

in whom we are interested, and by sending us money. He has also answered prayer for suitable agents to do His work.

Twelve months ago I was sitting in my study at a very late hour; the rest of the household had gone to bed. I was particularly conscious at that time that I greatly needed a lay agent, who could help me in work among the thousands of young men from business houses, who throng St. James' Hall. Several of our staff who could render efficient service in that direction, were fully occupied in other parts of the mission. I prayed very earnestly to God, in my loneliness and helplessness; and whilst I was praying an assurance was given me that God had heard my prayer. By the first post on the next morning I received a letter from a man whom I had never met, requesting an interview. I saw him. It turned out that he was a staff officer in the Salvation Army, and formerly a Methodist; and that for two years he had been longing for a sphere of work among young men. He had been himself in a Manchester business house, and he was extremely anxious for work among young fellows in the great business establishments. For various reasons a development of work in that direction, although it commanded the sympathy of the heads of the Salvation Army, could not be undertaken just then; and while he was praying upon the subject, it seemed to him as though a definite voice said, "Offer yourself to Mr. Hugh Price Hughes." In obedience to that voice he came, and he is with us now. He has already gathered around him a large number of young men; and at our last public reception of new members I received into the mission church forty-two young men of this class, who had been brought to Christ, or to active association with His Church, through the agency of the man whom God so promptly sent me in the hour of my need.

Nothing that I have said will in the least degree surprise earnest Christians and Christian ministers. Such experiences as these are the commonplace of real and active Christianity.—The Bible Record.

#### HOW TO WALK CONFIDENTLY.

Trustful blindness is better than worrying sight. A pedestrian noticed two persons coming toward him at night, and was particularly impressed by the bearing of one, who was walking straight ahead at a good gait, head up, shoulders back, the whole manner bespeaking exceptional confidence and freedom from all uncertainty or worry. And then, on looking closely, he saw that this one was blind, being led by the other. Of course the blind one could walk confidently, for he had something better than sight; he had a guide! This confident bearing of the blind is not exceptional; it is their usual manner, as we all know. How strikingly it contrasts with the worried, uncertain look of those whose seeing eyes shift constantly here and there in the effort to see danger and avoid it! Blindness is the best training for calm and quiet faith; therefore the Lord provides blindness for us all, in our spiritual walk. We cannot see that which is ahead, and we need not; but we have a Guide who is safer than sight.

Presbyterian Witness: There is no telling what the poor lambs will eat if no right kind of food is within their reach. They will in like manner drink water that is not pure or cool if none such be within their reach. But if you give them a fair chance you will be astonished at the good sound taste they will show in selecting pure new milk, the creamier the better. The sheep as well as the lambs will surely come to grief if you fail to supply proper food for young and old.

#### CLEAN LIPS.

It is the custom in a certain school for the master to compel any boy who has told a lie to get a glass of water and wash his mouth out in the presence of his school-fellows. This punishment is found to be more efficacious than a flogging. There is a rightness and an appropriateness about it which the consciences of the boys feel and acknowledge; it teaches a more impressive lesson on the obligation to be truthful than could go from the end of a cane or a rod.

Now, would not the same punishment be a useful thing, if it could be administered, to all men and women who lie, or swear, or speak impurely? I had not thought of saying "and women;" for I cannot bear to think of women doing evil, and yet it is a fact, that they are sometimes as bad as any men. In factories and workshops, and even in their homes and among their neighbours, they speak in a way which is a shame to their womanhood. If men and women who offend with their mouths could be dealt with in the same way as the schoolboys are, some establishments might require a large supply of water at the first, but it would, in the end, prove to be worth all the money.

It may be replied that in too many instances masters and managers are as guilty or more guilty than their employees. Pity when it is so. Such persons have a responsibility one would not like to carry. And although they may think that they have a right to do as they like in their own places of business, they will at last find out that they are mistaken. One is their Master who has said: "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." And this Master is never mocked, is never deceived.

In view of that fact, we shall do well to keep our mouths clean, and not let them need washing. That old prayer is always suitable: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."—Rev. J. P. Gladstone.

#### MUST BE MAKING PROGRESS.

The record we need to break is our own. Life lags when our yesterdays were better than our to-days. The trials of a child were for a child. Grown-up people are expected not only to endure more than a child, but to endure it better. The rivers that disturbed the early explorers and travelers have been bridged, and the mountains that seemed impassable have been tunneled. The man who has lived his years and has bridged no chasms and tunneled no difficulties has not employed the grace of God to the best effect. The temptations and trials will continue to come, but the record of our dealing with them should become more nearly perfect with each going day. We may get ahead of many people, but our prize comes only in our getting ahead of ourselves.—Christian Advocate.

#### GOOD DEEDS.

Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storms of life can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, the love and mercy on the hearts of the thousands you come in contact with year by year, and you will never be forgotten. No; your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as bright on the earth as the stars of Heaven.—Dr. Chalmers.

#### OUR INFLUENCE.\*

##### Some Bible Hints.

Woe to him that is alone, when he rises as well as when he falls; we need counsel in prosperity as well as in adversity (Ecl. 4:10).

Judge your friendship by your courage to correct errors in your friend, and your gratitude when he does the same for you (Prov. 27:6).

No electricity passes except over contacts. Get near to men! (Prov. 27:10)

It is indeed a gift, to see one's self as others see us; and that is possible only when we have a friend (Prov. 27:19).

##### Suggestive Thoughts.

It is the Christian's business to be influential. It is false modesty to say that you cannot be.

Have friends that can help you, in order that you may be able to help your friends.

If you have beauty or wit, it is a great power, given you in trust.

If you are unattractive, it is your first duty to become attractive, that you may better fulfil all other duty.

##### A Few Illustrations.

Fire warms as far as it can, and a wise life influences as far as it can.

You influence not by what you do so much as by what you are. A violet cannot help being fragrant.

"See, I can handle coal," said the girl, picking up a dead cinder, "and not get burned." But her hands and her clothes were soiled.

Words go on for ever in the air; so also in hearts.

##### To Think About.

Whom can I influence that I do not? In whose power do I try to influence men?

What is the tendency of my influence?

##### A Cluster of Quotations.

If you wish your neighbors to see what God is like, let them see what He can make you like.—Charles Kingsley.

Light other lamps while yet thy light is beaming.

The time is short.—Hezekiah Butterworth.

What we really are, somehow or other will come out.—F. W. Robertson. Help me the slow of heart to move. By some clear, winning word of love.

#### CAN YOU AFFORD IT?

Can you afford to stay away from meeting on the Sabbath, where you may worship the Lord, hear the Gospel preached, encourage the minister and people, and grow wiser and better by the instruction given? Can you afford to stay away from the prayer-meeting, where you may meet the brethren, sing the songs of Zion, pray for one another, for the descent of the Holy Spirit and for the salvation of sinners?—where you can tell of the love of Christ and His blood that cleanseth from all sin, which often convinces sinners of the necessity of pardon and a life of prayer?

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

- M., Mar. 16. Instructing others. Job 4: 1-4.
- T., Mar. 17. Saving others. Dan. 12: 1-3.
- W., Mar. 18. The Spirit's anointing. 1 John 2: 20-24.
- T., Mar. 19. Testifying. Ps. 119: 13, 41-46.
- F., Mar. 20. Home influences. 2 Tim. 1: 1-5.
- S., Mar. 21. Paul's influence. Acts 28: 20, 21.
- Sun., Mar. 22. Topic—The wise use of influence. Ecl. 4: 9, 10; Prov. 27: 6, 9, 10, 17, 19.

\* Young People's Topic, Mar. 22, 1908. The Wise Use of Influence. Ecl. 4: 9, 10; Prov. 27: 6, 9, 10, 17, 19.