

"I have no reason whatever to think the contrary," he answered: "in fact, such a thing appears to me simply impossible in thinking of Lora."

Mrs. Fleming smiled, for she saw plainly how matters stood. "George, you have thought this well over?" she asked.

"Yes, well. And I tell you candidly that I think Lora about as near perfection as any woman can be. Of course I ought to think this, feeling towards her as I do. At the same time I am not one of those ridiculous lovers who imagine their loved ones to be altogether faultless. I am perfectly aware that Lora has her faults, and that some of them I have discovered; but that they are faults which will mend, nay, which are mending already, I have not the slightest doubt. Should there, as you seem to imply, be yet another undiscovered by me, I must even take it with the rest, and do my best to remedy it; which will not, I fancy, be a very difficult task. Stella shall not lose a friend through my gaining one, if I can help it. I believe she already likes me."

"I know she does. Stella is one of those who would not only like but love any one who showed her sympathy and affection, or I am very much mistaken in her character," said Mrs. Fleming.

"Have you spoken to Lora, George?"

"No, not yet."

"You foresee no difficulty? You seem quite assured and confident as regards her."

"Yes, I am quite sure," he replied. "I would not speak as I have done to-night unless I were. Ethel, you have not given me one word of congratulation."

"I wish you every happiness that it is possible for one friend to wish another," she answered earnestly. "And, though perhaps of a different character to what some of your friends will ex-

press, none the less true and heart-felt. You will believe that, I know?"

"I believe in your sincerest friendship, and have always done so," answered he. "But what do you mean?"

Mrs. Fleming hesitated a moment. "I mean the heavenly and unseen happiness rather than the earthly," she answered in a low tone: "the earthly may be so soon clouded, or taken from us altogether."

"Some would say the more reason for enjoying them while we can," remarked Captain Flamank, with a smile.

"Not you!" said his cousin earnestly. "O George, you are not one of those, I know; for you yourself have told me that you acknowledge the subject of religion to be an important and momentous one, and that you would one day search and examine for yourself. O why do you delay?"

"I agree with you, undoubtedly," returned Captain Flamank, "that the subject is a weighty and important one, and that it requires a good deal of thought and investigation—more than I have, as yet, seemed able to afford; if you only knew the interminable series of engagements forever perplexing my brain, and for ever augmenting!"

"You are condemned by your own words," said Mrs. Fleming sadly. "You would be the last, in matters of worldly policy, to suffer the higher to give place to the lower; or permit, for instance, one of these numerous engagements of which you speak to interfere with your duty as an officer at morning exercise of your men, or an appointment at the horse-guards. And yet you allow the momentary glitter and passing trifles of a day to divert your time and interest from the only true object of being, and from the solemnities of eternity, scarcely leaving yourself time to consider at what a terrible risk of responsibility and danger!"

"You will be bringing forward the old simile of the butterfly soon," he said; "by which, I fear, I have not hitherto sufficiently profited. But I have been thinking lately that butterflies are, after all, very pleasant and agreeable objects, and may do a little good in the world, if only by their attractiveness."

Mrs. Fleming knew her cousin well, and under the tone of banter she detected a graver feeling. "Yes," she said, and a sweet smile shone in her dark eyes, "we admire them, and love them very dearly; but, O George, I pity them! Emblems of the spirit, the noblest, highest part of our being; and yet so unconscious, so short-lived, so sad in their early death!"

"Ethel," exclaimed Captain Flamank, "when you speak you make me pretty nearly determined to take up religion and study it seriously; for your actions go along with your words; and I respect them both."

"O if you only would? If you would but promise seriously to examine the scriptures, and prove the truth of those things of which you have sometimes let me speak, how happy I should be! George, I say it from experience, there is no joy or satisfaction which can equal them."

"What?" asked he.

"The sense of forgiveness for Christ's sake; the feeling that when forgiven and loved we are children and soldiers of His, no longer to live for ourselves, but to seek to spread the knowledge of His love, and the coming of His kingdom to all around us. Life is short, death so near, and hundreds of immortal beings perishing on every hand! O, should not those who have the light arouse themselves, and seek to diffuse it? But for those who have it shining as it were before their very gaze, with time, intellect, opportunity all their own, and who yet turn away or scorn, I sometimes tremble."

"You do not veil your meaning," said Captain Flamank, with the slightest touch of annoyance in his tone, and looking down upon the brim of his hat, which he was balancing between his two hands.

"You are not ashamed of your colours, George?" she said, in a low tone, which seemed to crave pardon if she had gone too far. He looked up; and the smile came back to his face.

"You would make an invaluable soldier, Ethel; for you do not shrink your duty—at least what you conceive to be such. Forgive me: I did not mean to be hasty."

"We shall not regret plain speaking another day. And O, George, you will keep your promise, will you not?" she added, laying her hand gently on her cousin's arm, and looking earnestly into his face.

"If you consider it such, I suppose I must. But your kind anxiety sometimes takes a little too much for granted," he answered doubtfully. And as he spoke the carriage stopped at the door of her temporary home, with Major Fleming's father and sisters.

Enthusiast, fanatical, sanctimonious, shall she be called? Nay, nay. Do the children of this world expend time, talent, artifice, all, all they have, to obtain some dying good? does the infidel spare neither study nor research nor argument to spread his sceptical and unhallowed questionings? does the devout Romanist compass sea and land to make one proselyte? and shall the child of God, the soldier of the cross, be ashamed of the banner under which he fights, and make no effort to win others to the same high and glorious service?

"Let him that heareth say, Come"—a command which those who have heard will not be long or tardy in obeying.

(To be Continued.)

To Get at the Facts

Regarding Hood's Sarsaparilla, ask the people who take this medicine, or read the testimonials often published in this paper. They will certainly convince you that Hood's Sarsaparilla possesses unequalled merit, and that Hood's cures.

Hood's pills cure constipation by restoring the peristaltic action of the alimentary canal. They are the best family cathartic.

Darts and Shields.

The Ephesians were well acquainted with the "fiery darts" of which the Apostle Paul spoke to them. Those used in the Grecian and Roman warfare were at first merely arrows wrapped in tow, and set on fire.

A sort of fireball next came into use. It was composed of wood, from a foot and upwards in length. The head was armed with iron spikes, beneath which various combustible matters, such as hemp and pitch, were placed. These being set on fire, were hurled or shot into the ranks of the enemy, or against the woodwork of a besieging party; and the spikes, entering into whatever they struck, burnt all before them.

The mode of defence against these weapons was by raising up shields, or palisades, covered by hides of cattle, well saturated with water, which might "quench" or extinguish the effects of the inflammable combustibles cast on the soldiers or the dwellings of the besieged town.

The shield is undoubtedly the most ancient and most general piece of defensive armour in the world. It is mentioned in the Bible long before helmets and other kinds of armour.

At the present day, savages who have no idea of such defences as helmet or cuirass, are very seldom found without the shield.

"The particular use of a shield," says the Rev. Charles Simeon, "is to ward off a blow from any part of the body that may be menaced; and to that end it is to be applied in every direction as occasion may require. Now, Satan strikes sometimes at one part, and sometimes at another, according as the different parts may seem most open to his attack. And the temptations with which he makes his assaults are as fiery darts, which fly with incredible velocity, and are calculated to inflame the soul with their deadly poison. But by faith we shall as completely defeat the malignant efforts of Satan as we shall be delivered from his fury. Nor is this true of some temptations only; it extends to all without exception. Nor can it be said of some believers only, for all who are armed with the shield of faith, whether they be old or young, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, 'shall be able' perfectly and for ever to subdue their adversary."

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