

done work, you dress up in your frilled shirt and white collar, and you strut around town to be admired. If you will tear that ruffle from your bosom and that collar from your shirt, and never wear either again, I will sign the pledge and keep it as long as you keep your promise." Briggs took his hand out of the water, gave it to his friend as a pledge of the agreement. It was kept by both. The young man rose to be a member of Congress, and Briggs was among the most worthy of the governors of Massachusetts—but he never wore a shirt collar!

Why a little hoosier boy went to Sunday-school without shoes all summer long. His father wanted him to go to Sunday school, and he was able to buy him shoes and stockings, and willing to do so, and he wore shoes and stockings on week days. He told his own story, and it was this: He asked another little boy to go to Sunday-school. He was poor, and

he said "he could not, because he had no shoes; and none of the boys went barefooted." To which he replied, "I'd just as soon go barefooted as not; come go with me." And so they both went barefoot to Sunday-school all summer long!

There is a universal law by which the aerial portion of plant-growth seeks above all to rise. Under it the higher or more advanced bud (or seed) takes precedence. Although last formed, it is first to unfold. We see this in every shoot that opens buds in the spring; in every graft cut from the end of a shoot, as compared with those cut from lower on the shoot; in every sprouting tuber, in wheat sprouting on the stalk, or a corn ear on the wet, warm ground. Of two ears on the same stalk the upper will be the larger; so will the upper or middle leaves; the lower leaves and the buds formed at their bases in wood-growth will be small, owing to growth rushing onward past them, unless man interferes, and by stopping this upward rush by a timely pinch, as in grapevine and cordon culture, arrests the flow and compels it to fill out the first-formed leaves and buds.

THEMES AND TEXTS OF RECENT LEADING SERMONS.

1. The Comprehensiveness of God's Care. "As an eagle stirreth up her nest," etc.—Deut. xxxii: 11, 12. Rev. Thomas Skelton, England.
2. The Necessity for Meditation. "I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live; * * * my meditation of him shall be sweet."—Ps. civ: 33, 34. Rev. Robert Collyer.
3. Crying out in the Night Watches. "Arise, cry out in the night; in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord."—Lam. ii: 19. Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, in New Park Street Chapel, London.
4. Not an Oriental Legend. "It is he that shall save his people from their sins."—Matt. i: 21. John Hall, D.D., New York.
5. Motto for Young Men. "Seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness," etc.—Matt. vi: 33. A. C. Hurst, D.D., Pittsburgh.
6. The Developing Power of the Gospel. "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven," etc.—Matt. xiii: 33. H. M. Scudder, D.D., Chicago.
7. Earnestness the Condition of God's Mercy. "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David."—Matt. xv: 22. James McCosh, D.D., in Second Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.
8. Common Sense. "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."—Luke xvi: 8. T. DeWitt Talmage, D.D., Brooklyn.
9. The Attraction of the Cross. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself."—John xii: 32. H. W. Thomas, D.D., Chicago.
10. The Doubt of the Present Day. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."—Acts xvi: 31. Francis L. Patton, in First Presbyterian Church, New York.
11. God's Farm. "Ye are God's husbandry."—1 Cor. iii: 9. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Brooklyn.
12. What is it to be Saved? "This is a faithful saying," etc.—1 Tim. i: 15. A. J. F. Behrens, D.D., Brooklyn.
13. Faith in Christ. "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning."—1 John ii: 13. C. H. Spurgeon, in Metropolitan Tabernacle, London.
14. True Prosperity. "Beloved, I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper."—3 John verse 2. T. D. Witherspoon, D.D., Louisville, Ky.
15. The Fools of the Bible. A series of sermons classified as the Atheistic Fool, the Agnostic Fool, etc., by Rev. G. F. Pentecost, Brooklyn.

SUGGESTIVE THEMES.

1. Prophetic Power in Spiritual Exaltation. ("And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."—Gen. xlix: 1.)
2. The Tragedy of the Soul. (The Book of Job.)
3. The Unreasonableness of Dependancy in a Christian. ("Why art thou cast down, O my soul," etc.—Ps. xlii: 11.)
4. Soul Growth. (The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."—Prov. iv: 18.)
5. Man's Capacity for Wrong-Doing. ("Behold thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldst."—Jer. iii: 5.)
6. The Spiritually Awakened the only truly Wise. ("Who is the wise man?"—Jer. ix: 12.)
7. Faith Storm-tossed. ("And behold there arose a great tempest in the sea," etc.—Matt. viii: 24.)
8. Man Hindering Omnipotence. ("And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."—Matt. xiii: 58.)
9. The Sanctity of Man. ("Destroy not with thy meat him for whom Christ died."—Rom. xiv: 15.)
10. The Contrast: The Soul Asleep and the Soul Awake. ("Let us not sleep as do the rest," etc.—1 Thess. v: 6-7.)
11. Paul's Sum in Addition. ("Add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge," etc.—2 Peter i: 5-7.)*
12. The Two Judges. ("For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knoweth all things."—1 John iii: 20.)*

* Authorized version.