

SEPTEMBER 27.—OUR INDIAN BOYS AND GIRLS WHO GO TO SCHOOL. Ep. 6: 19-17.

In the days of the pioneer missionaries, Thomas Crosby, George McDougall and James Evans, there were no medical missionaries to the Indians. These men were the first teachers of many of the Indian boys and girls. To-day we have day schools, boarding schools and industrial institutions, where the boys are taught farming and the girls are trained in housekeeping, sewing, etc.

At Norway House there is a boarding school. There are institutes at Muncey, Ontario; Brandon, Manitoba; Red Deer, Alberta; and Chilliwack, B.C. At Port Simpson, where Dr. and Mrs. Crosby began schools and opened homes for the Indians, there is a school, a Boys' Home, and a Girls' Home, as well as a day school. On all the Indian Reserves there are schools, and at all our Indian Missions. The Government provides for part of the expense of all educational work.

This educational work has been most beneficial, and through the schools our missionaries try to win the girls and boys for Christ and the Church. Not only can we pray to God for the Indian children, but our fathers can help in having the laws of our country so framed that the Indians may be protected from bad white people.

The education of the boys and girls is the hope of the Indian world. In the little book "Our Indians and their training for Citizenship," by Rev. Thompson Ferrier (15c.), may be found the answers to the following: What sort of education should the Indian receive? Why should the Indian learn farming and stock-raising? Is Manual Training of great importance? Why is the Indian conservative?

Suggestive topics for development by Superintendent. The foundation of education must be the development of character.

Practical methods for 18,000 Indians of school age in Canada.

Difficulties of boarding schools.

Self-sacrifice of the workers.

What the Indian children learn in an industrial institution.

The advantages of the outing system.

The Indian who has passed middle life cannot be changed, for his habits and ideals have been formed. Our hope is with the young, whom we desire to have minds well stored with practical knowledge and well-developed, healthy bodies, so that as they enter eventually the various walks of life they may be prepared for self-support.

What can we do to assist our teachers and missionaries in this great work?

C. G. W.

OCTOBER 4.—LIVES THAT TALK.

Acts 1: 8; 2 Cor. 3: 2.

Let us make a study of the second text especially. Paul says "Ye are our epistles." What does he mean. Let us see. We are all more or less familiar with the Epistles of Paul as they are found in the New Testament. But we would look in vain for the epistle to which he refers in this text. In the next verse notice that he says "ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshly tables of the heart."

Epistles are letters, sometimes written on parchment, tablets, paper or other surfaces; but Christ's epistles are written in the lives of His people and are read as their characters are manifest by daily conduct in the world. . . . Although Christ's person has been withdrawn from the earth in visible form, His life is to continue, reproducible in His followers. The verse, Acts

1: 8 in the lesson, tells how the spiritual power given to the disciples helps them to live this Christ life among men and be "living epistles read and known of all men." To understand this more fully, notice the following *five* items which are included in every epistle or letter:—

1. There must be a scribe or writer. In the case of Christ's living epistles this writer is said to be "the Spirit of the living God." When Paul says "ministers" by us," we suppose that that he was the human agent used by the Holy Spirit to bring about their conversion, but whatever of Truth has been written on their hearts, he says, has come from the work of the Holy Spirit. So Christ's epistles are spiritual, and are to carry a spiritual message. This will appear from—

2. The subject-matter. Every letter has some message, it is written about something or someone. In this case the subject-matter is "Christ." Those who read our lives should see Christ written there. This is the principal way in which Christ is to be made known,—through the actions of His people. . . .

3. In preparing an epistle there must be writing materials also. We may write with pen and ink or pencil, but in every case there is some way of making our words visible. Paul says of Christ's epistles, "not with ink." He means that the Divine writer uses heavenly materials for making spiritual impressions on our hearts, and that, as in Gal. 5: 22-25, the results are spiritual.

4. Every letter, when it is written to us, addresses, some one or some thing. We would not think of writing and mailing a letter without addressing it, would we? Christ's epistles are sent out to "all men." That reminds us that the world reads our lives from day to day. If those lives witness Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, our testimony for Him is just as clear as if His message were written on parchment so that men could read it there. Let us remember, the world reads our lives.

5. There must be some way of sending the letter. So Christ sends us out among our fellows that they may learn of Him. His letter, written on our hearts, can do nobody else any good if we shut ourselves up and away from them. Jesus wants us where we can best "witness" for Him every day.

So we may learn two great things: (1) Christ is teaching the world through our lives, and (2) the world is reading these epistles every day. The one great question for us to be very sure of is that we are genuine epistles of Christ. We may test ourselves (2 Cor. 13: 5). Have you heard of a "palimpsest"? If not, you will soon. It is some day. Remember that a manuscript from which the original writing has been effaced and over which another writing has been made is called by this name (pal-imp-sest, with the accent on the first syllable), and often it is only by very close inspection that the first or original writing can be at all made out. We must be very sure that the message of men seen in our lives is genuine and not covered by other things that hide Christ. Be a genuine epistle for Him.

OCTOBER 11.—WHAT HAVE I TO GIVE? Acts 3: 6.

This beautiful story shows that at least every person who loves Jesus may do something for somebody else. Have some bright Junior tell the story as St. Luke records it in the history. Then make the lesson clear. We say "lesson," for it is better to teach the one outstanding truth of sympathetic helpfulness than try to outline everything the incident conveys. . . . Here was a man who was in

need. Perhaps he thought his chief need at the time was money. It looks like it.

Here were men who saw an opportunity of helping the needy man, but they had no money. And perhaps they knew better than the lame man that his most urgent need was not money, but given him by others in the way of charity, but power to make money for himself by his own ability to work. It looks that way. . . . The two whole men had no more money, perhaps not as much as the lame man had, but they knew something better than money and that was the power of Jesus. By the power the man was given something of far greater value to him than any amount of cash. He was made whole, able to walk, strong to work, and we hope he never begged any more, for well men should never beg.

The modern application of this incident as it relates to us and others, especially to the children of our homes and congregations, is plain. They may not have money to give to the poor. We think they ought to have some, for we believe that every boy and girl in all our Christian homes should be taught the use of money for the glory of God. Still the fact remains that very few boys and girls have much if any money to give. What then? Money is not the only thing. Nor is it always the best thing. Nor is it often the wise thing to give money to the poor. . . . Better than money is personal ministry. By that means, that giving something to somebody, but doing something for somebody, so that they may be better able to do it for themselves before long. . . . Of course, boys and girls cannot go round making sick people well, and yet they may prevent people from becoming sick by learning themselves and then teaching others how to be well and to keep well. . . . Every boy and girl should know that three things are needed for health—air, food and exercise. The air must be pure, the food wholesome, and the exercise regular. . . . Lots of people live in impure air, others do not know how to prepare good, wholesome food, and others again either take too little exercise or else the exercise they do take is more harmful than helpful. . . . Plenty of sickness exists in the world that should never be there. Learn how to keep well and then teach others who do not know. But that is not all. There are persons in almost every neighborhood who need to be cheered up. Every boy and girl in the Junior League should be able to "cheer" not only by making a noise in praise of the flag, the King, or other popular person on some holiday occasion, but to make other people happy in the sense of Jesus when He said "Be of good cheer." Cheer up! may well be the greeting with which we approach many people whom we meet from day to day. . . . We cannot give much money, we cannot do great deeds of ministry, but we can say cheerful things, we can smile, we can say a little bit. That's the secret of ministry; after all, its blessedness is not in the big things it accomplishes, but in the unobtrusive deeds of kindness it performs in the common walks of life everywhere. . . .

Our Juniors should be impressed with this. Do not wait till you are grown up and become rich before you start to give. Give now. Do not think that money is the best gift in the sight of our Heavenly Father at any time. Remember what Jesus said about the "cup of cold water." If you have no money and but little sense, do not do great deeds, do what good you can. Do it willingly, cheerfully, frequently, and soon it will become a daily habit, or, as we say sometimes, "second nature" to you. Above all, do it not because you think you ought but because you love Jesus and must.