

# Our Young People

## Trifles.

Topic for July 8.—"The power of small things."—Mark 4: 30-32.

"Trifles make the sum of human things."—Hannah More.

### Little Things.

A little thing, a sunny smile,  
A loving word at morn,  
And all day long the sun shone bright,  
The cares of life were made more light,  
And sweetest hopes were born.  
A little thing a hasty word,  
A cruel frown at morn,  
And aching hearts went on their way,  
And tailed throughout a dreary day,  
Disheartened, sad and lorn.

C. L. Hill.

### Tremendous Trifles.

BY REV. MARTYN SUMMERBELL, D. D.,  
President of Starkey Seminary.

The power of small things comes in different ways. Sometimes the littles gain consequence by the massing of numbers. One atom of water, as it rises by evaporation from a flowing stream, is nothing. But when the countless atoms, smitten by the blazing sun of the Jordan valley, clasp fingers and soar away to the skies, you have the aridness and desolation of the Dead Sea. A subterranean water current trickles into the depths of a mountain, and there encounters a clay bed tilted at an angle, and softens its surface. Amalfi, that picturesque Italian town, is close at hand, but it has no fear, though the protracted rains have swollen the springs to unusual flow; but suddenly the mountainside gives away and slips into the harbor, as a ship glides down the ways at her launching.

Repetition also makes for power with little things. On the verge of the cataract of Montmoranci I noticed one day a pot-hole of moderate diameter. Baring my arm, I explored to the bottom, and found an oblate pebble. Once it had been a solid chunk of rock. Swept along by the spring freshet, it had lodged on the verge of the abyss, and there, swirling in the boiling tide, had ground its way into the cliff, while at the same time it was ground down to the size of a pocket piece. In like way little acts, oft repeated, become habits.

The littles become mighty, frequently, as they become movers in action. An English king was angry with his archbishop, and exclaimed, "Have I no one to free me of this man?" Four of his knights glanced at each other, slipped out, rode to Canterbury, where they slew Thomas a Becket at the altar. The hasty word set on fire the passions of men and wrought murder.

Long ago in Italy some soldiers who were revelling plotted to steal the bucket from the public well at Bologna. The bucket might have been worth half a dollar. They carried out their design, and the people of Bologna demanded that the culprits be delivered up for punishment.

Their commander refused, and a quarrel burst forth, which rose to a war. The war lasted for years. Prince Henry of Sardinia was captured in one of the battles. His father offered as ransom a gold chain long enough to encircle Bologna, and that was seven miles in circuit. The offer was refused, and the prince languished in prison till he died.

But the littles sometimes possess vital power. When this is the case, there is no telling for results. A seed is so little, but it lives. Plant it, and you reap thirty-fold. Plant the thirty grains, and you have thirty times thirty. Keep that series going for a little time, and your product will feed a nation. Down on the beaches I have seen the wiry grasses pushing their way up through hard concrete walls. The asphalt had softened a little under the summer sun, and grass stalks took their advantage and pushed up to the light.

It is that way with the good seed of the kingdom. It lives. It is dynamic. The virtues of the gospel appear in one life to be multiplied in other lives. Twelve men follow Christ in the earnest effort to be like Him, and soon there are five hundred brethren, then five thousand, and then the civilized world bows before Jesus as Lord. In any home, in any community, the devoted Endeavorer wins Endeavorers.

One little girl learned to trust the Saviour and to take all her childish troubles to Him. She was soon living a beautiful life by the help of the Son of God. A lady, a leader of the fashion, beheld this life of the child and observed its winsomeness. The girl possessed what she did not. She must have it for herself; and now she, too, is an earnest disciple, and helping to bring others to the same blessed Helper.

So the wise look for the littles, wherever they can make for good, and make the most of them.

A prayer will ease the spirit of its pain;  
A touch will soothe the fever stricken brain;  
A kiss will put the weary child to rest;  
And one small word, if it were freely given,  
Would make of this dull earth a very heaven.

### His Own Messengers.

It is God's glory to accomplish His work by messengers of His own choosing and He often hides the meaning of His ways from His own people. Some may have made too much of the imperfections of the Bible, but others assuredly have refused to see them lest they should lose what faith they had. Shall we on that account attempt to exclude either party from the number of Christ's followers? That is a matter to

be decided by Christ himself on far other grounds than their opinion of the "higher criticism," but, looking at the matter from our own point of view, it is well to remember that the middle ground of today is not the middle ground of even a generation ago. There is an unreasonable exclusiveness of narrow belief as well as an inconsiderate inclusiveness of careless liberality, and it is possible to be more concerned for God's honor in the study of the methods of his work than he has ever cared to be.—Congregationalist.

### Standing Aloof.

Bigotry is rooted in ignorance and that sense of self-righteousness that prompts one Christian to withhold himself from other Christians grown in the same soil. To such exclusionists the Churchman speaks as follows: "Not the least valuable result of the Ecumenical Conference will be a lifting up or at least a lightening of the fog of complacent ignorance with which too many among us have regarded the great bodies of evangelic Christians, so far as they have found occasion to regard them at all. This attitude is unfortunate. Its unconscious superciliousness no doubt attracts to our churches some social aspirants, but is a source of widespread and not unjustified irritation and alienation from the church. The attitude of aloofness that it has fostered has been a great injury to the work that we have to do in the Christian world. No one could have attended the sessions of this Conference, no one could even have read attentively the reports of them and still believe that the solar system re-around the weather vane on his parish spire. It was plain that here there was neither Greek, barbarian nor Scythian, but Christ was all and in all."

### To Be Useful.

Do the duty which lies next to you.

Live in the sunlight, and help others out of the shadows.

Have a great deal of hope in the heart, and wear a radiant face.

Reach out a hand of helpfulness to the stumbling ones, and speak a word of cheer to the discouraged.

Spend much time in secret fellowship with the Master; then time spent in trying to better the world will be better and more wisely spent.

Find out where the lame ones are, and help them over the rough places. Their gratitude will repay you, and the Master will say "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these, ye have done it unto me."

"It is expedient for you that I go away." He said this knowing that their spiritual natures would develop and grow in His bodily absence. A young girl, whose mother left her for heaven, grew at once not only more spiritual in her own nature, but very desirous to carry out in every way her mother's will. She said, "My mother influences me more now than ever before, and she is more truly my friend and companion than ever before."—Exchange.