

A Parable from China.

BY MATTHEW RICHIE KNIGHT.

SOME sixteen hundred years ago,
The Chinese annals have it so,
And in the reign of Yuen Ty,
An aged dame was seen to his
Each morning to the market-place;
The morning star shone in her face.
She brought each day a magic bowl,
A draught from which restored the soul
Of men; the weary and the weak
Needed no other balm to seek.
Full eagerly the people paid
Their coppers; each a full bowl had,
But could not drain it. Drank they on
From early morn to set of sun,
And, though a thousand times 'twas drained,
Full and o'erflowing it remained.

But not to enrich herself the dame
Their money took from all that came,
'Twas scattered through the provinces
To help the poor and fatherless.

A parable of truth to me
It speaks of God's vast treasury
Of grace, his mercy fathomless,
Eternal as his righteousness;
While all our gifts of gratitude
Bring not to him, but us, their good,
And come with tenfold interest
Back to the humble giver's breast.

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Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

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Society and Sunday-School.

WHAT can the Young People's Society do for the Sunday-school? The question is rightly asked. The society and the Sunday-school exist side by side, and the influence of the one upon the other is certainly a fit subject for inquiry. The answer is twofold.

In the first place, the influence of the Young People's Society should be felt in the Sunday-school as it should be felt in every other legitimate line of Church activity—in a revival of interest in the school. The Young People's Society, at its best, will attract outside young people into its own meetings, and through them to the Sunday-school. It will inspire its members with a more earnest desire to serve Christ by diligent study of the lesson, and, it may be, by faithfully teaching it to a class of younger scholars. This is the indirect influence which the organization of young Christians should have upon the school-room of the Church.

But, apart from the general increase of interest in religious work which springs from the Young People's Society when rightly organized and ju-

iciously directed, there are departments of Sunday-school activity which the organization of young people may enter with better prospects of success than can any other branch of the Church. New scholars may be brought in systematically, not left to the chances of indirect methods and of mere influence. Without ostentation the names of all the young people belonging to no church, and exposed to Sunday temptations, may be gathered, and many of them may be invited to Sunday-school with a cordiality and genuine interest which they cannot readily refuse.

Again, the members of the League or Union, meeting once a week, and coming from many homes, are competent, too, of mutual help in preparing the Sunday-school lesson. You often meet to confer over a difficult corollary in geometry, or to exhibit a new butterfly, or a new specimen in geology. Why not meet to exhibit a new idea on the lesson of Sunday as well as on that of Monday? Why not bring together each week all the books and papers bearing upon the lesson, and by contributions of ideas, photographs, etc., illustrating the subject, make your preparation more perfect, whether you are teacher or pupil? We believe that these informal training-classes may be made profitable to society and Sunday-school alike.—*Our Youth.*

The Young People's Meeting at Pine Grove.

NELLIE AMES spent the first month after her conversion in praying alone. There were many praying verses just suitable to her case, but the ones that impressed her most deeply she found in Matt. xviii. 19, 20:—

"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

It was these wonderful promises that decided her to open her heart to her young friends, and ask them to meet with her, and unite their voices in the petitions that had been ascending from her lips alone. Believing in praying for people by name, these young girls wrote down a list of the names of those whom they knew to be out of Christ, and at every meeting these dear ones were remembered at a throne of grace. In addition to this, by special agreement, the four friends spent half-an-hour at the same time every night, in their own homes, pleading for the outpouring of the Spirit upon themselves and upon the whole community.

One morning, when Nellie was somewhat discouraged, she was asked by her mother to carry some delicacies to a Christian lady, who for years had been an invalid. The young girl needed help, and finally resolved to open her heart to the aged pilgrim, who had been journeying heavenward for more than half a century. After gathering from her visitor the various plans they had been pursuing in their work, the old woman said, very gently:—

"Keep on praying and trusting, my dear, and you will yet have reason to bless God for his faith-



LESSON PICTURE.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.—Matt. v., vi., vii.

fulness. But, while you pray, keep watching for the answers you so much desire. I think that one reason why we so often fail to receive our requests is, that we forget to watch for them."

This was a new condition to successful prayer to inexperienced Nellie, and when she related the incident to her three friends, they knelt together, hand in hand, and prayed that they might have grace not only to pray, but to keep watching for the answer to their requests.

To understand the workings of the glorious revival which followed the establishing of this young people's meeting, one needed to be in their midst, and feel something of the influence that pervaded the meetings. One old orthodox minister, who had heard of the quiet work of grace in progress at Pine Grove, came down from the hills to criticise, that, as he said himself, he was not in the house half an hour until he felt the influence of the Spirit, and, instead of condemning, he remained to pray.

This revival work was not confined to the young people alone, for all ages and classes of people were included in this glorious work of grace. In the children's meeting, I heard little boys and girls not over six years of age, stand up and testify for Jesus; and one of the most touching and impressive scenes in connection with the work was the children's prayer service, when scores of brief petitions from the lips of the little ones went up to the prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God.

Five hundred converts in Pine Grove and adjoining towns date their conversion to this revival, and the good work is still going on. From all over the State come reports of meetings that had their origin in the prayers of the Christian people at Pine Grove.

Nellie Ames is only an ordinary young girl, but she tried to do her duty, and God did the rest, and if you will ask him he will help you too. When this young girl gave herself to Christ, she understood that from that day she was so to walk that others, seeing her, would know that she had been with Jesus. What does your life testify?

TRoubles often meet us in the way of duty. They are designed to try our constancy, courage, and sincerity. Think not I am going wrong, because tried. Wait on the Lord: he shall save thee.

Good breeding is like affection—one cannot have too much of it.