

SUNDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for

TEACHERS

AND

YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Hitherto.

BY WILLIAM R. WOOD.

The day is bright, my Father, and the path

With flowers bestrewn, is pleasant to my feet;

The forest songsters, in their cool green bowers,

With joy-born, welcome notes my journey greet.

Clear is the sky, my Father, and my heart,

Uplifted, rises in unwonted peace, As 'twere the cares of earth were wholly fled,

And from their thrall my life had won release.

And effortless my spirit turns to thee, In gratefulness too full, too deep for speech;

Yea, wordless, breathed into thy listening heart,

Still fails its strength thy might of love to reach.

But, O my Father, in my hour of joy, When rises all my grateful heart to thee,

I falter for the blindness of the past, Though still, as now, thy hand has guided me.

I falter that, because the air was chill, Because, perchance, the way was rough, unknown,

I doubted, trembled, feared thou didst not see,

That thou hadst left me in the dark alone.

I falter, Father, for my spirit knows Thy Father-heart as now was guiding then;

That thou didst choose the path, and knewest all

The chill and shade of each dark-winding glen.

Forgive me, Father, fill me with thyself, That I may know thee all the days beside,

That I may never doubt thy tender care, Till trusting still I pass beyond the tide.

Riverbank, Ont.

Thought and Talk.

John Wesley is said to have given the following advice to one of the preachers of his time :

"Your talent in preaching does not increase; it is about the same as it was seven years ago; it is lively but not deep; there is little variety; there is no compass of thought. Reading alone can supply this, with daily meditation and daily prayer. You wrong yourself greatly by admitting this. You can never be a deep preacher without it, any more than a thorough Christian. Oh, begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not. What is tedious at first will afterwards be pleasant. Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way. Else you will be a trifler all your days and a petty, superficial preacher. Do justice to your own soul, give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer."