

THE SILENT SERMON.

It has been truly said that a holy life is a continual sermon. Though it be silent in its speech, yet it speaks with a force that cannot be unheeded, even by the most careless. A force that pulpit oratory never can attain, however eloquent it may be. We may extol the name of Jesus from the pulpit in words of eloquence and elegance, and be listened to with indifference; but let the humblest disciple of Christ manifest holiness in his daily walk and conversation; let him be meek and lowly as our Saviour was: patient under difficulties; bold and fearless in danger; trusting and confident in the darkest hour, and he wields an influence for Christ which all the eloquence and wisdom of this world cannot equal. Best of all sermons is the silent sermon of a holy life; and, indeed, without it all other preaching is useless and vain.

J. S. Thorpe

To do our duty and make the best of life should be the aim of all of us. Selfishness is probably at the bottom of most of the ills of life. In the records of good men we invariably find they were animated during their lives by unselfishness of character, a high sense of duty, and a love for their fellow-men. No less a philosopher than Kant, when speaking of duty, once said, "Duty-wondrous thought that worketh neither by loud insinuation, flattery, nor by any threat, but by merely holding up thy naked law in the soul, and so extorting for thyself always reverence, if not always obedience, before whom all appetites are dumb, however secretly they rebel!"

If God made the world you need not fear that He can't take care of so small a part of it as yourself.—Edward Taylor.

Children's Work.

Mrs. James Lediard, Supt., Poplar Hill, To whom communications for this department should be addressed.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD,—I am glad to write a few lines to you to let you know we have organized a Mission Band in Guelph, called "Buds of Promise." It was organized on the 29th of October, with a membership of twenty-one. The following officers were elected: President, Miss M. Kilgour; Vice-President, Miss Stewart; Secretary, Maud Bower; Treasurer, Miss Eliza Tindal; and a Board of Managers. I will give you the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes read and approved; meeting opened by singing "We're a little Pilgrim Band"; prayer and scripture reading by President; an essay by Master Fred. Kilgour, and a study on it. The President read a paper on missionary work. The programme was as follows; reading by Ethel Wardell; song by Lizzie Edwards; reading by Maggie Tindal. Misses B. Edwards, A. Kilgour, M. McDougal, Master C. Wardell, were appointed to prepare programme for next meeting. During the roll call Miss E. Smith took collection, each member answering name by quoting verse of scripture. Misses M. Fairly, M. Butchart, M. Tindal, and Master Errett Kilgour were appointed as a Look-out Committee. There were twenty-two present. Next meeting on the 6th December. We meet the first and third Friday of every month.

MAUDE BOWER, Sec.

In an interesting letter from Mrs. Brown, Warton, she says, "I did not see the report the secretary of the Children's Mission Band sent you, and so do not know whether she explained concerning it, or not. She probably just sent an account of their organization according to the Constitution sent us. We had monthly meetings and missionary collections for more than two years past, but had no organization. Now the young people have the matter entirely to themselves and are getting on nicely. I dropped in at the close of their meeting last night and found thirty children there, and all conducted in a very orderly manner. They will report and remit to you at the end of the first quarter." I am sorry if the report from Warton did not appear. It has been mislaid or lost.

J. L. L.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD.—The Ridgetown Mission Band was first organized on September 1st, 1888, but worked independently until November 9th, 1889, when we re-organized and became auxiliary to the Ontario Children's Band, under the name of "Cheerful Givers." Our officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Board of Managers. We intend to do our best in this work and will report regularly.

FLORA CAMPBELL, Sec.

A GIRL'S LETTER FROM JAPAN

The following letter was written for the especial benefit of a Sunday school class of little American maidens. Believing that there are many more girls of this age who will enjoy it, we place it before the readers of "The Family Standard."

ON SHIPBOARD, July 4, '89

DEAR MISS—

Mamma has just been reading your letter to me in which you said you would like to hear from me—that is, you would like to have a letter that you could read to your class in Sunday school. So I thought that I would write to you about our trip from Akita to Sappora, where we are going to spend our summer vacation. We started from Akita on the evening of the second of July, after waiting for an hour and a half to buy our tickets and pay for our baggage, for Japanese people cannot hurry even if they would try—it is not their nature.

When at last they got the little row-boat, to take us out to the steamer, ready, we said "Good bye" to the young ladies and rowed off, to climb into the vessel, eat our supper, and tumble into the little box-like beds built against the walls. That is what I did, but papa and mamma stayed up on deck, to watch the lights on shore seem to move away as the vessel steamed in the direction of the setting sun, and to hear the doleful songs of the fishermen as they threw out their nets in pursuit of the occupation on which they depend for their daily support.

When I awoke at half-past twelve I told mamma it was half-past three (I did not understand the bells that mark time on a ship, so I made that mistake); and then, after taking cat-naps for a while, I tried to get up and put on my clothes, but found I could not stand up or else I would get sea-sick immediately. So I did not get up until the vessel stopped at Hako-da-te.

There, papa, mamma, and I went ashore and visited the Methodist Missionaries—Mr. and Mrs. Greene, and the young ladies, Miss Hewitt and Miss Dickerson. We had a very pleasant time there, staying until eight o'clock next morning. Then we steamed off to Ottawa. I stayed on deck most of the day and so I didn't get sea-sick. Land was in sight almost all the time. The scenery was beautiful; the cliffs and hills, rising straight out of the sea, were formed of rock, and looked like great cathedrals. At other places, they were rolling and symmetrical, carpeted with green grass. Sometimes a little line of fishing villages would nestle at their base. Higher up, on the slopes, wheat and barley would often be seen growing.

In the morning, about seven o'clock, we reached Ottawa, a little seaport town about twenty-two miles from Sappora, our destination. The town lay at the foot of a long range of beautiful green hills.

We gathered our numerous bundles, valises, and so forth, together, and rode in a little row-boat to the shore. We went to a hotel, where, after a good deal of delay, they brought us breakfast on three little lacquer trays. There were two dishes of soup, one of rice, one of fish and pickle, and one of some kind of vegetables, on each tray. For dinner, they brought the same, besides some hard-boiled eggs.

At one o'clock, we boarded a great American train, and in two hours reached Sappora.

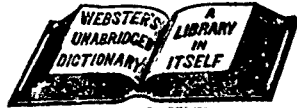
We were fortunate in having secured good rooms beforehand, so we could go right to them. We are busy getting settled now.

I have written most of this letter on shipboard, and could not use pen and ink; so please excuse my pencil.

We know that you are all doing a good work. Your loving friend,
ELSIE H. SMITH.

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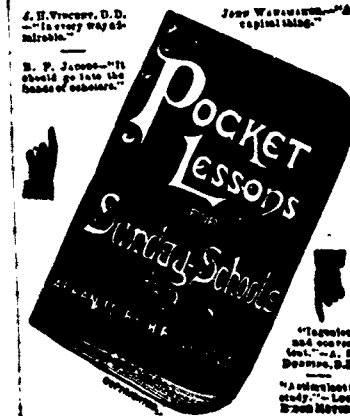
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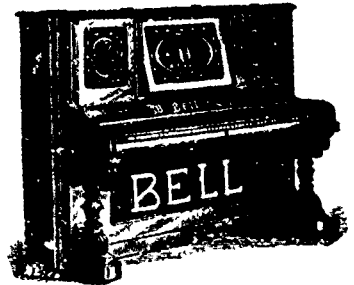
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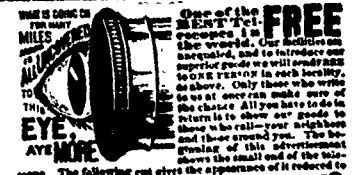
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