

Here's a lesson for sextons. Let there be no webs nor dust in God's house, but cleanliness, sweetness and brightness.

And as for the ushers, with what smiles and willingness they should meet the people that attend the services of God's house!

### The Ideal Young Man.

**S**HUN that kind of atheism that allows you to worship God in your home and church, but deny Him in your business and voting booth. If you are a lawyer, then plead as if He were present. If a physician, then remember that He is the Great Physician. Your profession is quite largely incidental. Your virtue, your integrity, your character are everything. Any reputation you may make will turn to ashes unless He is under it. Acting on right principles, any legitimate profession may become sacred. Unless you do so act, I know of no profane book than the Bible, nor a more profane profession than the ministry. Thoughts thus become best invocations, and your office becomes a temple when your life is Christo-central. New thoughts are given us not for mere admiration or selfish boasting, but for use in the same general way as Christ used the cross—to save men. Remember, too, that before you can give yourself to others you must own yours. If in self-mastery. Self-possession is one of the first laws of giving. "Keep thyself pure," is a divine injunction. Easy faiths and easy men. Weak faiths and weak men go together. A strenuous life charges his failure to bad environment is not worthy of success.—*Dr. M. F. Harlan.*

### Steering By Mother's Light.

**A** VERY beautiful story is related of a boat out at sea carrying in it a father and his little daughter. As they were steering for the shore, they were overtaken by a violent storm, which threatened to destroy them.

The coast was dangerous. The mother lighted a lamp and started up the worn stairway to the attic window. "It won't do any good, mother," the son called after her. But the mother went up, put the light in the window, knelt beside it, and prayed. Out in the storm the daughter saw a glimmer of gold on the water's edge. "Steer for that," the father said. Slowly, but steadily, they came toward the light, and at last were anchored in the little sheltered harbor by the cottage.

"Thank God!" cried the mother, as she heard their glad voices, and came down a stairway with a lamp in her hand. "How did you get here?" she said.

"We steered by mother's light," answered the daughter, "although we did not know what it was out there."

"Ah!" thought the boy, a wayward boy, "it is time I was steering by my mother's light;" and ere he slept he surrendered himself to God, and asked Him to guide him over life's rough sea. Months went by, and disease smote him. "He cannot live long," was the verdict of the doctor; and one stormy night he lay dying. "Do not be afraid for me," he said, as they wept; "I shall make the harbor, for I am steering by my mother's light."

The newest name for rum comes from the Dark Continent, where it is called by the natives "shame water." A good name. It brings shame always to the man who drinks it.

### Carrying Sunshine or Shadows.

"I always like to talk things over with Sister Mary when I am in trouble," said one woman to another. "She understands, and it's a comfort to tell things to somebody who cares enough for you to be troubled by everything that troubles you."

"Yes, that is sharing half your load with her," said the other, quietly; "but has Mary no loads of her own to carry?" Then, as if she feared the question might sound intrusive or unkind, she added: "I have learned to think of that, of late years, because I had a brother who was to me what your sister is to you. He was one of those on whom others naturally lean—wise, strong, tender and patient—and I carried my griefs and worries to him, always sure of sympathy."

"Not until his brave life ended did I realize how many heavy burdens of his own he had been bearing. Business cares and reverses, grave family anxieties, increasing physical disability, and the knowledge that disease was surely eating his life away—all this had been pressing sorely upon him. I know that many a weary day, which possibly I might have brightened a little, I had made his burden heavier by the weight of my own. I never think of his dear, kind face without wishing I had carried him my sunshine instead of my shadows."

### Religious News.

We are glad to report an encouraging condition of **THE 1ST CHURCH, HILLSBORO.** Immediately following the re-opening of the chapel at Salem, meetings were held there for seven evenings, with the most blessed results. Bro. Addison rendered most valuable assistance and God blessed our efforts. Seven professed conversion; six have been baptized, and others have experienced the love of God in their hearts. There is a hopeful spirit among us and the members of the church are coming to the help of the Lord. We are looking for a great blessing here on our united work. The ministrations of Bro. Town end on the re-opening Sunday were enjoyed very much by large congregations. Bro. Robinson, also preached twice with very great acceptance and the Lord blessed the preaching of his servants on that occasion. Bro. Addison is also enjoying a revival spirit among his people and there seems to be good indication of a general revival in this section. God grant that it may come in all the churches. It is God's desire. If we only allow Him to have his way with us. J. B. G.

Sunday, Dec. 21st, we **WOODSTOCK, N. B.** baptized five and Dec 28, five more happy believers. We expect others soon. Z. L. F.

Since last report our meetings at Norton have increased in interest. Dec. 21st I baptized two and received into the church six (6) others by letter, and one who had been previously baptized. A number more have been converted during our meetings and will follow Christ later. The church has also been greatly encouraged and strengthened by the coming of Bro. James A. Floyd and family who have lately removed to Norton from Fairfield, St. John county. Monday evening the church and a few invited friends assembled at the hall for a social evening. After a short time spent in friendly conversation the meeting was called to order by Bro. James Allaby who called upon Deacon Pickle for an address. In a very graceful and appreciative way the gifted deacon presented the pastor with the good wishes of the church—a nice new sleigh robe, over \$20 in cash and several other useful articles. H. S. SHAW.

We are very glad to report that our church is in such a prosperous condition. Rev. **H. V. DAVIES** has been pastor of this church for about six months. He is now holding special meetings at Steeves' Mountain, which is a part of this church. He is assisted by Evangelist Beaman. We are glad to learn that some are seeking the light and hope that there will be many more come out and take a stand for Jesus. The Sunday services are well attended in the different parts of the field. The prayer-meetings have been growing in interest, and at Salisbury we have meetings where God's spirit comes in and we have blessed times. But I am sorry to think that I can only spend such a short time here at home, as I have to leave again soon to pursue my studies at the institutions in Wolyville. WARREN L. STEEVES.

We are encouraged in our work. After having assisted Bro. Ganong at Salem he came to our assistance in Surrey. The Lord blessed our united efforts. It was my privilege on the 14th, to baptize and receive into the church six believers. We hope that others will surrender themselves to the Lord. MILTON ADDISON.

We are much encouraged. The interest seems to be deepening, attendance at services increasing, Sabbath School progressing, prayer meetings seasons of refreshing, finances quite satisfactory, aid from the Home Mission Board greatly appreciated. The Lord bless and prosper all our work. CALVIN CURRIE.

We have just commenced **HILLSDALE, N. B.** our eighth year with this church. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Christmas night a well-rendered programme was given to a packed house, at the close of which the church presented the pastor with a handsome donation, the non-resident members kindly remembering us. Presents from California, Boston, North West and Maritime Provinces, proved our members still cherish loving remembrance of their church home. Among the gifts from absent ones was a cheque of \$50, from Ernest S. Sherwood, now cashier of the Bank of Commerce, Everett, Washington. The donation in all amounted to \$138.10. May the Lord richly reward the donors. We hope to hold special services soon, one now awaits baptism. R. M. BYNON.

We are having helpful lectures delivered in our church every two weeks under the auspices of the B. Y. P. U. The first was given by Rev. B. N. Nobles of Carle on which was very much appreciated. The next is to be given by Rev. Alex. White on the 19th inst. We were not forgotten at Christmas times by our friends. Among other gifts, we received two very handsome chairs, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. White. Also a beautiful carver's set, from Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Smith. We feel very grateful to God and to these friends for their kind and thoughtful remembrance of us. On Christmas day, the members of the Bible class presented Mr. C. H. Perry their popular teacher with a handsome and costly morris chair. Mr. Perry has taught most faithfully for a number of years the Bible class of our Sunday School. With like thoughtfulness the members of the Sunday School and others presented our efficient and faithful superintendent Mr. G. D. Davis with a beautiful gentleman's dressing case. We have been cheered and encouraged in our church work by the coming to our town of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Titus and Mr. and Mrs. Crandall Prescott. The interest in our services is increasing and we hope before long to record the fact that precious souls have been gathered into the Master's Kingdom. W. CAMP.

In reviewing the work since **1ST SPRINGFIELD** last report, we see abundant AND KARS, N. B. cause for gratitude and humility. Never has a year of my life been distinguished by so many mer-