

The Critic's Corner.

Arrangements have been made for the undersigned to occupy a small space in each issue of the CANADIAN EVANGELIST, in criticism upon important and difficult passages of the Word of God, and he will be pleased to receive any suggestions or queries in regard to such from any of its readers; with the understanding, however, that only such questions as relate to what is a practical and useful will receive attention, and that subject of mere speculation or idle curiosity will be discarded. E. SUTHERLAND, Walkerton P. O., Bruce Co.

Matt. iv. 5.

Was Christ literally taken up and set on the pinnacle of the temple? H. B.

I suppose our good brother has, like myself, come in contact with the diversified views of learned writers upon the temptation of Christ by the devil. Some writers, including Calvin, have viewed it as a vision or an allegory; others describe it as a parable spoken by Jesus in order to put His disciples on their guard against temptation; but, as the evangelists who give us the record could only have heard what they record as an actual, objective occurrence from Jesus Himself, we need not confound our minds with the speculations and metaphysical reasonings of scholarly divines; still, in order to show the nature of their notions, we give a few examples: "A conflict which took place in the imagination of Christ."—Weisse. "An inward transaction to which the disciples gave an objective form, as if it had been an external event"—Ullman. "A fragmentary symbolical representation of transactions in the inner life of Jesus."—Neander.

One writer, whose work is open before me, calling in question the personality of the devil states: "Paul says, 'He was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin.' His temptation in the wilderness must, therefore, come into the category of our experiences. This at once excludes the popular idea that it was the supernatural personal devil of popular theology that tempted Jesus. No man is ever tempted in this way, but always by the incitements of the flesh either operating spontaneously from within, or presented to us in an objective manner by the suggestions of a person external to ourselves."

I cannot do better in closing this brief reply to our brother than to quote the following wise remarks upon the subject from Farrar: "On this point (whether the temptation was subjective or objective) which is a matter of mere exegesis, each must hold the view which seems to him most in accordance with the truth; but the most essential point is that the struggle was powerful, personal, intensely real—that Christ for our sakes met and conquered the tempter's utmost strength." E. S.

TWO THINGS DEMANDED.—Dr. Cuyler, in the Independent, says: "During my first ministry in a suburban town I had in my little congregation a very distinguished lawyer for a part of each year. He once said to me: 'The two things I want are simplicity in preaching and downright earnestness. My brain is tasked all through the week with the exacting labors of my profession, and I do not come to God's house to have it taxed again with any intricate questions; I come there simply to be made a better man.'" A volume of suggestion in this for a preacher who is seeking to glorify God and do the true work of a minister.

Dr. T. A. Slocum's

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Children's Work.

Mrs. J. L. Leppard, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont., to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

The Good Child.

When Tommy Brown came home from school A frown was on his brow; His mother said, "What's happened, Tom? What is the matter now?"

Said Tommy, with a darker scowl: "I wish that you could see The way the other children act! They're bad as bad can be!"

"They push and pull, and tear my clothes, And make a horrid noise; They fight at noon-time, and the girls Are worse than the boys!"

"They plague me so I cannot learn; It is no use to try; There's just one good one in the school, And that one, it is I!"

Said Mrs. Brown: "O dear! O dear! Now, I have heard them say That all the other children talk In just that very way;

"And each if anything goes wrong, When questioned will reply, 'There's just one good one in the school, And that one, it is I!'"

—Marian Douglas, in Little Men and Women.

Mrs. Leppard.—The average attendance of the Erin Mission Band since June 1st has been thirteen, which is better than last year. The money collected amounted to \$3.80. Six dollars and seventeen cents were sent to Miss Fleming, \$1.63 spent for other purposes, and sixty five cents in the treasury at the present time. At the first meeting in June each one present received a cent to be brought back in September with interest. The results amounted to \$1.80. The quilt has been finished and sent to Muskoka. Wishing all the other bands a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I remain, M. E. McMILLAN, Sec. Erin, Dec. 20, 1891.

The following is an extract from a letter forwarded to me by our treasurer, from a sister in Prince Edward County. "The most important part of the little offering enclosed is twenty-five cents each from the two dear little folks of our household, Myra P. Garrison and Maurice P. Garrison. They attend the Sunday school here (Methodist) and will each take the prize this year in their respective classes for attendance and greatest number of Bible verses memorized, and are learning to know and love the Lord Jesus. They would gladly take membership in one of the mission bands, but as that is not possible they decide to form a little band of two, and pledge themselves to send an offering of fifty cents each per year."

The Saviour said (Matt. xviii. 19): "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done," etc. Would not the promise hold good if we change ask into do? Or perhaps the better way would be to ask for strength to do in His name, and the promise is sure. The little mission band may be sure of a warm welcome from all the other band. Wishing all the dear children in our bands a very happy and prosperous New Year. J.E.L.

The Gentlewoman.

A gentlewoman never fails in the small, sweet courtesies. Instinctively she respects the feelings of others, and having the golden rule by heart, it is from her heart that all lovely, love-

compelling graces flow. "In her tongue is the law of kindness," and who has the ready tact which takes advantage of every opportunity to render the lives of others happier,

And every morning, with "Good-day," Makes each day good.

Her winning smile and gentle ministrations, her soft voice and unfailing sympathy, insure her always a ready welcome, and, like the sun, she "finds the world bright, because she first makes it so." The fairy tale of our young days has a peculiar charm and attraction. The courteous, cheerful maiden who draws water for the withered old crone, and who listens to her, and replies with amiability, is rewarded with the gift of uttering pearls and diamonds; and, in the less romantic German version, Frau Holle bestows gold pieces as the reward of civility and diligence with that delightful procreancy so characteristic of fairy land.—Harper's Weekly.

Russell Sage to Boys

The boy who is wanted in the business world of to-day must be educated, says Russell Sage in an admirable article on "The Boy that is Wanted," in the November Ladies' Home Journal. If his parents cannot afford to give him a high-school or college education, he must learn to study without the aid of a teacher, in the early morning before business begins, and in the evenings after business hours. It can no longer be truthfully said that an education is out of anyone's reach. Our splendid school system, where one can study day by day or in the evening, has put the priceless treasure of an education within the reach of all. The main thing, in the beginning, that I would impress upon boys is one of the great commandments, "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land whi the Lord thy God giveth thee." The boy who respects his father and mother, who treats his sisters and brothers with loving kindness, has laid a good foundation for a successful career. You will do as your parents tell you, and that certainly will be to study. Don't be in a hurry to get away from your school books. The cares and responsibilities of business life will come soon enough. Go to school as long as you can, and, remember, every hour spent in study in your youth will be worth money to you in after life. Read good books—the Bible above all. Make yourself acquainted with history. Study the progress of nations and the careers of men who have made nations great. If you have no library of your own, join one of the numerous associations to be found in all cities, where good, healthful books may be obtained. Study religion, science, statecraft and history. Learn to read intelligently, so that you may turn to practical use in after life the readings of your youth. Be sure you begin right. Do not waste time in reading trashy books.

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DYSPEPSIA THE LADY BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS. Whose portrait we give, tells in the following letter what D. B. B. did in her case: GENTLEMEN,—A Merry and a Happy Xmas to you, for I have to be thankful for my happiness this Xmas to your D. B. B. I suffered for a long time in England and this country from Dyspepsia, but thanks to your wonderful Blood Bitters, I am in perfect health to-day. In gratitude to you I have an opportunity to praise it, and shall, if possible, never be without it. MRS. SARAH IRELAND, Hertsford, Man.

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