

aroused more interest than had his previous discussions of theological questions.

'While gain is not godliness,' he had said, 'I believe Christ came to improve our business life and our home life; to teach us how to live here on earth as well as to save us in heaven. Christ gives life; and that life ought not to stop with the four walls of the church, but to flow into our temporal life, to touch it with vigor, and to direct it aright. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." The principles of life laid down in the Bible are those which lie at the foundation of all growth, even in the business world. Surely the Christian, who knows the very source of life, ought not to grumble or to envy the success of another.'

The sermon that Sunday pleased some, but antagonized others. At the prayer-meeting following, the same line of thought was introduced. One woman got up with an objection. 'It seems like you are telling us the Bible shows the way of worldly gain,' she said. "'Love not the world," says the good book. And, again, "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." This is what I believe, and we've got to expect trials and persecutions here below.'

The young minister rose to explain. 'That is very true,' he said. 'But, one thing is sure: While your faith may be tried, it nevertheless will raise you as high as the heavens are above the earth above the fear of poverty. Some feel discontented. What I want you to do is to ask God for better things. He promises good gifts to them that ask him. The Christian life does not necessarily mean a life of poverty. It means trial without, but it also means joy and peace within. It means an ever-growing life. It means victory over trial. While we must be submissive to what God sends, yet we ought not to fear to ask him for what we need. He answers prayer.'

After the meeting, Mrs. Roberts, the woman whose husband had left her, came to the young minister.

'You know my circumstances,' she said in a trembling voice. 'Do you think that Christ means that my home could be made happy?' She usually wore a bitter look, but now it was softened by a ray of hope.

'Yes,' he said, and he spoke with emphasis, for he was thinking of the young woman who had promised herself to him; of how, in their attempt to understand the new relation into which they expected to enter, they had approached nearer to the Master of Life; of how his love had explained and purified and chastened their love. 'Yes, if there is one place above all others where the love of God may shine in its perfection, it is in the home.'

By the time the next prayer-meeting came around, a new interest was beginning to shine in the eyes of members of the little flock. For many new hopes were awakened. Mrs. Roberts, to the surprise of all, came with Mr. Roberts that evening. They took the hand-shaking in a common-place way, as if nothing unusual had happened. Neither of them said anything during the meeting. But the young minister saw beneath the surface, and his heart was glad.

The subject that evening was 'Work.' The minister said: 'I think too often in our Christian work we are attempting to convert people to ourselves, and are seeking glory for ourselves, rather than going to them in the spirit of love and helpfulness, leaving the praise for the Master.' Then he went on to tell of how some people he had

known had been quietly brought to Christ, whilst the world and even the church had scarcely known about it. 'Let us seek the guidance of the Spirit,' he said, 'and pray for those near to us, whom we would like to see brought to Christ.'

This was the beginning. Soon the family of young people who had drifted to worldliness were interested, and the dance and card party were forgotten. The family in which poverty had reigned had taken a new interest in life, and were exhibiting an industry which was beginning to tell. One and another of the relatives and friends of the church members were brought in, and to-day the church is doing its work with joy in every heart. The young minister has had an increase of salary, and now his home is the centre of the social life of the young people.

It was not a revival which was widely spoken of. Many did not realize that there had been a revival at all. Thank God that sometimes he sends times of refreshing quiet growth. Without observation, the kingdom had come into many a heart in Mitchell.

A New Method of Church Work.

Some time since the Methodist Tract Society asked Rev. Charles True Wilson, D.D., pastor of the church at North Pasadena, of the Southern California Conference, to write for them an account of his efforts to interest the little folks in tract distribution. The following is the account given, which I am glad to commend to the consideration of pastors everywhere, as opening the way to a new method of church work that should be both widely applicable and very effective:

'I have been asked to write my method of tract distribution. The old way was to scatter a thousand tracts with the hope that a dozen persons would read them. My method sends out a dozen or two tracts with the certainty that a thousand persons will read them. Another problem which pastors and other church workers must solve, is how to make the Junior League a success. The secret is found in enlisting the Christian children in the Lord's work.

'At the close of my junior meeting I give to each child worker a tract, with the understanding that one week from that hour the roll will be called, and each one will report the number of persons who have read the tract, and bring forward to the table the list of names and addresses of the readers. Some little prize or book or paper is given to a' who secure a certain number of readers during the week. Usually I present a hymnal with notes to the one who secures the highest number. Our cheap edition of the hymnal only costs twenty-five cents, when purchased in quantities, and is greatly appreciated by the children who have thus won a copy.

'No one will refuse to read a tract from a little boy or girl. Sometimes the entire household gathers round to hear the sweet message read. Boys and girls who thus engage in the work learn their tract by heart from hearing it read so many times. In three churches, at Seaford, Del., at Sea Cliff, N.Y., and last winter at North Pasadena, Cal., revivals of far-reaching influence owed their inception to this work under my pastorate. It has been helpful in preparing for every revival with which God has blessed my charges. It enlists the active co-operation of all the children of the church. It reaches every class in the community. It

is the quickest way I have found of making announcements, disseminating missionary, temperance, or doctrinal information, or of pointing out duties to non-churchgoers. For example, one week during the rainy season here, I selected that exquisite little tract by Miss Frances R. Havergal, published by our Book Concern, "Why I Go to Church on Rainy Sundays." The following Sabbath morning it rained. In other years there would have been no service on such a day. The morning congregation was not less than on the Sunday previous. The explanation came in the junior meeting in the afternoon, when the roll-call brought the names of more than twelve hundred people who had read the tract during the week.

'I here give a single Sabbath report. The tract was "How to Make Your Pastor Succeed," by Bishop Fowler. Fourteen children received copies of it. The roll-call brought forth the names of two hundred and two readers. Four boys had more than one hundred and twenty each. Six children had more than one hundred readers. Four secured more than seventy-five readers. Only one fell short of fifty. You will see that these fourteen little workers found in a single week about sixteen hundred interested readers of that wonderfully helpful tract. I believe that all but two of the fourteen children know the tract by heart.

'I originated this plan some years ago. Every worker I have told of it has commended it. As an effective means of tract manipulation I have not heard of its equal. I therefore commend it to all as a practical means of employing sweet childhood in the service of the Lord.'—'Christian Guardian.'

Teachers That Boys 'Hate.'

A boy said, the other day, that he 'hated two kinds of teachers,—the 'oh-dears' and 'my-dears.' A boy is nothing if not courageous, and he expects and admires that quality in others. He detests whining and worrying, weeping and weariness,—in a word, all the dreary variety of 'oh-dearing.' The teacher who frets at the weather, objects to the class-room, finds fault with the superintendent, and the secretary, and the ways of the librarian, not only sets a bad example, but earns dislike; for when did flies ever love vinegar, or boys dull faces? No. Set your face like a flint to look pleasant, no matter how hard it hurts you to do it. 'Peak like you do when you laugh,' begged a little sick child from her chamber, on hearing a neighbor's plaintive inquiries below stairs. It is good advice for everybody. Train your voice to notes of exultation. With a gospel of gladness, it is a shame to go about drooping at the mouth- corners. It is not strange that the patronizing and too demonstrative teacher should be another object of a boy's detestation. No healthy boy cares for coddling and petting, except at bedtime, possibly, and by his mother. Talk sense to a boy. He will respect it and you. A little fellow of four, who had just graduated out of kilts, and appeared at the door of the primary room in all the glories of rubber boots and many-buttoned 'ulster,' came home in high dungeon complaining that the teacher 'acted like he had on dresses,' and never noticed his new 'ulcer.' Teacher of junior and intermediate grades do well to remember carefully the sudden access of manliness that comes with a promotion from the kindergarten and primaries, and as far as possible refrain from treating these little men as if they 'had on dresses.'—'S. S. Times.'

Evangelist's Biography.

The 'Life of Charles G. Finney,' by A. M. Hills, has just been published in a neat paper-bound volume of 240 pages. This biography is most interesting for those who like evangelical reading. (Office of 'God's Revivalist,' Mount of Blessings, Ohio. Price 20 cents.)