

Our Young People

read the story of the healing of the sick woman: "He touched her hand and the fever left her; and she arose and ministered unto them."

"Ah," she said, "if I could have had that touch before I began my morning's work, the fever would have left me, and I should then have been prepared to minister sweetly and peacefully to my family." She had learned that she needed the touch of Christ to make her ready for beautiful and gentle service.—Selected.

Bear Ye One Another's Burdens,

BY FENELON.

In order to be satisfied even with the best people, we need to be content with little and bear a great deal. Even the most perfect people have many imperfections; and ourselves have as great defects. Our faults combined with theirs make mutual toleration a difficult matter; but we can only "fulfil the law of Christ" by "bearing one another's burdens." There must be a mutual loving forbearance. Frequent silence, habitual recollection, prayer, self-attachment, giving up all critical tendencies, faithfulness in putting aside all the idle imaginations of a jealous, fastidious self-love—all these will go far to maintain peace and union. How many troubles would be avoided by this simplicity! Happy is he who neither listens to himself nor to the idle talk of others.

Be content to lead a simple life where God has placed you. Be obedient; bear your little daily crosses—you need them, and God gives them to you only out of pure mercy.

The Waste of the Ointment.

BY REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.

Mary's ointment was wasted when she broke the vase and poured it upon her Lord. Yes; but suppose she had left the ointment in the unbroken vase? What remembrance would it then have had? Would there have been any mention of it on the Gospel pages? Would her deed of careful keeping have been told over the world? She broke the vase and poured it out, lost it, sacrificed it, and now the perfume fills all the earth.

We may keep our life if we will, carefully preserving it from waste; but we shall have no reward, no honor from it, at the last. But if we empty it out in loving service, we shall make it a lasting blessing to the world, and we shall be remembered forever.

How Near Is Heaven!

BY C. STANFORD.

The nearness of heaven is suggested by the epithet "veil." There is only a veil between us and heaven. A veil is the thinnest and frailest of all conceivable partitions. It is but a fine tissue, a delicate fabric of embroidery. It waves in the wind; the touch of a child may stir it, and accident may rend it; the silent action of time will moulder it away.

The veil that conceals heaven is only our embodied existence; and, though fearfully and wonderfully made, it is only wrought out of our frail mortality. So slight is it that the puncture of a thorn, the touch of an insect's sting, the breath of an infected atmosphere, may make it shake and fall. In a bound, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, in the throbbing of a pulse, in the flash of a thought, we may start into disembodied spirits.

There is but a step between you and death; between you and heaven there is but a veil!

How the Weak Become Strong.

2 Cor. 12: 9, 10; Isa. 41: 10; 58: 11.

Topic for June 8.

Our Leader Speaks.

In one sense, the strongest being in any home is the baby. He draws to his needs the entire household. No expense is spared for him, no trouble is for a minute regarded. The mute appeal of his helplessness brings to his feet whatever resources the parents have, though they be king and queen, and though they possess the wealth of many gold-mines.

In one sense, the Christian's strength must be like the baby's. It must be humble always. It must rest in God. It must know that when it is weak, then and then alone it is truly strong. That is, the Christian must realize his complete and final dependence on the Most High. Then He will serve Him and trust Him, and will not make the fatal error of trusting in himself.

And yet—and yet—what sorrow would be in the household if the baby remained thus weak and dependent! If for long years his powerlessness should drain the resources of the parents! If he should never be able to repay the gifts they gladly lavished upon him in his days of feebleness!

No, though Christians must begin as babes in Christ, and get their strength from that attitude, they must not remain babes. They have men's work to do. They are daily to receive from God in the baby's fashion, but they are daily to give back to God in the man's fashion. They are to be borne in the everlasting arms. Yes, but they are also to bear arms in the world's army.

Are any of us doing the first, but neglecting the second? Are any of us getting strength, but forgetting to use it?

Daily Readings.

Mon., June 2.—Like rain.	Ps. 72: 1-7
Tues., June 3.—Like fire.	Mal. 3: 1-6
Wed., June 4.—Like sunshine.	Mal. 4: 1-6
Thurs., June 5.—Like a shepherd.	Isa. 40: 10-17
Fri., June 6.—Strength from joy.	Neb. 8: 9-12
Sat., June 7.—Our Rock.	Ps. 18: 1-6
Sun., June 8.—Topic. How the weak become strong.	2 Cor. 12: 9, 10; Isa. 41: 10; 58: 11

Prayer.

BY PHILIP DODDRIDGE.

O Thou ever-blessed Fountain of life, I bless Thee that Thou hast infused into me Thy own vital breath, so that I am become a living soul. It is my earnest desire that I may not only live, but grow; grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May I grow in patience and fortitude of soul, in humility and zeal, in spirituality and heavenly disposition of mind. In a word, as Thou knowest I hunger and thirst after righteousness, make me whatever Thou wouldest delight to see me. Draw on my soul by the gentle influence of Thy gracious Spirit, every trace and every feature which Thine eye, O Heavenly Father, may survey with pleasure, and which Thou mayest acknowledge as Thine own image. I ask and hope it through Him of whose fulness we have all received. Amen.

Our Members Testify.

Dr. Pentecost says that the failures in Christian life are not due to the lack of power, but to the failure to use the power we have. God always makes a man strong enough for the work He gives him to do.

Phillips Brooke once said that we could go through the crowded streets of heaven, and we would look in vain for any soul that did not get there through struggle. On the earth each soul was a weak man, who became strong through Christ, and in spite of his lower self.

If you take exercise with the dumb-bells, a tape-measure around your arm or chest will not show any difference to-morrow from what your measurement was to-day. But after a few months of such work, the tape-measure will show a difference. And so it is with our gaining of spiritual strength; it is a matter of time and practice.

Ruskin said wisely, "We are not to do great things by the help of iron bars and perspiration. All the greatest works in existence," he adds, "say plainly to us not. There has been a great effort here, but, There has been a great power here." We are to do things by the Power that works in us and through us, and not by our own folly and weakness.

It is possible to grow rich by hoarding money that comes in, but it is never possible to grow strong in any such way. You get strength by using what you have. If you want the blacksmith's power, you must do the blacksmith's work. If you want the power of a Paul, you must do the work of a Paul, and the power will come as you go on in the work.

Once there was a Methodist minister who began his Bible-reading before the congregation thus: "I can do all things"—Paul, you are a liar. "I can do all things"—Paul, you are a terrible liar. But I beg your pardon, Paul, I see it all now,—through Christ which strengthened me." That is quite another thing! Paul, you are quite right. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!"

Grace Abounding

I have had sweet sights of the forgiveness of my sins in this place, and of my being with Jesus in another world. O the Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the innumerable company of angels, and God, the Judge of all, and the spirits of just men made perfect, and Jesus, have been sweet unto me in this place. I have seen that here which I am persuaded I shall never, while in this world, be able to express. I have seen a truth in this Scripture: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though, now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." I never knew what it was for God to stand by me at all times and at every offer of Satan to afflict me, as I have found him since I came hither; for lo, as fears have presented themselves, so have supports and encouragements; yea, when I have started, even as it were at nothing else but my shadow, yet God, as being very tender of me, hath not suffered me to be molested, but would, with one Scripture or another, strengthen me against all; inasmuch that I have often said, were it lawful, I could pray for greater trouble for the greater comfort's sake.—John Bunyan.