

were instrumental in the organization of the circle this year. We are all enthusiastic members, meeting regularly each week. We have real social meetings, with no formality or coldness, and they are a source of great benefit and enjoyment to us all."

"I TRIED for years, ten years at least, to arrange a course of reading for myself (before I ever heard of the C. L. S. C., too), that would be practical and instructive at the same time; though I made many attempts I always found it impossible to pursue the courses of study I selected, but I never gave up the effort. My thirst for knowledge has always been so great I never am happy unless I feel that every day I have made some improvement, or acquired some knowledge that will be of lasting benefit. So when I had the opportunity of joining the C. L. S. C. I hailed it with delight and gratitude, and never think of its founders without thanking them in my inmost heart for the good it has done, and the good it promises in the future."

"THESE two years of C. L. S. C. work have been the happiest of my life. Our studies lighten our cares, encourage our Christian faith, and give the future a bright and encouraging outlook. We see the good influence even in our children; if they do not fully appreciate, they are enthusiastic in their admiration of Chautauquans, and are always glad when it is our turn to have the society."

"I PRESUME this year will end my four years' course; there are a number of books which I had not the time to read, but I shall keep on taking *The Chautauquan* and reading all I can, for my whole soul is in it, and I have gained more information and practical knowledge through this systematic course of reading than I have in twice the length of time before. I work in the railroad shops, and I read *The Chautauquan* to the men nearly every noon."

"I AM, like many another member of the C. L. S. C., a "busy mother," but I have always been able to find time for my required reading, and for a good deal more that seemed to be suggested by the readings. To say the course of systematic reading is a delight to me, is to but feebly express my appreciation. It is a continual benefit, and an abiding stimulus to self-culture. The study of astronomy in last year's course started me on what has since been the greatest pleasure I have ever known, that of learning the face of the heavens, till I know the stars, and really greet them each night as dear, familiar friends. The air is so clear, and our evenings so uniformly cloudless, it is a constant source of enjoyment."

"I AM a lone member, having found no one yet to join me in reading, yet I prize the course so highly that nothing but necessity would induce me to relinquish it. Last year, in much physical weakness and suffering, I partially accomplished the course, and felt a kind Providence had given me this to turn my mind from gloomy thoughts. How I wish the young,

the middle-aged, and the old would give time for the good thoughts, knowledge, and discipline it contains."

The Charge to the Superintendent.

MARY B. SLEIGHT,

"Feed thou my lambs." The loving charge
The Lord to Peter gave,
He gives to thee, and bids thee haste
His scattered flocks to save.

Lead them where Truth's pure fountains flow
And life's green pastures spread;
And let no longing, hungering one
Go from the feast unfed.

Feed them with manna from the Word,
Fresh-gathered for the day;
And bring them where Love's banner broad
Shuts out the noontide ray.

To those that err, the meek reproof
With tender pity speak;
And guide with patient, loving hand,
The wayward and the weak.

Remember, too, the souls that stray
Afar on sin's dark world;
Nor rest, whate'er the toil, until
Thou win'st them to the fold.

Be zealous for thy sacred trust,
Nor falter, faithful one;
And thou at eventide shalt hear
The Master say, "Well done."

Blackboard Work.

AN excellent and sensible brother sends an earnest plea for suggestive pictures, rather than words, in our Blackboard Outlines. He has for seven years maintained his school under some difficulties, which proves him to be efficient. He says what is eminently true, that "blackboard work must be intensely practical, or it is worthless." That "a picture conveys a better idea than the word that stands for it, and is better than word picturing. For instance, a yoke drawn on the board is better than the word 'yoke,' or an eloquent description of a yoke. A picture incites the curiosity of the most careless. The attention of the whole school once gained, the superintendent can hold it during a brief review of the lesson."

We have seen crayon pictures that were really artistic and beautiful, but they seemed less likely to impress or illustrate a great divine truth than to show the power of the artist; and the time consumed in their production was greater than the result justified. But granting all that is claimed for the highest grade of pictures, in how many schools can be found a person who is competent to produce them?