

The manly face of Harold Bryce glowed. "Don't take it back," he pleaded. "I will be there. I would go anywhere for you, Helen."

A moment later they parted, she to muse over the joy her words had brought to her companion's face, and he to try to forget the promise made to a dying mother a year ago—a promise that he would never touch cards.

As for Tom, he spent a part of each forenoon at his father's office. On the way down he stopped for a box of cigarettes. Then he met a young friend, and they had a game of billiards, the loser paying for the beer.

That was five years ago. The prayer of the family is answered. The only son fills a drunkard's grave. This is not in answer to the prayer their lips fashioned unto God, but the result of the one their lives offered up to society.

## OUR PERIODICALS:

PER YEAR—POSTAGE FREE.

The best, the cheapest, the most entertaining, the most popular.

Christian Guardian, weekly	\$1 00
Methodist Magazine and Review, 96 pp., monthly illustrated	2 00
Christian Guardian and Methodist Magazine and Review	2 75
Magazine and Review, Guardian and Onward together	3 25
The Wesleyan, Halifax, weekly	1 00
Sunday School Banner, 65 pp., 8vo. monthly	0 60
Onward, 8 pp., 4to., weekly, under 5 copies	0 20
5 copies and over	0 50
Pleasant Hours, 4 pp., 4to., weekly, single copies	0 30
Less than 20 copies	0 25
Over 20 copies	0 24
Sunbeam, fortnightly, less than ten copies	0 12
10 copies and upwards	0 15
Happy Days, fortnightly, less than ten copies	0 12
10 copies and upwards	0 15
Berean Leaf, monthly, 100 copies per month	5 50
Berean Leaf, quarterly	0 06
Quarterly Review Service. By the year, 21c a dozen; \$2 per 100; per quarter, 6c a dozen; 60c per 100.	

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

C. W. COATES, S. F. HICASTIS,  
2176 St. Catherine St., Wesleyan Book Room,  
Montreal. Halifax, N.S.

## Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

### THE CHILDREN AND MISSIONS.

The object of Sunday-school instruction is to educate the children not only in the knowledge of God's word, but to train them for usefulness in the church and the world. That is, therefore, a narrow and imperfect method of Sunday-school work that limits it to the lessons and a literary culture incident to a study of the Scripture text.

The children should be taught that they are being prepared for their future life-work, and that what they learn in the school has an intimate connection with the place they are to fill, and the work they are to do, when they become men and women. In this way the Sunday-school becomes a practical aid to the home-training, and fits the children to enter the church as active and useful members.

It is wise, therefore, to carry the benevolent enterprises of the church into the Sunday-school. The children should be trained to give to the poor, to missions, and to every worthy object. Our General Conference has recognized this principle, and provided for the organization of juvenile missionary societies in all our Sunday-schools. It is the duty of pastors, therefore, to see that such societies be formed wherever practicable, not merely as a means of increasing the missionary collections, but that the children may be trained in systematic methods of benevolence, and thus prepared for the great work which lies before them.

If the present adult generation had been properly educated in their duty to give to the cause of Christ, we should not now be so far behind in our home and foreign missionary work. But they were left without any systematic train-

ing, and without proper instruction as to their duty to the world. "Little was sown and little has been gathered."

All rational and permanent benevolence rests upon an intelligent appreciation of personal obligation, and this depends upon a knowledge of the condition and wants of those who are presented as objects of our charity. If we are ever moved to give, or do anything for the heathen we must be able to appreciate their wants. To give simply because we are asked to give, has nothing higher in it than a feeling of kindness, or the impulse of a generous disposition. It is not a moral action, except in a very low sense, much less a religious act. In order to discharge our duty in the sphere of benevolence, we must understand our personal obligation, and act in view of our personal ability.

We must furnish the children under our care with information in regard to their duty. It will not suffice to tell them that they ought to give to the missionary cause. We must give them the reasons upon which the duty rests. We must inform them as to the moral condition of the heathen world, and also as to what God has commanded us to do for them. Much information may be given incidentally on the subject in the course of regular teaching in the Sunday-school; but it is better to have juvenile missionary societies, where such information is made a specialty, and where it may be illustrated and emphasized as it cannot be in class instruction.

The time has come, we think, when the interests of our missionary work demand a more thorough and efficient organization of all our forces, and when our people must be better informed as to their duty to the heathen world. If the church does not do more abroad for the salvation of the world, it will do less at home. The measure of our prosperity at home depends upon what we do abroad. The church has reached a crisis on this subject, and unless we meet it in the spirit of the Gospel, decline is inevitable. Unless our light shine out upon the nations that sit in darkness, God will remove our "candlestick out of his place."—S. S. Magazine.

### EMPEROR WILLIAM AS A CHRISTIAN YOUNG MAN.

BY J. ALBERT SMITH, M.A.

Emperor William, grandfather of the present Emperor of Germany, achieved great victories in peace as well as in war. He was great as a man, as a soldier, as statesman and king; but, best of all, he was a devout Christian. His confident trust in God in hours of greatest peril; his humility in hours of triumph over his enemies; his fidelity to Christian truth and loyalty to God, are an example of true manhood that should be most carefully studied by all our young people.

At the age of eighteen he wrote and adopted his "Life Principles and Vows." These have in them so much that is conducive to genuine manhood, and give us such a view of the innermost depths of this man's character, that I have thought a translation might be a blessing to old and young. I have been led to do this, also, because I believe that, with a few changes, they embrace principles which every young man should adopt.

I have aimed to be as true as possible to the original, even at the risk of at times sacrificing smooth English:

"I with thankful heart acknowledge it as a great blessing that God has permitted me to be born in high station, since therein I possess greater advantages to cultivate (a splendid fortune) my heart and soul, in order that I may do good unto others. I rejoice in my station with humility, and am far from believing that God has in this intended to give me a superiority over others.

"I will never forget that the prince is, nevertheless, also a man, and before God simply a man.

"All things which mankind holds sacred shall be held sacred by me.

"I will ever remain true to the Christian faith which I now profess. I will at all times honour it, and ever seek to possess a warm heart for it.

"I will constantly and immovably put

my trust in God. I will commit all things unto him, and seek to possess, by faith in his providence, a confident spirit.

"I will everywhere remember my God. I will betake myself unto him in all matters, and it shall be a delightful duty for me to bring my soul in accord with him by prayer. I know that without him I am nothing, and without him can do nothing.

"I will beware of all things by means of which I might degrade myself as a man, since as a prince I would far more degrade myself by them. Especially will I shun the sins of intemperance and sensuality, which sink human nature to deepest degradation.

"I will unceasingly labour to cultivate my heart and soul so that I, as man and as prince, may ever reach to higher attainment.

"I know how much I, as man and prince, am indebted to true honour. Never will I seek my honour in matters in which misconception alone can find it.

"My powers belong to the world—to the Fatherland. I will therefore remain unceasingly faithful in my appointed sphere, employ my time in the best manner, and accomplish as much good as is in my power.

"I will keep and nourish a genuine and hearty feeling of goodwill toward all mankind, even toward the humblest, for they are all my brethren.

"I will not, because of my princely dignity, act in an overbearing manner toward any one. I will oppress no one by means of my authority as a prince. And wherein I am obliged to demand anything of others, I will show myself condescending and friendly, and seek, as far as I am able, to make the fulfilment of their duty easy for them.

"To be loved is held by me in much higher esteem than to be feared, or simply to have the authority of a prince.

"I will encourage and reward merit, and especially will I bring to light that which is retired and hidden.

"I will perform official duties with great punctuality, and also hold my subalterns sternly to their obligations, yet treating them with friendship and kindness.

"I will labour unceasingly for the improvement of my heart and life.

"I will begin each day by a remembrance of God and my duty, and each evening I will carefully prove myself concerning the use made of the past day.

"Corrupt men and flatterers I will determinately shun. The best, the most upright and truest, shall be dearest to me. I will consider those my friends who tell me the truth at times when it might be displeasing to me.

"Every temptation to evil I will powerfully resist, and pray God to strengthen me."

Surely, after reading these principles and vows, no one need wonder at the greatness of Emperor William. His life was a fulfilment of the promise: "Them that honour me I will honour."

### FAMILY LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

It is easy in our days for hungry readers to supply their wants from circulating or public libraries. It is easy, in general, to borrow books from accommodating neighbours. But books obtained in this way, read rapidly, and returned, cannot fill the place of a home library. This is a vital need in every family circle comprising eager and inquiring children. Wise parents study the wants of their children, sympathize with their tastes, and provide them with fascinating and instructive reading, that gives a daily charm to home life. A few shelves—called the children's book-case—filled with the best works of popular authors, have a magnetism whose power is never lost. They throw a glamour about one's early years, creating beautiful dreams, stirring noble thoughts and generous aims, and sowing precious seed, whose fruitage is abundant.

It is not surprising that so many farmers' sons and daughters desert the homestead as soon as they outgrow parental control, for the home-life has been too narrow and barren to satisfy them. No books, no paintings, no music, no pleasure, no amusements! Drudging toil

from Monday morning to Saturday night, relieved only by meals and sleep! What active mind would not grow weary of such monotony? A pleasant library, to feed restless minds in long evenings and on stormy days, would have thrown pleasant associations around farm life, and have kept the homes' end in the family for successive generations. It ought not to excite wonder that so many boys in town and city find their way to the streets at night, and fall easy victims to evil habits and corrupt associates. Their best safeguard was in a home full of sunshine, made attractive by pleasant books and cheerful conversation. Having no such home, acquiring no love for reading, and finding nothing to attract and satisfy in life within doors, their active natures drive them to the streets in search of amusement, and expose them to untold perils. But the responsibility for low tastes and vicious indulgences belongs in part, at least, to the parents, who failed to give a magnetism to home life.

A library in every English home should be one of our national mottoes—a library, the children may call their own, and in which they may feel a personal interest and pride. The material is abundant from which to draw to satisfy every disposition and taste. A library in every home! It will give food to the hungry, and medicine to the sick, and cheerfulness to the desponding. It will carry sunshine to many gloomy households, fill empty minds with wholesome thoughts, form healthy tastes in children, and lead them to despise low indulgences, and shun evil associates.—Methodist S. S. Record.

### JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE.

PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC.

OCTOBER 4, 1896.

Christ and the children.—Mark 10, 14-16.

Mothers were desirous to bring their children to Christ, and in their attempt to do so, were discouraged instead of being encouraged, by the disciples. Persons who would deprive children of any favour must be strange specimens of humanity, and the disciples richly deserved the censure, or reprimand, which Christ gave them. Every child, whether young or old, male or female, can always rejoice that they have a friend in Jesus.

CHRIST'S COMMAND.

Verse 14. He in effect says, "Let them come, help them all in your power, remove everything out of their way." This is what all good people are doing. The design of Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues is to bring children to Christ. Anything short of this is labour lost and time improperly spent. John was the youngest disciple, and none stood higher in Christ's estimation than he. There are more encouraging verses in the Bible for children and young people than there are for any other class.

HOW WE ARE TO RECEIVE CHRIST.

Like children. This means that we are to be humble, not proud or high-minded. Then, too, we must have faith. See how children believe all that their mothers tell them. They do not reason nor question the truth of what their parents say. Just so we must believe in Christ. We will become members of Christ. He will reign in us, his kingdom will be set up in our hearts. He will rule over us as the Lord God of every nation. We will not be our own, we will belong to Christ.

Hymnal—Hymn 98

Commit verses 1 and 2 to memory. The author of the hymn is Mrs. Jemima Luke.

"I think when I read that sweet story of old, When Jesus was here among men, How he called little children as lambs to his fold, I should like to have been with him then.

I wish that his hands had been placed on my head.

That his arms had been thrown around me.

That I might have seen his kind look when he said,

Let the little ones come unto me."