

die rich, then money is the principal object with him, and it becomes a curse to himself and generally to those who spend it after him, for you know it must be spent some day; the only question is whether the man who makes it shall spend it or some one else, and generally it is better for the maker to spend it, for he will know best its value and use. This is the true law of life."

A WRITER in the *Colonist* (Winnipeg) says regarding the probable future of what is regarded in this part of Canada as an unpromising part of the great North-West:

What the farmers of the North-West are advocating, and to which they are pledged to give their substantial aid, is the construction of a railway which will give them the shortest and cheapest route to the English market for the sale of their produce; this can be achieved by the construction of the Hudson's Bay railway. The line authorized by Parliament follows the Valley of the Nelson River for some three hundred miles, and then runs with one arm through the Province of Manitoba to Winnipeg, and with the other through the territory of Saskatchewan to Regina, the capital of Assiniboia, altogether a length of about eight hundred and fifty miles.

The Nelson River is one of the three largest rivers in North America, embracing within its area by its lakes and tributary streams eleven degrees of latitude, comprising the whole of the wheat producing country of the North-West.

Port Nelson is nearer to Liverpool than Montreal by about one hundred miles, and the navigation of Hudson's Bay is practically open for as long a period during the year as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Taking Regina as the centre of the great wheat-producing region at the present time, Port Nelson is about equally distant with Port Arthur on Lake Superior, so that, without counting the immense advantage of direct shipment from Port Nelson, there is a saving of one thousand miles over the route by Port Arthur and Montreal to Liverpool. The farmers of the North-West estimate the saving in the carriage of grain via Port Nelson as equal to three dollars an acre.

The navigation of Hudson's Bay was long held in bad repute, like the land of the North-West Territory. The resident Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, Sir George Simpson, told the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1857, "that the land was unfitted for colonization, that the company had tried the cultivation of wheat and had failed, that it was only necessary to dig a few inches into the ground to find eternal frost, that he had paddled his canoe over the houses of the settlers at Fort Garry," now the handsome city of Winnipeg, with its stately buildings, great railway centre,

and thirty thousand inhabitants—but a small portion of the country adjacent thereto, producing last year upwards of twenty millions of bushels of wheat, claimed to be in great part the finest in the world.

Now close the book and lay it away—
The Old Year's Book; we have read it through,
Leaf after leaf, and day after day,
We have turned the pages, both I and ye.

What it has told us full well we know,
Each for himself the story has read;
A bitter tragedy, full of woe—
Alas! they found it who mourn their dead.

And some have read of trial and pain,
Of weary burdens, so hard to bear,
Of bright hopes crushed, again and again,
Turning its pages in blank despair.

"A pleasant story," others may say,
"Telling us more of joy than of pain;
Almost sadly we lay it away—
Would we might open and read it again!"

And some have read it with love's own eyes,
By the light that love alone can give,
While the pages glowed with love's surprise,
And life were joy, and 'twere joy to live.

But close the book, the story is old;
Lay it away with a smile or a tear;
Written in black, or written in gold,
We open the book of another year.

—Selected.

EVERY member of God's Church ought to be in some way a working member; not one is to be excused. If you cannot teach a Sunday-school class regularly, you can now and then volunteer to fill a vacancy, one or two of which usually happen every Sunday. You can, perhaps, attend the adult Bible class. I shall never forget the help given me in my first attempt to conduct such a class by an honoured and venerable lady—a true "Mother of Israel"—who came into the room and quietly seated herself near me. I felt her very presence to be a tower of strength. If you send your children to Sunday-school you can see that they go regularly, and with their lessons prepared. An hour during the week spent with your child over her Bible lesson will be worth a hundred times more to her and to you than six times as many hours spent over worse than needless finery.—*Parish Visitor*.

THE world lauds and admires Arctic explorers who spend one or two seasons in Arctic regions; but very little is heard of the men and women who spend a life time in these same regions that the perishing natives may receive the light of the Gospel. It takes about \$50,000 to fit out an Arctic expedition for two years for the sole purpose of getting a few miles farther north than anyone else; but the Church hesitates if asked to provide \$10,000 for an Arctic mission!