

That man brought each one of those boys before God in his prayers. And though loaded with business cares he found time to visit each boy in his own home during the week.

Is it any wonder that he succeeded where others had failed?

Again I know a lady who was once a teacher in a large Sunday School in England.

Girls whom other teachers could not control were often sent into her class because she had no trouble with them; there was something about her which seemed to command respect and love. She could always be depended upon, rain or shine, and she was always on time. She led the singing, when necessary, and this without an organ. The Superintendent knew that, if she asked that teacher to do anything, it would be done without any more ado about it. With her it was not a case of "Do I want to? Ask someone else." It was: "I will if I can." She did not bother the superintendent about details. She knew what she had to do, and she simply did it without show or pretence. Her whole life was an unselfish and useful one. She was always happy, simply because she tried to make others happy.

Fellow Lay Workers, Let there be in us this same consecration to duty, this same spirit in all our Sunday School Work. When you are asked to do some unpleasant task, do not shirk it with the poor excuse; "I can't," but say manfully: "I will try." Be like St. Paul, who said: "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." The next work, which the laity can do, is visiting the sick. In a large proportion of cases the visit of a Lay-helper suited to the work is as good as a visit of his Rector.

A man who visits the sick does good to himself and to those whom he visits. It makes him realize the blessing and value of health. And indeed no man can be a *true* Christian who does not do some Christian Work.

Does not St. James say: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world," and again "Faith without works is dead."?

I know a young layman, who made it a practice to visit the sick in the small town

in which he lived. Sometimes he would cheer them by reading from the Bible or some other book, or he would read portions of the Service for the Visitation of the Sick, and when he left the homes of these sick people, often it was with a heart full of joy, which made his whole life brighter and happier. When those people recovered and were able to be around again, they were always nearer to him than they had been before. He felt a stronger love and sympathy for them, and he could speak to them freely on any subject simply because there was between them a bond of love and sympathy, which did not exist previous to those visits to the sick chamber.

It is no easy thing for a young man to go for the first time to visit a person, whom he does not know; but, dear friends, do but remember Christ's promise: "My Grace is sufficient for thee," and if you go in this spirit and in Christ's Name, you will not be an unwelcome guest, and often in visiting the sick you will come across those, who will confirm and strengthen your own faith. In all this you will, of course, naturally inform your Rector of what you are doing and on whom it would be well for him to call, and you will give him such facts as will be of assistance to him in his visit.

Then there are the poor and needy, who must be cared for; and who can do this more efficiently than our Lay-workers? In England, in the town in which I spent my boyhood, the Ladies of the well-to-do class had certain districts to visit once a week and they reported cases of sickness or poverty to the Clergy. How happy some poor woman, beautiful in character, humble and brave under cruelty and adversity, with a large family and possibly a drunken husband, how happy, I say, is such an one to receive the visit of a friend to whom she can look for sympathy and be sure of finding it.

A kind word to such a woman makes the day brighter, the task lighter and the heart more hopeful. Gold cannot bring such words, yet they cost nothing. They bless both the giver and the receiver.

To show you how one can sometimes help the poor, I will tell you of an actual experience.

There was a woman with six young children. The father, when sober, was an