

tread," and what the consequence when whole troops of boys and girls follow the author in his invasion of holy places! As a writer in the *Critic* aptly puts it, "We shall shortly see our young, uninformed, all-ignorant readers making a religion of their emotions, regulating life by their impulses, turning passion into play, and play into passion." Is there not missionary work here? Surely we who bear on our foreheads the mark of the Lord Jesus, and who do feel, even if dimly, the greatness of His love toward mankind, surely we should bestir ourselves in this matter. Oh let us remember what momentous issues are at stake! Nothing is more certain than that society in Christian communities is based on the Christian religion, and that woman especially owes her elevated position to its principles. Let our light so shine before men that our works may glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Can we not, to some extent, inculcate a love for reading which is really good and ennobling, always placing the Bible first of course? There are many pleasant stories written, which convey sound principles, but even these must have their proper time and place; they must not be allowed to crowd out the more serious reading, which boys and girls are so apt to let go, unless their interest is aroused by conversation or some other means. Is there no missionary work here, especially for mothers and sisters?

And we have considered only one of the numerous openings for the Home Missionary. Are we all doing what we can towards increasing that reverence for holy places and holy things which we find so sadly lacking in many of the boys and girls about us? Let us pray earnestly that the Giver of all good things will enable us to think those things that be good, and by his merciful guiding, help us to perform the same, that our precepts may be strengthened by our example! Alas! how many rest content that both precept and example be supplied by the Sunday School teachers, and this brings us to the contemplation of another branch of Home Missions. What an awful responsibility rests upon the Sunday School teacher! Yet how many before entering on the work ever really count the cost! In spite of herself (and I say *her* advisedly, for in my experience women are allowed a monopoly in Sunday School teaching—there certainly their rights are not disputed), she is the model for her class, and her pupils will measure their conduct by hers to a very great extent. Whatever license she allows herself, she may rest assured they will take double, not having her discretion. Not only in Sunday School must her conduct be above reproach, but in her everyday life; she must remember that the sharpest of sharp critics are taking note of word and act. A lesson on charity for instance will surely lose much of its force if the teacher is known to be uncharitable in her remarks about others, or a lecture on patience if she be irritable and impatient herself. To increase her influence with her class,

she may be often called upon to sacrifice her time and her pleasure; but she has a noble example before her of one who pleased not Himself, but was willing sacrifice everything for His brethren, even to that sacrifice on the cross. Earnestly must she strive to make that sacrifice a *living reality* to the pupils under her charge,—not simply teach it as any other historical fact might be taught. There is great danger of training the intellect rather than of appealing to the heart; and if the heart be not touched, and the child made to feel its need of the Saviour, and His willingness to aid it, the teaching has fallen far short of the true end and aim. Who is sufficient for these things? "If anyone lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him."

In conclusion, as I do not wish to trespass upon your time, I shall touch but lightly upon one other branch of Home Missionary work—visiting the poor and the afflicted. What assistance can be rendered the too often overworked clergy, in this matter, by the women of the parish! Who among us could not spare a little of our time to spend with those upon whom the hand of affliction has been laid? God, in His infinite wisdom, has not given a great amount of this world's goods to many of us; but there are few of us who could not make someone's burden lighter by kindly sympathy and a willingness to help to the extent of our power. Let us remember that He who says "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," so highly commended the woman who had "done what she could."

O, could we love Thee more,
Could we but image forth Thy love again,
That were true life! Are we the mercy clay?
Do Thou, O Heavenly Potter, deign to press,
And mould and form us in Thy righteousness!
Are we the gold? O take our dross away!
Do with us what Thou wilt, but let us be
"Meet for the Master's use," and true to Thee.

THE SAILORS' REST.



AMONG the many missionary and philanthropic efforts in the Old Country, by no means the least, is Miss Agnes E. Weston's work for the benefit of sailors. She has established homes for them and cares for their wives and children in every way possible. The following, taken from her interesting monthly called "Jottings From My Log," shows how she looks after the temporal welfare of Jack and his family:—

"It is all very well to sing 'The sailor's wife the sailor's star should be.' Very often she is, but a starving wife and family at home will not give Jack much heart to fight and serve in the 'Queen's Navee' abroad. Some indignant persons may say, 'What a disgrace that the country should allow this; it ought not to be—what can the Admiralty be thinking of?' The Admiralty are think-