

FAMILY READING.**IN THE HEART OF THE WOODS.**

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

Such beautiful things in the heart of the woods
Flowers, and ferns, and the soft, green moss!
Such love of the birds in the solitudes,
Where the swift wings glance and the tree-tops toss.

Spaces of silence, swept with song
Which nobody hears but the God above;
Spaces where myriad creatures throng,
Sunning themselves in his guiding love.

Such safety and peace in the heart of the woods,
Far from the cities dust and din,
Where passion nor hate of man intrudes,
Nor fashion, nor folly has entered in!
Deeper than hunter's trail hath gone
Glimmers the tarn where the wild deer drink;
And fearless and free comes the gentle fawn
To peep at herself o'er the grassy brink.

Such pledge of love in the heart of the woods!
For the maker of all things keeps the least,
And over the tiny floweret broods
With care that for ages has never ceased;
If he cares for this, will he not for thee,
Thee, whoever thou art, to-day?
Child of an infinite Father, see,
And safe in such gentleness keep stay.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Evangelical Messenger: The men that move the world are the ones who do not let the world move them

Golden Rule: To preach about Christ is to present a bill of fare; to preach Christ is to spread a feast.

Joseph Cook: A church silent on the question of temperance discredits itself as much as a church silent on the question of dishonesty.

F. W. Farrar, D.D.: Men are, and ever will be, what their wives and sisters, and above all, their mothers, tend to make them, by influence which begins with the cradle and ends only with the grave.

D. L. Moody: Study how to use the Bible so as to walk "with God" in close communion; also, so as to gain a working knowledge of Scripture for leading others to Christ. An old minister used to say that the cries of neglected texts were always sounding in his ears, asking why he did not show how important they were.

Mid Continent: The injunction of the apostle is, "Preach the Word." That was the apostolic practice, and upon it the divine blessing rested. The Word is the instrument for the accomplishment of the task to which the ministry is set. More preaching of the Word and less fine sermonising would greatly enhance the usefulness of present day ministers.

Tennessee Methodist: The Sunday newspaper is one of the supreme evils of this age. It is colossal in the sweep of its influence for wrong. It stabs our Holy Sabbath—one of the bulwarks of our civilization. The contents of the average Sunday paper are such as render it wholly unfit to enter the homes of refined, decent people. That it should be patronized in any way whatsoever by Christian people is a surprise and a shame.

G. C. Lorimer, D.D.: Once having tasted of His grace the soul is never willing to be parted from its Lord. And as the years roll on, and the shadows lengthen, the cry, "Abide with me," becomes more pathetically intense. Blessed the man, as the mists gather around

his feet and the sun is going down, who still yearns for this company? Blessed is he who, from past experience, knows that if Christ be with him, even the chills of death shall never extinguish the heart flame!

J. Munro Gibson, D.D.: Test Christ by every means, and then, if you do believe in Christ, believe heartily. Christianity might not again build cathedrals, but it would make a noble manhood and womanhood, raise temples of brotherly co-operation, and create a Europe that would be like the garden of the Lord for beauty and amity. These things would be accomplished by and through the men and women whose beliefs had struck down to the very roots of their natures. Christianity

was now in the wilderness. There was no Sabbath rest, no Sabbath land; the great leaders were going or gone; nothing seemed much nearer solution; Christendom was divided; men were worldly minded; and all the world's vaunted progress seemed as much an optical delusion as ever it had been. The times were thunderous, there was much to make the heart quake; but men need not despair, for Christ was abroad—Christ, who had felt the down draught of every human difficulty, had got as near to sinning as life could get, and knew how near a weak man might get to God. The church's safety lay in getting a new vision of this Christ, in following His leadership and believing in Him against all odds.

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