

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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The Gentleness of Christ.

(2 Cor. x. 1.)

["Thy gentleness hath made me great" 2 Sam. xxii. 36; Ps. xviii. 35.]

Where the bright dew drops at early morning
glisten
Upon the purple hills of Galilee,
Rest, weary-hearted! and, adoring, listen
To His dear voice who trod its stormy sea.

"All power in heaven and earth" the Father
giveth
To His Incarnate Son—your Lord and Friend.
"He who was dead," behold "he ever liveth,"
"Lo! I am with you always to the end."

"All power"—and yet "thy gentleness" ex-
ceeding
Is an apocalypse of love divine!
It gives the solace that my heart is needing
The while I strive to make my life like Thine.

When Thy disciples made their blind endeavor
To keep the "little ones," O Christ, from
Thee,
Thy welcome hallowed childhood's life forever,
Thy gentle "Suffer them to come to me."

When faint and weary, longing for her healing,
The faithful woman touched Thy garment's
hem,
Thy word of comfort all Thy love revealing,
Displayed "thy gentleness"—its brightest
gem!

And to St. Thomas, who self-willed would
linger
Amid his doubts, his waywardness and pride,
What tender accents! "Hither reach thy finger,
And thrust it in my wounded hands and
side!"

O bright example left for us to follow!
O perfect life of Nazareth's artisan!
He came to this our world so false and hollow,
The great Ideal—the one true, gentle Man!

And on His glorious throne there still is beat-
ing
His human heart of sympathy and love;
It gave to His first martyr Heaven's own greet-
ing,
The while he "fell asleep" to wake above!

O gracious kinsman! merciful and tender,
With pitying eye look on my low estate!
I would my life, my all, to Thee surrender,
I know "thy gentleness can make me great!"

Great-hearted in Thy work—on Thee relying,
Fill my soul with peace and love divine,
That in Thy blessed service, living, dying,
My every thought and word and work be
Thine!

—R. St. John Blythe.

Opening Exercises.

THE opening exercises are no small part of the influences that go to make up the power of the Sunday-school as a whole. The first five minutes of a Sunday-school ordinarily decide the impressions of the session for the day. It behooves the superintendent, therefore, to consider well what is said, and how it is said, at the beginning. There is, in our opinion, nothing that so solemnizes a school and puts the teachers and pupils into a reverent and devotional mood as a strict observance of the regular order of service, for the opening of the school. If you have not tried it, do so, and in all probability you will continue the practice.
—Our Young Folks.