

LESSONS FROM A WAYSIDE FLOWER.

BY REV. W. H. PORTER, M. A.

I learned a lesson from a flower,
That bloomed in beauty by the way;
How sweetness to obtain, and power,
That helped me much for many a day.

I asked the flower to tell me whence
It had such charms, away off there
Beyond the gardener's hand or fence,
Or cultivating toil or care.

Blushing, it said, as near my feet,
Its face became aglow with bliss;
And as it spake the air grew sweet;
"The secret of my life is this:

"I do not worry, toil and strive,
Seeking what I may be, or where;
But try my own best life to live
From what surrounds me, here or there.

"Receiving nurture from the earth,
I sip the dew, inhale the air;
Showers and sunshine from my birth,
Have helped to make me sweet and fair."

"O flower," I said, "thou teachest me
Lessons I should have learned before;
To grace my lot whatever it be,
Not craving other, less or more.

"To gather honey, like the bee,
From wild, or even poisonous flowers;
Or, like the builder, beauty see
In shapeless stones for splendid towers."

THE FARMER.

BY REV. G. O. HESTER.

When Adam was a youthful man,
E'er evil could enamour,
Before the age of weeds began,
There was on earth a farmer.

Before a woman loved or lived,
Before men talked of armour,
Before a human heart was grieved,
There was on earth a farmer.

After the wished for woman came,
A fascinating charmer,
She willingly assisted him,
There still was but one farmer.

He let her travel from his sight,
Not fearing aught would harm her,
She soon returned, for her delight,
Was in this noble farmer.

One day at first, the serpent's speech
Did very much alarm her,
But soon the doctrine he did preach,
Quite won her from the farmer.

He listened, something caught his ear,
Like gentle human clamor;
He hastened, saw the danger near,
Yet fell, like many a farmer.

Alas! Alas! the deed is done,
Justice Divine grows warmer;
Man's lot is hard beneath the sun,
Including e'en the farmer.

The Maritime Baptist Convention.

So many and such full accounts of our annual convention at St. John, have appeared in our denomination's organ, the *Messenger and Visitor*, and in the secular papers, that it seems quite unnecessary that we should repeat again the many good things which have been so well reported. We believe that the sessions were not behind those of previous

years in their general interest and strength. Some features were especially noticeable, prominent among which was the uniform moderation of tone that pervaded the discussions, even at times when the tension of feeling was very great. To those who remember the sessions of some previous years, this was a most gratifying indication of progress in the Christian grace of forbearance. Another marked feature was the absence of many of the older men, who for long years have figured largely in the deliberations of the body. At the same time it was encouraging to mark with what earnestness and readiness, the coming men took up the burdens of the hour. Dr. Rand's poem, "Sons of the Fathers are we," read at the educational meeting, might fittingly be regarded as striking the key-note of the entire denominational situation.

Briefly it may be said, that the condition of our general work as revealed by the reports of the different Boards, is healthy and promising. Eight new churches have been organized during the year, and the membership has increased from 48,836 last year to 50,421 this year. The Foreign Mission enterprise has prospered during the year. Bro. Higgins, Miss Archibald and Bro. Schutt go out to reinforce the staff on the field this autumn. Steady progress attends the efforts of our Home Mission Boards. Acadia has an indebtedness of nearly \$7000 which it is proposed to wipe out by a financial campaign conducted throughout the year by Dr. Trotter, the new President.

The G. P. Payzant bequest has been received and will be appropriated to the establishment of theological work to begin in the fall of 1899. The outlook in all quarters is hopeful and the heart of the body united. No delegate who imbibed the spirit of the meetings could return home with feelings other than those of confidence in the wise and faithful administration of all departments of our denominational work and of thankfulness to God for the grandeur of the undertakings to which He has called us as a people.

Winnowed Wheat.

Put your life along beside Christ's
and see if you see any resemblance.
That's the test.—*Moody*.

A man's property is not apt to be worth more than he would be willing to pay for it. Neither is his religion.—*Bible Reader*.

The man who worries over his surroundings would not cease to worry if his surroundings were changed. The change that is needed is in the man, not in his surroundings.—*Young Men's Era*.

The best test for life is just living.—*Drummond*.

A wise man rules his passions, a fool obeys them.—*Publius Syrus*.

Revivals are not produced by the back-seat type of Christianity.

—*Baptist Union*.

Opportunity is rare, and a wise man will never let it go by him.

—*Bayard Taylor*.

As long as a man is kept busy for God, the devil never knows just how to get at him.—*Baptist Union*.

When Paul said that godliness with contentment is great gain he was not making an apology for pious laziness.—*The Standard*.

Some philosopher has observed that "when a man considers himself one in a thousand he naturally regards others as ciphers."

—*The Watchman*.

Don't be discouraged because you are not good enough. It is the man who thinks he is good enough that we are discouraged about.

—*Young Men's Era*.

If only for an hour men get at least a glimpse of the larger, nobler life, the grind is taken away from life and visions of peace stir the energies of hope.—*Berry*.

The man who lives wholly for himself is of no use to anybody. Only the man who includes others in his plans and efforts is of service to others or to himself.

—*Sunday School Times*.

How shall you make man know that God loves him? Most of all by loving the man with a great love yourself, of which he shall know that, coming through you, it comes from beyond you.

—*Phillips Brooks*.

Sin never gets tired; never is low spirited; has the courage of its convictions; never fritters away its power and its genius pettifoggery over side issues. What voluminous lessons the saints might learn from the sinners.—*Dr. C. H. Parkhurst*.

Faith is the hand that lays hold on Christ; the eye that looks to Christ; the ear that hears the voice of Christ; the mouth that feeds on Christ; the finger that touches Christ; and the key that unlocks the treasures of Christ.

—*Rev. F. Hooper*.

There is only one way to get to know God, and it is along the path of obedience, along the path of bowing our stiff knees, and opening our lock-jawed mouths, and praying out of our hearts, and giving our entire obedience to His will.—*Rev. John McNeil*.

If those wretched saints who are always trying to get "feeling" into their souls would go to work to feed their souls, they would soon have all the feeling they could manage. It is useless to expect a starved soul to feel anything but its own emptiness.—*Bible Reader*.