

heathen the facts and purpose of Christ's life and death. The name indicates a work rather than an office; the evangelist might or might not be an elder or deacon, but he was sometimes set apart for this special service. In the third century the word was applied to one who had written a Gospel, and later still to the deacon who read the Gospel in the church service. It is not used in the New Testament or in the early church in the modern signification of revivalist.

**PROPHET**—Is one who foretells future

events under the influence of a special gift from Christ, which the man's own spirit can control. But generally in the New Testament, it means the office of one who edifies the church by preaching under the direct influence of inspiration, interpreting the mind of God, revealing the secrets of the hearer's inner life and converting unbelievers. But their tendency to independence brought these prophets into collision with church authority, and they soon ceased to exist.

### APPLICATION

*Finding disciples*, v. 4. A disciple is just a scholar. But merely to visit a school or to sit on the benches with the other pupils does not make one a scholar.

#### The Real Learner

There must be a desire to learn from the master. On one occasion a man actually went a thousand miles and back, and supported himself at great expense, that he might spend a few weeks with Agassiz at his summer school at Penikese. The great naturalist could teach him more science in an hour than any man living; and it amply repaid the learner the trouble and expense to be a short time listening to so gifted a teacher. Are we disciples of Jesus? Do we desire to learn of Him? Are we willing to walk many miles, to make serious sacrifices, and to go to much expense, that we may study His Word and have fellowship with Him? One hour in His presence can teach us more than we can learn from all other teachers in a life time.

*And children*, v. 5. A little Sunday School scholar in Jamaica was once very ill; and after he got better he told his missionary

that he had often wished to have him come and pray for his recovery. "But", said the missionary, "I hoped you prayed for yourself." "Indeed I did." "And how did you pray?" "I just begged, and God made me well." The little chap had got the true idea of prayer. It is as simple as that for us all. It is just to come to God, like empty-handed beggars, to ask for what we need, and take what He is so willing to give.

*Kneeled down on the shore*, v. 5. "I am puzzled about one thing", said a visitor at

a Government mint to a friend who was in

charge, "and that is, why you do not have more help. People might rush in and overpower

you and carry off a lot of this gold." The friend replied with a smile, "There is no possibility of that. Should I require help, all I need to do is to press this button." Is it a puzzle to some people that men who have been the victims of great vices, have become Christians and have been able to overcome their temptations and never to fall again? The secret is that they have learned to press a button that called almighty power to their assistance; and that button was prayer. Anywhere in the quiet of the home, in the busy thoroughfare of the city, amidst the solitude of the prairie, the grandeur of the mountains, or on the sea-washed shore, wherever the tempter comes, we have but to pray, and our Deliverer is at hand.

*Philip the evangelist . . . four daughters which did prophecy*, vs. 8, 9. The whole family serving God; the father preaching, the four daughters also speaking in the name of the Lord. It is a very beautiful family life when children follow their parents in loving and serving God, and all unite in doing what they can to bring others into the same love and service. A home like Philip's is a beauty spot in the landscape, even if it be a plain, unpainted and unadorned cottage. The training of such a home is a richer inheritance than lands or gold; and the memory of it, when life's separations scatter the household, is a sweet bond that nothing can sever. And think of the joy of its daily life; no jarring or discord, for young and old have one com-