

had long ago been caught into the third heaven, and was now hearing words which it is not lawful to utter. Campbell in his watch-tower at the back had closed his eyes, and was praying. The women were weeping quietly, and the rugged faces of our men were subdued and softened, as when the evening sun plays on the granite stone.

But what will stand out forever before my mind was the sight of Marget Howe. Her face was as white as death, and her wonderful gray eyes were shining through a mist of tears, so that I caught the light in the manse pew. She was thinking of George, and had taken the minister to her heart.

The elders, one by one, gripped the minister's hand in the vestry, and the plain, homely men, they were the godliest in the glen; but no man spoke save Burnbrae.

"I a' but lost ae fairm for the Free Kirk, and I wud hae lost ten tae be in the Kirk this day."

Donald waltz with me homeward, but would only say "There was a man sent from God whose name was John." At the cottage he added, "The friend of the bridegroom rejoiced greatly because of the bridegroom's voice."

Beneath the honeysuckle at his garden gate a woman was waiting.

"My name is Marget Howe, and I'm the wife of William Howe of Whinnie Knowe. My only son was preparin' for the ministry, but God wanted him nearly a year syne. When ye preach the Evangel o' Jesus the day I heard his voice, and I loved you. Ye hev nae mither on earth, I hear, and I hae nae son, and I want it the day that if ye ever wish tae speak to ony woman as ye wad tae yir mither, come tae Whinnie Knowe, an' I'll coont it aue of the Lord's consolations."

His aunt could only meet him in the study, and when he lookt on her his lip quivered, for his heart was wrung with one wistful regret.

"Oh, auntie, if she had only been spared to see this day, and her prayers answered."

But his aunt flung her arms round his neck.

"Dinna be cast doon, laddie, nor be unbelievin.' Yir mither has heard every word, and is satisfied, for ye did it in remembrance o' her, and yon was yir mither's sermon."—Jan Maclaren.

Engineering by a Mouse.

"While digging holes for telegraph poles at Byron, Me.," said a Western Union man, "I became interested in watching the ingenuity and perseverance of a mouse. He fell into one of the holes, which was four and a half inches across and twenty inches deep. The first day he ran around the bottom of the hole, trying to find some means of escape, but could not climb out. The second day he settled down to business. He began steadily and systematically to dig a spiral groove round and round the inner surface of the whole with a uniformly ascending grade. He worked night and day, and as he got further from the bottom he dug little pockets where he could either lie or sit and rest."

"At the end of two weeks the mouse struck a rock. This puzzled him. For nearly a day he tried to get under, around, or over the obstruction, but without success. With unflinching patience he reversed his spiral and went on tunnelling his way in the opposite direction. At the end of four weeks he reached the top, and probably sped away to enjoy his well-earned freedom. His escape was not seen. When his food was put in in the morning he was near the surface, but at night the work was seen to be complete, and the little engineer, whose pluck and skill had saved his life, had left."—Sun.

The Best Nuts.

One morning Harold called for Charlie, his friend, on his way to the kindergarten. And they stopped at what Harold called the hot peanut man's to spend Harold's nickel, which had been given him because for a whole week he had not missed his lessons.

"I think peanuts are the best nuts in the world," said Charlie, as they walked on eating.

"Butternuts are good, too," said Harold, "and walnuts. But I tell you what, Charlie, when I was at grandma's farm last summer, and when we were playing all day, and come in tired and hot and thirsty, grandma made us wash our faces and sit down for awhile, and then would bring out a glass of milk, and a plate of doughnuts, and doughnuts are the very best of all."

"That's so," said Charlie, "specially if she gave you a great big plateful hot. I believe I do like them better than peanuts."

"She always did," said Harold. "And she never seemed to mind how many of them we ate, and always asked if they were good, and if we had enough; and there isn't a shell to 'em, and they're just as big and fat and good!"

"Just like a grandma themselves," said Charlie.—Exchange.

The Young People.

EDITORS, REV. E. E. DALEY,
A. H. CHIPMAN.
Kindly address all communications for this department
to A. H. Chipman; St. John.

Prayer Meeting Topics for April.

C. E. Topic.—The brotherhood of man, 1 John 3: 1-24. (A missionary topic).

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Sowing and reaping, Gal. 6.

B. Y. P. U. Daily Bible Readings.

(Baptist Union.)

Monday, April 12.—Job 8: 11-22. The choice of the godless, (vs. 13-14). Compare Job 27: 22.

Tuesday, April 13.—Job 9: 1-19. God does as he will. Compare Dan. 4: 17.

Wednesday, April 14.—Job 9: 20-35. Self-justification is condemnation, (vs. 20). Compare Job 9: 2.

Thursday, April 15.—Job 10: 1-13. God had chosen to try Job. Compare Ps. 11: 5.

Friday, April 16.—Job 10: 14-22. The wilful sinner marked by God (vs. 14). Compare Heb. 10: 26, 27.

Saturday, April 17.—Job 11. God's exactions less than you deserve, (vs. 8). Compare Ezra 9: 13.

Daily Readings on the Life of Christ.

DIVISION THIRD.—TOPICAL: A STUDY OF CHRIST'S GREAT THEMES.

Lesson 29.—The Nature of the Holy Spirit.

Monday.—He is a Person. In John 14: 16-26 Jesus describes the Holy Spirit by the third personal pronoun *He* or *Him*, six times. In John 15: 26 once, and in John 16: 7-13 thirteen times. Twenty in all.

Tuesday.—His Nature illustrated. Matt. 3: 16 compared to a Dove, i. e., He is *Gentle*. John 3: 8 compared to the Wind, i. e., He is *Invisible*. Acts 2: 1-3 Compared to Fire, i. e., He is *powerful*.

Wednesday.—He works Miracles. Matt. 12: 28, Christ's own words. John 3: 5, The New Birth. Acts 2: 4, Miraculous tongues or languages.

Thursday.—He has power to Reveal. Acts 2: 37, Us to ourselves. John 16: 8-11, Our sin to ourselves. John 16: 13-15, The things of Christ. 1 Cor. 2, The deep things of God.

Friday.—He indwells the believer. 1 Cor. 6: 9-20 and 2 Cor. 3: 17-18. To sanctify. Acts 2: 1-4, For service. Acts 7: 55-60, For suffering.

Saturday.—He has administrative functions. Acts 5: 1-13, To discipline. Acts 6: 1-6, Directed appointment of deacons. Acts 13: 1-4, He appointed the first Foreign Missionary.

H. F. ADAMS.

Sacred Literature Course B. Y. P. U.

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST.

Auxiliary Notes, Prepared especially for the

MESSENGER AND VISITOR

BY D. A. STYERLE, D. D.

NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Lesson 29.—The Holy Helper.

This is the dispensation of the Spirit. That Spirit is the source of all Spiritual life, of all Spiritual growth, and the Revealer to men of the glory of Christ Jesus the Lord.

VIEW POINT.

We will approach this sacred subject, not by the beaten road of the theologian, but will try to find a path where the child may walk. The word of God is open before us, and our own experience has also taught us something. May He, who is our theme, help our weak vision to gain a fresh view of Himself, who is the unsearchable one, albeit it be an imperfect view.

We have been considering God as Father, and as Son, God creating and God redeeming. Now, we are to pause at the end of our course, to meditate on God as the Divine agent in carrying forward the work of redemption.

THE DIVINE ARRANGEMENT.

Jesus bade farewell to the disciples, ascending to the right hand of the majesty in the heavens. But He, in accordance with a promise made on several occasions, sent the Holy Ghost to be ever present with His people. Jesus, in the body, could not be in every place at one time, but the Spirit could be everywhere at the same time. Therefore our Lord said, "It is better for me to be away." The Comforter or Helper is the representative of God on earth.

A PERSON.

He has a personality all His own. He is never spoken of as *It*, but is always *He*. "He shall shew you, teach you," etc. He is called by Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of God; by others the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Grace, and the Eternal Spirit.

This Divine personage is called

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

He is infinite purity, infinite goodness. He cannot bear sin, in however faint a degree sin may be manifest. He is infinitely sensitive, and detects the slightest deception on our part. Hidden almost from ourselves, He sees it, feels it, and withdraws Himself in proportion to our want of honesty with Him. He asks for complete loyalty on our part. Playing double on our part He cannot abide. He will not bless us while we are pretending to desire. This is the reason why many are not converted. They

are not honest with God; they do not really give up to Him. We must not only profess to serve Him, or to dedicate our powers to Him—that lesson was taught in the case of Ananias and Sapphira. He is all Holy, and will not be trifled with. At the same time

HE IS INFINITELY TENDER.

He knows our make up, and makes all allowance for that. But we must not presume upon His goodness. We are not to grieve Him, by the slightest deviation from right. We must beware of so thinking or acting as to quench the sacred flame, and of that which is called "doing despite to the Spirit of grace." He is the one against whom men may commit the only unpardonable sin. The extreme sensitiveness of the Holy Spirit is a thought that we should always take with us. He loves us, works in us that which is well-pleasing to God, bears with us, and remembers that we are fleshly, from the day in which He begins the good work in us, until we are set free from the body of sin. No one but Himself knows how He is hurt by the waywardness of the sincerest believer; nor how much He is offended by the ordinary church member. Yet all through, like a mother, He is patient with us, even with the refractory and the erring. Again and again He blesses us, although as soon as we have obtained the blessing we have forgotten our Benefactor.

INFINITE IN SUGGESTION.

He brings before our minds what we ought to do; for instances, you sometimes feel prompted to aid some good object, it may be, a poor man, or a struggling student, to give a little more to the heathen, or to do more for your own pastor. Are you not often told by a voice within to speak to some friend as to spiritual things? Were you ever deeply impressed to restore something which was not yours, to the party who really owned it? It may have been a piece of land, or a ten-cent piece, or a character which you had maligned. Who is the author of all this prompting to good? Did you heed the suggestion? A man was teaching a class of young men, and he was anxious for their salvation, but his labors were unrewarded. At last he spoke to a good brother about it. The brother immediately asked him, "Is there anything wrong in your life?" The teacher confessed that he had years before purloined three hundred dollars, and could not bring himself to restore it. The good brother told him that he must immediately make restitution with interest. "Cannot I send it anonymously?" "No, go yourself?" That night saw him on his way to his former employer. He surprised him by his confession. He went back a light-hearted man. He had not yielded to the suggestions of the spirit, and was useless. Need I tell you that he soon had the pleasure of seeing one after another of his class coming to Jesus? They all came.

AND NOT TO DO.

But the gracious Monitor also suggests that you had better not do certain things. They are not helpful to your growth in grace; they may be soul-destroying in the long run. Pray, now, as you read these lines, "Lord! Search me, and see if there is any wicked way in me; and help me to stop." The Holy One will tell you about your covetousness, your love of pleasure, your unruly temper, your deceitful tongue, your vanity, and all your other sins. And if you have succeeded in ridding yourself of these, there is another more subtle foe to your usefulness, which this Holy Helper will discover to you, if you ask Him. He is Himself the Truth, as Jesus is, and He wants His followers to know the truth about themselves. When you are justifying yourself to your friend, heed that whisper, "But are you, just in God's sight?" When you plume yourself upon your goodness, upon your Bible-study, and prayer, and benevolence, and general good character, this all-gracious Teacher will one day reveal to you that the most crippling of all this is spiritual pride. He will have no Pharisees in the Kingdom of God.

THE HELPER . . . THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, . . . HE ABIDETH WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU.

Sydney, C. B.

Semi-annual business meeting of the B. Y. P. U. was held in the Lecture room of Pitt street church March 17. The election of officers resulted as follows: Rev. H. B. Smith, pres. (re-elected); Arthur Leslie, vice-pres.; N. H. Richardson, rec. sec'y.; B. H. Grant, cor. sec'y. and treas. (re-elected). Since our birthday, six months ago, we have been steadily progressing and growing in strength. Our list of Active members has increased from seven to thirty-eight. We hold our meetings at the close of the services Sabbath evening, and after the long busy day they come "like the benediction that follows after prayer," when we are drawn nearer to our Heavenly Father and near to each other as brothers and sisters, and in this way are made better and stronger for the work of the week. May we not only "look up" ourselves but "lift up" others.

"Lord strengthen us that while we stand
Firm on the Rock and strong in Thee,
We may stretch out a helping hand
To wrestlers on life's troubled sea."

We, too, have an earnest, energetic helper in our president, Rev. H. B. Smith, and under the guidance of our Divine Leader, Christ Jesus, we are pressing on with bright prospects for the future. Will sister Unions remember in their prayers our little band in Sydney.

BESSIE H. GRANT, Cor. Sec'y.

A B. Y. P. U. was organized at Homeville by Rev. J. A. Marple in February. The following officers were elected: Pres. Charles Holmes; vice-pres. K. Marian Holmes; sec., Willie Holmes; cor. sec., Katherine Holmes; treas., Cyddie Holmes. The meetings are held on Friday evening. Quite an interest is manifested by the young people and good results are looked for.

KATHERINE HOLMES, Cor. Sec.

Homeville, March 26th.