

IV. A LOYAL SERVICE.

One Lord Jesus Christ. v. 6.

"Call me Master and Lord." John 13. 13.

"Confess.... Christ is Lord." Phil. 2. 11.

V. A SERVICE OF LIBERTY.

The liberty of yours. v. 9.

"Not under the law." Rom. 6. 14.

"Stand fast.... liberty." Gal. 5. 1.

VI. A CONSIDERATE SERVICE.

Take heed.... stumbling-block. v. 9.

"Let no man seek his own." 1 Cor. 10. 24.

"Look not.... on his own." Phil. 2. 4.

VII. A SELF-DENYING SERVICE.

Will eat no flesh. v. 13.

"Loveth his brother.... light." 1 John 2. 10.

"No man.... a stumbling-block." Rom. 14. 13.

Thoughts for Young People.

Knowledge and Love.

1. While knowledge is apt to engender spiritual pride, love builds up a substantial Christian character. (Verse 1.)
2. While knowledge fails to find God, love enters into the secret of his keeping, and is secure under his care. (Verses 2, 3.)
3. While knowledge is our guide to doctrine, love should be our guide in practice. (Verses 4-9.)
4. While knowledge looks after our individual rights, love directs us toward helping others. (Verses 9, 10.)
5. While knowledge sets stumbling-blocks in the way of those weaker than ourselves, love seeks to remove them. (Verses 10, 11.)
6. While knowledge may lead us to hinder others, love prompts to deny ourselves in order to help others. (Verses 12, 13.)

Lesson Word-Pictures.

People once would say, "We wonder if Peter Apt-to-stumble will ever get rid of his weakness?"

Peter did have a very evident infirmity. It was a certain weakness in the joints that might show itself before breakfast, and he would fall out of the way—that is, drop out of the house suddenly and come back wiping his lips; or the weakness might not develop until between eleven and twelve in the forenoon, or possibly not until he was going home from work at night, and, again falling, he would drop into a saloon. Very hot weather and very cold weather were sure to bring out the weakness. Holidays were great trials. "The Fourth" brought peculiar difficulty! Alas for Peter if at this time of weakness in the joints there were any stones in the road. He would be sure to go down then, to the present sorrow of his friends and his own after mortification. People all the more won-

dered if Peter would get over his tendency to stumble, for he had a neighbor who was very careless about leaving stones in the road, the very way Peter would travel. Indeed, he would put them there. His name was Neighbor Liberty, for in a very independent fashion he would declare that he had a right to throw as many stones into the road as he pleased, no matter if Peter and his weakness happened along that way. There was an after-dinner stone Neighbor Liberty was likely to drop. One would hear the clink of glasses, and over into Peter's road would drop a stumbling-stone. When Neighbor Liberty had company, or might be at a wedding, you would hear that crystal tinkle, and down would drop a stumbling-stone that Peter or somebody else would fall over. A friend once asked Neighbor Liberty if he did not see what this glass-clinking business meant, that his example was a bad thing; and O, how wrathly Neighbor Liberty was about it! He grew red in the face, swelled like a mad turkey gobbler, and talked in a large way about his liberty, and said if he saw fit to throw a stone into the road, there was no reason why Peter should see fit to pitch over it. Indeed, Neighbor Liberty thought it was very unfit. So Neighbor Liberty kept pitching stones out into the road, and poor Peter, with those weak, trembling knees, kept stumbling.

Luckily, Peter one day found he had another neighbor. The new neighbor was a very conscientious man; very sensitive to other people's claims, while he had backbone enough to take a standing position about his own when necessary. He was told of Peter and his weakness, and he reasoned this way: "If I take any wine, though it be but a very little, still Peter Apt-to-stumble may hear of it. I might take it on the sly and get behind a door; but if a sudden gust of wind should come along and blow that door down, Peter might see me the very first thing; or if the door did not blow down, my habit might get out into public. My breath might get out, for one's breath is very likely to do that thing. There is my example! Then down before Peter's feet would drop a stone of stumbling, and down might go Peter! And Peter, he is my brother. For Peter my Saviour spent days of travel, dusty and hungry; nights, too, of discomfort; and sometimes he had not where to lay his head. At last he went up to a cruel cross, dying there for Peter; dying, too, for me. O, I can't lay any stone of stumbling before my brother for whom Christ died! God help me, and I will help Peter!"

How clean of stones ran the path before the new neighbor's house! Peter saw that clean way. It set him to thinking. This man who loved Christ, the Master, was for another's sake avoiding every thing that might be a stumbling-block.

Did not Christ, the Master, love Peter Apt-to-