

the name of the Lord Jesus." Let any of you who frequent such amusements as I have mentioned, when you return from the gay scenes, open your Bibles and calmly commune with your God; kneel and approach the mercy seat. Ah! you cannot. The fever of excitement still throbs in your brow, the sights are still before your eyes, the sounds still echo in your hearts; you have no ability—shall I say no heart?—to commune with God.

The amusement has stolen your heart away from God, and to you, at least, such amusements are forbidden. The Christian who is seeking to live the right life will ask concerning any pleasure, Can I enjoy it as from God? Can I enjoy it with God and in his presence? Christians who profess to walk with Jesus, can you take him to your amusements—the saloon, the ball-room, the theater, the opera or the oratorio?—*Baltimore Herald.*

Faithfulness In Small Things.

A poor, lame, weak-minded man worked twelve hours daily in a close, hot room as a saddler's apprentice. He had heard a minister say that the humblest work could be performed to God's praise, but he had never understood the meaning of his words.

One day he looked out of the window and saw a runaway horse passing by, drawing a wagon in which sat a pale, frightened woman and her child. A gentleman ran up to it from the pavement, caught and held the bridle till the horse stopped, and mother and child were saved.

Then the poor old cobbler thought: What if the bridle on that horse had not been sewed well or poor thread had been used? The bridle would have broken and three human beings would have been made unhappy. Who knows but what I sewed that bridle!

Filled with this thought, he performed his work with special diligence and faithfulness after this time.—*Lutheran.*

Matins.

BY HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh,

When the bird waketh, and the shadows flee;
Fairer than morning lovelier than the daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee!

Alone with Thee, amid the mystic shadows,
The solemn hush of nature newly born;
Alone with Thee, in breathless adoration,
In the calm dew and freshness of the morn.

As in the dawning, o'er the waveless ocean,
The image of the morning-star doth rest,
So, in this stillness Thou beholdest only
Thine image in the waters of my breast.

When sinks the soul, subdued by toil, to slumber,
His closing eye looks up to Thee in prayer.
Sweet the repose beneath Thy wings o'er-shading,
But sweeter still to wake and find Thee there.

So shall it be at last in that bright morning
When the soul waketh, and life's shadows flee;
O, in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning,
Shall rise the glorious thought, I am with thee

The Hebrews have a saying that God takes no more delight in adverbs than nouns; 'tis not so much the matter that's done, but the manner how 'tis done that God minds. Not how much, but how well! 'Tis the well-doing that meets with a "Well done." Let us, therefore, serve God not nominally or verbally, but adverbially.—*Jenning.*

Our Young People

The Right Use of Ability—Topic for December 8.

Ability And Responsibility.

BY REV. JOHN F. COWAN, D. D.

Salt would never have been made had there been nothing that needed salting. Light for light's sake is an inconceivable proposition. Salt is correlated with salting, and light with lighting, and so with the things to which they correspond in the spiritual world—talents, blessings, opportunities. The genesis of work might be told very much as the Genesis of the patriarch is related, "And Ability Begat Responsibility."

One requisite to making the most of ourselves is to know ourselves accurately. Conceit stands in the way of many a young person's doing his best. It makes him aspire to do some other man's best; to paint pictures poorly, when he was endowed to paint houses well. It is as though the station baggage-truck should pine to be the limited express, and so spoil its usefulness as a truck.

Too much modesty is just as much of a hindrance to doing one's best. And sometimes laziness gets modesty to pull his chestnuts out of the fire. Sensitiveness often keeps us from accepting the help of our best friends in arriving at a true estimate of ourselves.

But, having made the acquaintance of ourselves,—a thing that some never do,—we shall need God's help to bring out the finest qualities of the complex organism. He who made the machine can best set it going at its best pace. We need the touch of the Master's hand on our lives. We need the firmness of purpose He alone can give. We need the ideals no life but Christ's can hold up. We need the inspirations no other rewards but the heavenly prize can impart.

Daily Readings.

- Mon., Dec. 2.—Securing God's help. 1 Kings 3: 5-14, 28
Tues., Dec. 3.—Talents of mind. 1 Tim. 4: 14-16; 2 Tim. 1: 1-7
Wed., Dec. 4.—Spiritual blessings. 1 Cor. 12: 1-11
Thurs., Dec. 5.—Talents of heart. Rom. 15: 1-7
Fri., Dec. 6.—Opportunity is ability. Matt. 25: 24-30
Sat., Dec. 7.—Response to ability. 1 Pet. 4: 7-11
Sun., Dec. 8.—Topic. The right use of ability. Matt. 5: 13-16.

Brotherhood.

BY THE REV. CLEARFIED PARK.

Be kind and be patient, my brother,
For others must bear with you;
And please don't censure another
For the very same things you do.

We've all got sorrows and burdens'
We've all got faults to confess,
'Tis not so much clothes and professions,
As conduct and spirit that bless.

The scholars of Venice told us that the "mistress of the sea" had her vast treasure, not through a few great ships, but by a multitude of lesser vessels. And ours is a world where the richest cargoes of the soul sweep forward in fleets made up of those lesser craft named "two talent people."—*Newell Dwight Hillis.*

We can evade responsibility, but not accountability.—*Charles H. Parkhurst.*

It is significant that it was the man who had only one talent who was guilty of neglecting it. Men with ten talents, men of large gifts and burning energies, either direct their powers nobly and usefully, or misdirect them irretrievably. It is those who belong to the rank and file of life who need this warning most. Others have an abundant store, and sow to the spirit or the flesh with a lavish hand. But we, with our small gift, what boots our sowing? Our temptation as ordinary men is to neglect to sow at all. The interest on our talent would be so small that we excuse ourselves with the reflection that it is not worth while.—*Professor Drummond.*

A farmhouse had stood empty for a long time. When the new occupants had been in for about a month, one of the family met some of the members of a household belonging on a farm across a valley about a mile away. Said these distant neighbors, "We so much enjoy seeing the lights in the windows of your house, for you always keep the curtains up on the side toward us, that we keep ours the same way now, so that you may enjoy them." Shining "unto all that are in the house" is good, but keeping the curtains up so that people outside and at a distance may be cheered is better still. "Ye are the light of the world." Are we reaching as many as we can? or are the curtains down on one side of the house?

Do you know what is the worst thing that can happen to a house? To stand empty. Not the most careless tenant can do such damage as mere idleness will do. And so if you have any ability—and you have—do not let it lie idle while you are waiting for precisely the right chance to use it. Use it, anyway, and the best chances will hunt you up; never fear.—*Russel Sewall.*

No matter how rich the spiritual gift: from Christ may be, unless you stir it up and use it in well doing, it perishes, as the grass and grain in all the fields will spoil if you pack them away green out of the air and light.—*Bishop Huntington.*

Each one of us has a stewardship somewhere, and some gift qualifying him for it. It may be that we are called to very humble duties; still, they are held from God, and constitute a stewardship.—*Dean Goulburn.*

Human life is but a loan to be repaid with use. When He shall call His debtors to account, From whom are all our blessings.
—*William Cowper.*

The Thanksgiving number of The Canadian Housekeeper opens with an article on "Domestic Science, Hindrances to Its Introduction," by the Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario; then follows an excellent article on "The Teaching of Cooking," by Mrs. C. F. Picton—Gadsden. "Light Housekeeping" gives many useful suggestions to people who are obliged to live in one or two rooms. Of a holiday tone are articles on "Dressing and Carving a Turkey" and "Preparing the Thanksgiving Dinner," and very good menus are given for the three meals on Thanksgiving Day. The subscription to this very useful magazine is one dollar per year. Canadian Housekeeper Publishing Co., Toronto.