

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

The Quiet Hour

YOUNG
PEOPLETHE RISEN CHRIST BY THE SEA
OF GALILEE.*

(By Rev. P. M. Macdonald, B.D.)

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine, v. 12.—An employer of some thousands of men said the other day, that he had never had to deal with a strike. Other industries near his have been closed and under police protection for weeks because of labor troubles, but this man's factory wheels have run every working day since they were installed. The men have explained this absence of friction with their employer by saying that he is thoughtful for their welfare. He rewards them in rush times, and he thanks their efforts to help; and in dull times they are still with him. He studies their comfort and health in the construction and arrangements of the work rooms. The employer's explanation is, that he is a follower of Christ, and from such an act as this twelfth verse records he learned to think of men as men and not as machines. When we all learn that evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart, we shall study to help our fellow men by being thoughtful.

Lowest thou me more than these? v. 15.—In Foxe's stories of the martyr days in Scotland there is an account of the young girl, Margaret Wilson, who stood fast in spite of the ordinance that made her religious profession a crime. The officers took her from her home, and kept her in prison for weeks. She was then told that if she gave up her faith, she would be sent back to her home. But she refused. Then food was denied her for some days. "Give up your belief, and you will get food." No, she would not. They tied her to a stake on the tide beach. As the waters rose about her she was promised life if she would recant, but the offer was refused. Home, food, life, were arrayed against Christ, but, more than these, she loved Him, and the waters of the Solway Firth separated her pure soul from her frail body, and she was with God. Unless we love Him more than all or anything else, our love is not love, but only a fickle admiration that can be bought from us.

Feed my lambs..feed my sheep, vs. 15, 16.—Some time ago a man drove into town, having a box on his rough wagon. Standing beside the box, he guarded it all the way, and when he came to the stores, he watched the box while he did business with the people he had to see. At a street corner where he stood with the reins in his hand, his horses took fright. He sprang and caught them close to the bit, but they dragged him and struck him down. He held on until they were stopped, and then his hand relaxed and the crowd saw he was dying. "Why did you hold the brutes?" said one. "They were not worth your life, man," said another. "Look in the box," said the dying man. They looked, and found the farmer's little baby boy kicking up his heels on a straw bed.

Follow me, v. 19.—A good man, and great, too, once said, "These words of Jesus to Peter have carried me through the darkest hours of my spiritual life. They are great words. When the greatest problems of theology and religion

have confounded my intelligence, and I have cried out with all the despair of Pilate, What is truth? I have heard those two words ringing through the awful silence: 'Follow Me; you can do that. Yes, thank God, I could do that.' And it was, did still is, enough. The Saviour will never deny you nor reproach you because of your ignorance, if you keep following Him. You may not understand all the Bible. Many doctrines of the church may puzzle you. Much about Him, you may find it hard to understand, but if you follow Him, He will bring you to a place where knowledge and understanding and mystery are lost in light, and love is all in all.

I will, v. 22.—Our planet is but a small member, comparatively, of a great system of heavenly bodies, and beyond this system are others in countless numbers. There is not a member of these systems, which would not every moment bring destruction upon itself and the whole universe, were not the forces operating upon it so exactly balanced and under such perfect control. And the hand that holds the sun in their places and guides the planets in their courses is the hand of our Saviour. They obey His will. Surely we can trust Him with the directing of our lives.

What shall this man do? v. 21.—The captain of a certain coasting craft was given to the habit of watching very closely the course of other ships. He would persist in steering other ships, while in the wheel-house of his own. One day, coming into a narrow harbor mouth were two ships besides his own, and each man had his hands full to keep off the rocks. The other two were, in the opinion of this captain, out of their course. He was sure they would run ashore. He called a sailor to signal them a warning, and just as he gave the order his own boat gashed her side on a sharp sunken reef. It cost him a large sum to learn that it was his first duty to run his own ship well, and when he had done that, he might criticize and caution his companion captains.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER.

The camel, at the close of day,
Kneels down upon the sandy plain,
To have his burden lifted off,
And rest to gain.

My soul, thou, too, shouldst to thy knees
When daylight draweth to a close,
And let thy Master lift thy load,
And grant repose.

Else how could thou to-morrow meet,
With all to-morrow's work to do,
If thou thy burden all the night
Dost carry through?

The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load,
Then rises up anew to take
The desert road.

So thou shouldst kneel at morning's dawn
That God may give thee daily care,
Assured that he no load too great
Will make thee bear.

It is better to work ones own equipment to the limit than to envy the other man's greater powers.

Let us make known our requests to God, thanking Him for past mercies, and then wait patiently upon Him. So will His peace keep our hearts and minds.

We cannot know Christ in our life unless he is our life.

LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

(By Rev. James Ross, D.D.)

GIRD—The long, loose dress of the Hebrews, hanging in folds down almost to their feet, seriously interfered with any active exercise, such as fast walking, running, or any manual labor which required stooping, or any swift movement of the body. On such occasions the cloak, if not altogether thrown aside, was tucked up, and secured around the waist by a belt or girdle. This was sometimes merely a cord, sometimes a leather belt, such as is now worn by Eastern monks and many Arabs, and occasionally ornamented with work in colored worsted, or silk, or with metal studs, shells or beads. Among those better off, the girdle is a colored shawl, or a long piece of figured white muslin. As they have no pockets in their clothes, a broad wallet is attached to the girdle, and occasionally the leather belt is double, for a foot and a half from the buckle, and this forms a safe purse. The girdle braced the hip joints for special exertion, even when it was not used to hold the cloak in position. The inkhorn of the scribe, with its black fluid, and its case for reed pens, was attached to the belt. As few clasp knives are used in the East, a sheath knife is carried in the girdle, and in the case of Bedouins, a sword of Damascus steel in a chased silver sheath.

INSTANTANEOUS MENTAL
VISION.

What a swift messenger the mind is. It is hindered by no material barriers, but reaches its destination or its purpose with a rapidity that excels the speed of the lightning. It can travel around the world with a swiftness that can outrival the cannon ball. We need but to think of the pyramids and we are there. In the twinkling of an eye the mind transports us to the garden of Gethsemane, or the temple of King Solomon. It travels to the heavens with a rapidity that is swifter than light itself. It annihilates space, and time, and can think of eternity hence in the same moment that it thinks of an eternity past. We close our eyes, but our thoughts are in heaven. We are thinking of its glories. The mind can span the space between the ascension of Elijah and his appearance with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration, and bring the two together in point of time. It can place the manger and the open tomb side by side. If the mind of man can do things so wonderful, what may not God do? If such things are not impossible to man, is there anything impossible with God? If you and I can close our eyes and see the Nile flowing down the valley to the sea, is it so very wonderful that an Infinite Mind can behold all the rivers and the valleys, all the nations and the inhabitants thereof? If you can behold that which your eyes have never seen, that which is purely a mental vision, may not God also see what you have never seen, your inmost soul, your inmost thoughts? If you can in dreams hear sounds that your ears have never heard, such as the roar of Niagara, the booming of cannon, or the song of a bird, may not God hear your words and mine, even though he be invisible and far off in the heavens? When I think of the wonders of the human mind, it helps me to understand God. United Presbyterian.

S.S. Lesson June 14, 1906.—John 21: 12-23. Commit to memory v. 15. Study John 21:1-25. Golden Text—Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matthew 28:20.