

The Student.

Jan. 22.—A student's prayer. Ps. 19: 1-14. (A meeting for the Day of Prayer for colleges.)

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: Value of an education, Prov. 2: 1-15. Tuesday: An Egyptian education, Acts 7: 20-40. Wednesday: A Chaldean education, Dan. 1: 1-7; 5: 10-17. Thursday: A Jewish education, Acts 22: 1-15. Friday: Jesus taught of God, John 7: 14-18; 8: 25-30. Saturday: Education and prayer, Jas. 1: 5-8.

Leading Thoughts for the Leader's Talk.

Brief Meditations on the Topic Passage.

VERSES 1-6.—David's magnificent conception of the testimony to the glory of God to be found inscribed upon the expanse of heaven, may well inspire in our hearts a longing for more intimate knowledge of God's marvels in creation. The truly devout mind will never fail to discover in the wonders of nature a medium for revealing something of the wonders of nature's God. Paul tells us that the Almighty's eternal power and godhead are clearly seen in the things He has made (Rom. 1: 20). And there is a beautiful and none the less true sense in which the Christian student with scalpel, microscope, crucible or hammer is forever opening up some new treasure trove of Divine revelation. One of the holiest of all unions is the wedding of service and faith; hand in hand each helps the other to the solution of every difficulty.

VERSES 7-11.—But David turns from the fascination and magnificence of God's glory in nature, to His glory in direct revelation. After all there is no true understanding of God apart from His written word. The student who confines his study to the Book of Nature will inevitably reach conclusions that are only half true, and therefore the more dangerous than if wholly false. This has been proven time and time again in the life history of earth's master-minds. Take as examples men like Darwin, Huxley, and Spencer; and compare them with such devout students as Newton, Agassiz, Herschell, Proctor, and our own Sir Wm. Dawson. Fascinating as are the writings of the former they all end in hopeless, baffled interrogation, while the others breathe with a faith that answers all questions and finds in God a satisfactory and sufficient explanation of all circumstances and phenomena. David's conclusion concerning God's Word is that it is more desirable than gold and sweeter than the droppings of the honey comb.

VERSES 12-14. This is the student's prayer. Notice his requests. First, for deliverance from secret faults, presumptuous sins (*i.e.* sins of pride) and from the dominion of sin. The sin of pride is a frequent failing among students. The works of modern scientists are filled in many cases with the most presumptuous and sometimes unreasonable assumptions. Second, for acceptance in his words and meditations; surely a grand prayer for a student! There could not be much room for error if every investigator submitted his theorizings for Divine acceptance before trying to foist them upon an open-mouthed and credulous public.

Lift Up Your Voice!

"I love to tell," "It passeth knowledge," "I know not why," "Faith is a living," "At the feet of Jesus," "Not now, but in," "Books of grace," "When the mists," "Saviour, lead me."

Starting Points.

Thoughts for Further Meditation.

THINGS WORTH LEARNING.—*How to pray*, Luke 11: 1, Rom. 8: 26, 1 Thess. 5: 17. *How to use my Bible*, Jno. 5: 39, Eph. 6: 17, Heb. 4: 12. *How to testify*, Acts 1: 8, 4: 29, 30, 33. *How to win souls*,

Prov. 11: 30, Dan. 12: 3, Mark 1: 17, Jas. 5: 20. *How to give*, Matt. 10: 8, Acts 20: 35, Rom. 12: 8, 2 Cor. 9: 7. *How to love*, Jno. 15: 12, 13, 17, Luke 6: 27, 1 Thess. 4: 6, 1 Pet. 2: 17, 1 Jno. 4: 19. *How to be content*, Phil. 4: 11, 1 Tim. 6: 6, Heb. 13: 5. *How to walk*, Gen. 17: 1, Psa. 119: 45, Pro. 10: 9, 28: 18, Isa. 30: 21, Mic. 6: 8, Amos 3: 3, Rom. 6: 4, 2 Cor. 5: 7, Eph. 2: 10, 4: 1, 17, 5: 15, Col. 1: 10, 1 Jno. 1: 7, 2: 6.

SOME OF GOD'S SCHOOLS.—*Moses in the wilderness* (The School of Experience), Ex. 3: 1, 4: 12, 15. *Elijah at the brook and in the cave* (The School of Dependence), 1 Kings 17: 1-7, 19: 9-18. *Nebuchadnezzar among the beasts* (The School of Humiliation), Dan. 4: 1-37. *Jonah in the Whale* (The School of the Shadow of Death), Jonah 2: 1-10. *John in Patmos* (The School of Separation and Solitude), Rev. 1: 9, 10. *David in distress* (The School of Affliction), Psa. 69: 31: 9-16, 32: 1-11. *At the feet of Jesus* (The School of Fellowship), Luke 10: 39.

THREE MATTERS FOR STUDY.—*How to answer*, Prov. 15: 28. *How to get God's approval*, 2 Tim. 2: 15. *How to be quiet and mind our own business*, 1 Thess. 4: 11.

"Let the Meditations of My Heart be Acceptable."

If a helpful thought be born in thy brain,
Born of gladness, or born of pain,
Hasten, and give it a setting meet
To be laid as a gem at the Master's feet.
He will take it and make it shine

With a light divine;
The glory His, and the gladness thine,
And glory and gladness together shall twine
Round the diadem He will give to thee
When the face of the Master thou shalt see.

—Ida Runyon Finlay.

The Student's Best Text Book.

No book in the world will so amply repay sincere and earnest study as the Bible. The seeker after truth who makes its teachings the basis of his investigation and research will find himself continually being led out into such vast oceans of thought and richest discovery as to be almost overwhelmed with the possibilities of a growing familiarity with its contents. Whether the special bent of his mind be scientific, or ethical, or towards the occult; the Bible approached in the spirit of humility is the best of all text books for the student. The sublimest poetry, the most beautiful drama, the deepest philosophy, the highest type of spiritual teaching are found within its passages. It lays no claim to scientific accuracy, and yet has ever been centuries ahead of the most daring pioneers of scientific truth. It called the heavens an expanse, when contemporary science thought of them as great crystal spheres; it spoke of weighing the winds, when to hold that air had weight was looked upon as heresy; it assigned circuits to the winds, long ages before science discovered that such existed; it recorded the balance maintained between oceans, rivers, and clouds, when as yet human eye had failed to observe it. But beyond and above all this the Bible is the best text book, because of all others it alone enables the student to arrive at the true goal of all learning and research—a knowledge of God. It reveals Jesus Christ, the living way back to fellowship with God, and the revelation of the Father's glory. It teaches man not alone how to live, but also the only source of life. Apart from it there is no true knowledge. Without the light that it can shed, all study is but vanity and vexation of spirit.