

We read that, after Joseph came down to Egypt, he was finally a success. The record says, "The Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man." "The Lord was with him"—what does this imply? The man who abandons sin, serves God, lives a life of holiness, like the Lord with him. The Lord delights to dwell with such a man. He will be useful, honored, respected, and God's blessing will constantly attend him. The highest prosperity is the presence and power of God, in the heart and life. Great men of all ages have had the Lord with them. Gladstone said, when he was living, and in the zenith of his glory, that he had come in contact with sixty master minds in the course of his political life, and all but five were Christian men. Some make the great blunder of supposing that it is weak to be strong morally and pious religiously. The very opposite is true. Which is the stronger man of the two—the one who resists the tide of evil, or the one who gives in and floats with the easiest current?

J. Joseph was Firm in the Face of Temptation.—Joseph had not been long in Egypt before he came in contact with a severe temptation. There was a woman in the case, and his honor was assailed, but true to his principles and faithful to his God, he resisted the persistent attempts to ruin his character, and disgrace the cause of Jehovah. And he was victorious against the solicitations of evil. What an age this is for temptations in a thousand forms! The flowing bowl, the strange woman, the defrauding employer, the breaking of the Sabbath, the neglect of religion, the violation of conscience. Ten thousand pit-falls are around the young people of the present age. They must be like Joseph—firm and true. They must learn to look above them when seriously tried, for God is there to help them. Even if falsely accused, even at the risk of pecuniary loss, they must be firm, unyielding, unflinching, in the right.

"Let each in his sphere be faithful,
It may be in toil and sorrow;
Who bears a cross for his Lord to-day
Shall wear a crown on the morrow."

STRAY THOUGHTS.

God wants us to plan our lives, but when he takes the planning out of our hands, he wants us to acquiesce.

If Joseph had not made the most of himself in prison he would never have been able to make the most of himself in a palace.

Men are looking for their "chances" in the world. Let them give God a chance at governing their lives, and they will rise rapidly enough.

God may change our sins into blessings, as he did the sins of Joseph's brothers, but never without punishing us in the process—as Joseph's brothers were punished.

POINTS FOR THE PRESENT.

Again, arrange of a brief biographical sketch—"The life of Joseph." It is of entrancing interest. Then have a paper or address on "Lessons from the life of Joseph." You will find five suggestive points in the exposition above. Before the meeting closes, spend some time in testimony or religious conversation, with the following question as the touchstone,—"How may I imitate Joseph in my daily life?"

Let our Lord's sweet hand square us, and hammer us, and strike off the knots of pride, self-love, and world-worship, and infidelity, that He may make us stones and pillars in His Father's house.—Samuel Rutherford.

Bible Study.

The following note has been received from Rev. J. H. Riddell, B.D.:

"It was my privilege to take part in the Bible study classes conducted at Toronto and Grimsby in July. The interest manifested in Bible study was a great surprise to me. The people seem hungry to get an intelligent grasp of the mind of God, as revealed in the Scriptures. The studies here were as searching as those usually given in the lecture-room of the college, and yet no part of the school work was more enthusiastic interest taken. At Grimsby I found it difficult to leave off. At the earnest request of the people lectures were arranged for the afternoon, as well as the morning. All this is prophetic of good things to come."

Ontario Christian Endeavor Convention.

At STRATFORD, SEPT. 29-30, and OCT. 1.

The Classic City will entertain the Endeavors of Ontario in their Convention for 1903.

Dr. Clark, the man that Canada gave to Christian Endeavor, will be in attendance, as also will the new General Secretary of Christian Endeavor, Von Ogden Vogt.

The Convention opens Tuesday afternoon with a preparatory service, led by Dr. Clark, and in the evening Von Ogden Vogt will address the Convention after the usual addresses of welcome have been given.

A special feature of the Convention will be the Bible Study classes, conducted by Dr. Elmore Harris each morning of the Convention from 8.45 to 10.30, and for this feature alone it will be worth the trip to Stratford.

Denominational rallies will be held on Wednesday evening in the several churches of the city, and the Junior rally will be given on Thursday afternoon.

Such well-known speakers as the following assure the success of the Convention.

Rev. A. L. Geggie, Toronto; Rev. Elmore Harris, Rev. A. Esler, Toronto; Rev. W. F. Wilson, Hamilton, Rev. Geo. S. Clendinning, Elgin; Rev. E. R. Hutt, Ingersoll; Dr. V. H. Lyon, Ottawa; Rev. J. S. Henderson, Hensall; Rev. Dr. Johnston, London; Rev. T. Albert Moore, Toronto; Rev. R. Whiting, Toronto.

Single tickets can be secured on the Convention plan, good to start Sept. 25th, and return Oct. 5th, and if 300 or more attend (which is very likely) delegates will get home free.

Miss Nellie Porman, Stratford, is Secretary of the Convention, and delegates wishing to secure homes in advance should correspond at once. Reasonable board can be had at a moderate rate.

It is expected that every Young People's Society of the Province will appoint delegates and enjoy the inspiration and spiritual uplift of such a gathering. Further information can be secured from the General Secretary, A. T. Cooper, Clinton.

Literary Lines.

A biography of the late Dean Farrar is being prepared by his son, and is soon to be published.

Lord Wolsley has written his reminiscences and they will be published, probably in the autumn, in two volumes.

In the production of nine popular novels, of which 1,600,000 copies were sold, a statistician estimates that 2,000,000 pounds of paper were employed. The paper is made from wood pulp, and as one spruce tree yields about 500 pounds

of paper, these nine novels destroyed 4,000 trees. Were they worth the sacrifice?

Word comes from China that five young women of that country have arranged to publish a daily Journal in Canton. They propose to make it an organ for the women of China, but they will also give generous space to general news. It is said the girls come from excellent families, and that they have ample financial backing.

Pertinent Paragraphs.

Consider carefully before you say a hard word to a man, but never let a chance to say a good one go by. Praise judiciously bestowed is money invested.—Letters from a Self-made Merchant.

One thing is indisputable: the chronic mood of looking longingly at what we have not, or thankfully at what we have, realizes two very different types of character. And we certainly can encourage the one or the other.—Lucy C. Smith.

Be honest with yourself whatever the temptation. Say nothing to others that you do not think, and play no tricks with your own mind. Of all the evil spirits abroad at this hour in the world, insincerity is the most dangerous.—J. A. Froude.

What is man? Not the drudge of today; not the form that goes with weary feet to the busy market; not the form that bends behind the counter; not the toiler with hard hand and bronzed face. Man is the angel in the human breast, born of God, born in the image of God, born to live with God forever.—Bishop Foster.

You have your cross, my friend. . . . There is pain in the duty which you do. But if in all your pain you know that God's love is becoming a dearer and plainer truth to you and the vision of the world's redemption is growing more certain and bright, then you can be more than brave—you can triumph in every task, in every sacrifice. Your cross has won something of the beauty and glory of your Lord's. Rejoice and be glad for you are crucified with Christ.—Phillips Brooks.

Week-day and Sunday.

A week-day rain has no power to keep a single man from attending to his business. The exposure required, the distance to go in the storm, may be ten times as great, yet it never occurs to an active business man that the rain in this case furnishes any reasonable ground for neglect. So glaring is the contrast between the effects of the Sunday and the week-day rain, that one might almost suppose that the former contained some peculiarly subtle and injurious qualities that were wanting in the latter—that it was laden with some peculiarly deleterious influence capable of endangering health and constitution.

A statue of the late Hon. W. E. Gladstone was recently placed in Westminster Abbey. The sculptor was Mr. Brock R.A., and the statue stands in the North Transept of the Abbey, between the statues of Lord Beaconsfield and Viscount Peel, and near the spot where Mr. Gladstone was buried. The monument was erected quietly, under the superintendence of the sculptor, and without any unveiling ceremony. The great statesman is represented standing, wearing the gown of a D. C. L. of Oxford University. It is said that Dean Stanley indicated the site some years ago, as the one reserved for Mr. Gladstone's monument.