

"Nor knew they in their tangled wood  
The trees that were their own;  
Yet as they plucked, as each one should,  
Each plucked what he had sown.  
So do men here,  
Sô do mén there,  
Sô dô mien ev'rywhere."

#### A Painter's Parable.

In the autumn of 1894 a painting by Vedder was exhibited in New York City which showed, as few modern works of art do, the innermost fact in the problem of the world's moral life, now up for solution. The painter called his parable of life, as it was put on the large canvas, "The Devil Sowing Tares." The whole atmosphere was dark, mysterious, and lowering, set in a light that struck the observer with awe, as in the presence of some dread problem going on beneath those portentous clouds. Before him was a bare and rock-paved slope, curving upward, like another Golgotha, to an upright post, at the base of which the letters I N R I plainly intimated that it was the foot of the cross, the center of redeeming influences streaming forth down the eastern slope of Golgotha into the cold, dark, worldly mystery around, and off toward a horizon with faint streaks of light breaking on it. In the foreground was Satan, with malignant leer, holding beneath one brawny arm a pot of gold, and with the other he was sowing the coins, as a sower flings the seed, up toward the cross. He was poisoning the very fountain of redemption. He was setting gold to work against the gospel, the seduction of luxury, the charm of opulence, the fierce temptation to be rich, the looming up of worldly grandeur, coins of different size and shape, but all the devil's gold, and all now thrown into the garden soil of Christian life and character, to seed it with tares, or into the fountain of faith to poison it at the source. This is the painter's parable of the church's trial in the present age. This is the parable of the devil poisoning the fountains; not for the slums, but for the Christian churches and homes.—*The Independent*.

#### By Way of Preparation.

This should be a meeting for solemn self-examination. Have several of your most earnest members answer the question, "How do I know that I am a Christian?" Prepare a Bible reading on evidences of the new birth. Ask your pastor to say a word or two on church membership.

#### Children of the Bible.

June 11.—A perfect child. Luke 2: 40-52.  
(Children's Sunday.)

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: Joseph, Gen. 37: 1-4. Tuesday: Moses, Ex. 2: 1-10; Acts 7: 20, 21. Wednesday: Samuel, 1 Sam. 1: 21-28; 3: 1-10. Thursday: Joash, 2 Chron. 24: 1, 2. Friday: John the Baptist, Luke 1: 5-15, 80. Saturday: Timothy, 2 Tim. 1: 1-6; 3: 14, 15.

#### Our Gold Mine.

When Christian Endeavor first turned its thought and effort toward the boys and girls it entered upon an era of possible blessedness and achievement to which only the purposes of God can set a limit. In the Juniors, Christian Endeavor has its richest mine of wealth; the development of this department means the future triumph of the movement in its work for Christ and the Church. It is difficult to emphasize sufficiently, impossible to exaggerate, the importance of Junior work; the whole of Christian Endeavor in future years is dependent in largest measure upon it. The boys and girls of to-day

must be the young men and women of to-morrow, and if they be not now won to Christ and enlisted in the ranks of His fighting soldiers, who then shall fill the places left vacant by the upgrowing and departing present generation? The making of recruits from the multitudes of young people who have grown up unsaved and indifferent, while in itself a grand work, is not the best nor the most satisfactory method. Young as they are, there is yet a blight upon their lives left by a Christless youth which dulls their sensibility to training and receptivity of truth.

No, if we want the best results we must grow our Endeavorers. We must begin as near to the nursery as possible, and seek to direct the vigor and mouldable condition of the young life into right channels. To wait till a child is old enough to become personally and consciously acquainted with the devil before leading its little mind and heart into loving knowledge of Jesus Christ is to make a most serious, I had almost said criminal, error. The first place to learn of Jesus is at the mother's knee, but the knowledge of that precious name then gained must be carefully and tenderly conserved and deepened in the growing years, lest Satan steal away the seed of the kingdom, and work irreparable mischief with an impressionable soul. There is an interval between babyhood and young manhood; the school-boy period, when mother's knee ceases to be the shrine of childish devotion, and the unfolding life comes into contact with the outside world in all its varied attractiveness of novelty and excitement, which is fraught with awful possibilities for evil. At no time in the life of boy or girl is greater care, judgment, sympathy, and tenderness needed by those in whom the child trusts than then. No easy matter to guard the eagerly receptive mind from harmful impressions, and those it loves must at all cost prove themselves worthy of love's fullest confidence if they wish to be a shield in the time of moral and spiritual danger. Should anything occur through some heedless word or act to shake the trust of the child in those to whom it looks for guidance, the tender soul, susceptible to the slightest encouragement or repulse, may be driven back upon itself or more sympathetic but perhaps harmful companions, with questionings the improper answering of which may mar and deform its whole after life. It may have been simply an "O don't bother!" when the kiss of comfort, or the patient explanation was trustfully looked for; or perhaps the ill-suppressed and thoughtless merriment caused by the blunders of a child seriously intent on the matter of the moment. These little trifles, happenings of an instant, are freighted often with influences that may affect eternity. O, my comrades, let us be careful how we offend one of these little ones! In the hearts of the children Christian Endeavor has its gold mine. Shall we seek by the love of Jesus to develop its wealth for the making of His crown?

#### Songs of Life's Springtime.

"When He cometh," "Safe in the arms," "Joy bells ringing," "Go thou in life's," "I think when I," "Sitting by the gateway," "We are building."

#### The Clay and the Child.

"I took a piece of plastic clay  
And idly fashioned it one day,  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;  
The bit of clay was hard at last,