

unfailing good humor is strongly armed against foolish endeavors and painful defeats. And all helpful influence over others is impossible, unless our lives inspire them with something of our own invincible faith in God and goodness, in the sweetness of fireside affections, and the loyalty of friends, and in the reality of true love and sacrifice.

Elgin, Man.

A Picture that Persuades

By *Esther Miller MacGregor*

It was a class of boys,—half-grown young fellows, keen, restless, wide awake. They were ready to question any statement their teacher might make. They were never willing to take anything on trust. The teacher was often puzzled to know just how to meet their questionings. How did he know this happened? Was he quite sure about that? He could not always cope with their restless enquiries.

One day a visitor came into the class, a young man who had a marked gift for interpreting the printed page. The boys had heard him recite some of W. H. Drummond's best the evening before. They requested something from him as a special favor.

When the doors were closed and they were alone in their little class room, the visitor stood up before them. He held in one hand a small volume of prose gems, in the other a Bible.

"I am going to read you two accounts of the same scene", he said, "one written years ago by an eye-witness, the other by a modern writer." The boys were all silent interest. This was something fresh and new.

The reader selected Ruskin's criticism on Raphael's picture, "The Charge to Peter". It was the pen picture of that last meeting on the shores of Galilee, upon which he dwelt, and the very scene,—vivid, real, seemed to open out before the eyes of his listeners.

They could see, in the dim light of dawn, the worn-out fishermen in the boat, the gracious Figure on the shore, and hear Him calling to them to cast their nets once again. The restless boys were tense and silent as the reader went on:

"And John shades his eyes from the morning sun with his hand to look who it is; and

though the glistening of the sea, too, dazzles him, he makes out who it is at last; and poor Simon, not to be outrun this time, tightens his fisher's coat about him, and dashes in over the nets. One would have liked to see him swim those hundred yards, and struggle to his knees upon the beach!"

The thrilling reality of the description caught and held the youthful minds. There were no doubts, no questionings now, but only absorbed, rapt interest.

Before any one could stir, the reader had opened his Bible, and was giving them the same story in the simple convincing words of the evangelist.

Very slowly and clearly he read it, pausing here and there with a word of explanation or description, that enhanced the scene and made it yet more real. Then he closed his book and sat down without a word.

The teacher looked into the faces of his boys, and read there a greater lesson than he had ever taught them—that if he would lead their restless, enquiring, iconoclastic minds up to the heights of faith, it would not be through expounding or arguing.

His task was, like the painter on the canvas and the inspired writer on the printed page, to hold up before his class, plainly and vividly, the divine Saviour, as He lived among men, and let His teaching shine in its own light. "I had forgotten the promise", said the teacher to himself, humbly, "And I, if I be lifted up... will draw all men unto Me."

Excelsior!

By *Rev. Henry Dickie, D.D.*

In these days of low, materialistic, prudential, worldly living, there is no cry more needed than "Excelsior". Life on a high level is the open secret of a successful Christian life. If one is to be free from error, he must often get away from the practical world in which he is called to act. He needs to get the larger view and breathe the ampler air. It is only as we see things in God's light, that we can see them as they really are, in their true place, relation and purpose.

Life on a high level, too, is a great protection against temptation and moral contamination. The reason many people are so troubled