

..HOUSEHOLD..

The Victory of Struggle.

(Patterson Du Bois, in 'Beckonings From Little Hands.'

(Concluded.)

Having repeated his 'Now I lay me,' my boy was about to rise, when I told him again, in a low voice, that God would help him as He would help us all—for I was particular to impress upon him that being as human and helpless as he, I spoke from practical experience. 'Suppose you say, "Help me to do right,"' I said. He was silent. I waited a few moments, and still there was no response.

'Can't you just say, "Help me to do right"?' I asked in as sympathetic a tone as I could command. Another pause, and still no response. I put my hand on his head, toyed with his hair, spoke his name familiarly, and still—he was silent. I bent over, bringing my face nearer to his, and said in a lower tone, 'Can't you say it?'

'No,' he answered, in a stifled voice.

'Very well,' I continued, 'if you can't, you had better rise.' But I found that neither could he rise.

Putting my hands under his arms, I attempted to lift him to his feet; but he clung to my knees, and forced his face back again into my lap. This taught me something. He had said that he could not, and yet he was unwilling to give it up. More than that, I had had something of a revelation of the tremendous struggle that had been going on in that soul; for in lifting him I caught a glimpse of his face. It was flushed to fiery redness, and the perspiration stood in beads from his forehead to his throat. Was he stubborn? No; for he was fighting on my side, and not against me. Apparently he had made up his mind to stay there until the flesh should succumb to the spirit. Was he disobedient? No! for he was working toward the result, and for it, as fast as he could.

But such victories are not won in a flash, such results are not obtained without cost. The struggling and fighting to overcome his natural reticence in spiritual things, was at an expenditure of nerve force which, directed in some other way, might have gained him the applause of the world for heroic accomplishment. But how often do children hear the world's 'Well done!' for such a secret struggle as this? Indeed, it was evident that the petition, 'Help me to do right,' had ascended in burning thoughts, if not in formal words; for already God was helping him to do right in just this thing. The very heat of the fierce struggle was in itself the evidence that the prayer was answered even before it was uttered. The struggle was the strongest kind of an expression of prayer, and God knew that long before I did.

Once again I attempted to raise him from my knees, and still he clung to them with a life-and-death grip. I could feel the waxing heat of his face, of his whole body. I could not but see in him the truest of heroes. Yet my heart went out to him in deepest pity. Here was mental distress, heart-anguish, such as few men or women experience, or at least do not experience without the world's touch of sympathy. But for a child—!

I bent my head again to his, put my mouth to his ear, and whispered, 'Just whisper it—very low; God can hear it.' I lifted him easily, put my arms around him, drew his face close against mine, and waited, and—still there was no response. In a more familiar yet serious way, I said again, 'Very low, now,' and, with one final struggle, I heard him say, 'Help!' It was very, very low, almost inaudible, but just as good as, and better than, a loud voice that had come without effort.

He had indeed struggled victoriously. That simple petition came easy to him ever after; but he never spoke it without seeming to be impressed with its peculiarly serious import. The victory of accomplishment, however, was not half so much to me—nor to him—as was the victory of struggle—the true conquest of self, that shows itself in the determina-

tion to fight one's way through. Should I have reprimanded him at first for a refusal to speak when I had asked him? No! He had not refused; he had begun to comply at once. Another child might easily have spoken the petition, and, perhaps, easily forgotten it. But I would rather see him wrestling in real prayer, than merely repeating the form of prayer without the wrestling.

And now, on looking back to that evening hour when my child and I were alone together, I can see how, in my danger of misunderstanding him, and so of causing 'one of these little ones to stumble,' I was permitted to catch a fresh glimpse into the soul-life of childhood. I saw prayer in the struggle to pray, and I learned how such a struggle itself is prayer. I gained a new view of the spirit of obedience.

Religious News.

Says the Rev. Charles Stelzle in the 'Sunday School Times':

In ten months' time five entire States banished their saloons. Three had already done so, with the result that about one-sixth of the States are now 'dry.'

On January 1, 1909, there will go into effect prohibitory legislation covering an area, together with that already in force in this district, of a solid block 320 miles north and south by 720 miles east and west, so that one may travel from the Mississippi to the Atlantic Ocean, and from the boundary of Tennessee to the Gulf of Mexico, without seeing a legalized saloon. Great Britain and Ireland could be set down over this space, with 10,000 square miles of 'dry' territory left as a border. Whereas a decade ago 6,000,000 persons in this country lived in 'no license' territory, now 38,000,000 live in 'no saloon' districts. The saloon has been abolished by law in two-thirds of all the territory of the United States.

In estimating the Japanese in Korea, it is fairer to judge Japan by men like Ito, Kiuchi, Megato, Watanabe and Sata rather than by the camp-follower element—resembling the carpet-bag Northerners that invaded the South at the close of the Civil War—that came over in the wake of the army, and must, like the carpet-baggers, prove a vanishing feature in the relations of the two countries.

The policies inaugurated by the residency-general in Korea have been of the most beneficial character to the Korean people. The penal code is in process of revision, and modern and enlightened laws are being introduced into the land. Schools—industrial, agricultural and literary—are being established. Large commercial enterprises are being inaugurated. Communication is being opened up through improved roads, and all the lines of policy followed by enlightened governments are being gradually introduced to the Korean people through the initiative of the residency-general. These policies can not reach full

Cut Out This Ad.

mail it to us to-**25c.** and if your
gether with. : : name is not on
our list we will mail you the

Western Home Monthly

FOR ONE YEAR

(Regular subscription price 50c.)

Send To-Day and you will receive this month's
copy FREE

THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY has long been recognized as the greatest illustrated home magazine published in Canada, and is read by over 35,000 families every month. It contains a wealth of leading fiction, editorials for men and women, able articles on leading subjects, while its one dozen or more departments, under special standard headings, are interesting and helpful to the members in every home circle. **Handsome two-color cover every month;** beautiful half-tone illustrations of farm, ranch, city, town and country scenes, made from photos taken by our own official photographers in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. **60 pages and up.**

Address: The Western Home Monthly, Winnipeg, Canada

fruition in the course of a few months. Years must be allowed for the real achievement that will come from them, and we are disposed to wait for the result of Japanese policies in Korea, rather than to condemn her in wholesale.—'Christian Advocate.'

A toiler of the Christian and Missionary Alliance reports:—

'The most striking conversion at one station was that of a lad, eighteen years of age, the nephew of a military official. Although thus connected with an official of rank, the young man freely and boldly confessed Christ as his personal Saviour, and there is reason to believe that his testimony will be the means by which others of his class will be led to Christ. One of the converts at Wuchow took a position as Chinese cook on a steamer plying between that city and Hong Kong. The class of men employed on these boats is such that he found a strong "anti-Jesus" atmosphere in which to let his light shine. He said: "These people just vie with one another to see who can invent the best plan to provoke me to anger. They want to see a Christian lose his temper, and so have this to say against the Jesus doctrine. Only a few days ago I overheard several of them talking together (they not knowing that I was listening to their conversation). They were saying: "It is truly strange that we can not make this Jesus-man angry." Well, it is not I, but Jesus and His grace that keeps me for His glory.'"



Synopsis of Canadian Northwest Land Regulations.

ANY person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties. — Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent), and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price, \$2.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.