

The Teachers Monthly

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Let us Pray

What helps or hinders prayer ?
When things we do—
The things for which we care—
Leave moments all too few
To pray God's business through,
What hinders prayer ?

What helps or hinders prayer ?
When glory dies,
And faith no more can dare,
Nor can love sacrifice,
Or life from death arise,
What hinders prayer ?

What helps or hinders prayer ?
Let that thing go
That mocks and baffles prayer.
Its loss were better so,
Trust God and let it go,
And rise to prayer.—C. K. Ober

The Seed and the Rock

In the White Mountains there is a large square boulder, weighing many tons, which has been lifted from the ground and seems to hang suspended in the air. This is what happened many, many years ago. A little seed dropped into the shallow covering of soil on the top of the great rock. By and by, under the influence of sun and rain, the life of the seed burst forth and began to send out roots and stalk. The roots, not finding sufficient soil on the rock, stretched themselves down its sides, to reach the ground, and burrowed their way under the rock, at last embracing it in a firm hold. Then, as the tree lifted its branches sunward, it carried the rock up with it, until the immense boulder was free from the ground and held only by the tree roots.

The resistless power of the life wrapped up in the tiny seed overcame the resistance

offered by the weight of the huge boulder. So the resistless energy of the life that comes from Jesus Christ overcomes all downward forces and lifts up those who share it into a higher and purer atmosphere. And it is the wonderful privilege of the Sunday School worker to have a part in implanting the seed of the life that has such untold potencies.

The Open Window

By Rev. J. H. Turnbull, B.A.

The story of Daniel in the great city of Babylon is full of suggestion for us to-day.

Babylon was not the place Daniel would have chosen to live in, but he spent his working life there and acquitted himself so well that he rose to the very highest place in royal favor. This in itself may have meaning for some who are forced by various circumstances to live in places that they would not choose, and to spend their lives in employments not naturally congenial. There is a way of living that overcomes both these disadvantages. The purpose of life is not found in them, but in something inward and spiritual.

Daniel was a resident of Babylon, but there was another city of quite a different nature that was also a factor in his life. Babylon was a wealthy, luxurious, sensuous city. In worldly grandeur and might there was no contemporary city that equalled her. Her hanging gardens were one of the wonders of the world, and her great heathen temple surpassed St. Sophia, in Constantinople, or St. Peter's, in Rome. But away across the hills and plains lay another city, small and pinched in comparison, situated in the midst of lean land, but standing for righteousness and duty and God—Jerusalem. Daniel lived in the one, but he kept his windows open to the