

### The Oldest Book.

The Bible is the oldest book we have, and yet shows no sign of decay. It has a more vigorous hold upon the faith and affection of the world to-day than it ever had before. Its empire widens with the centuries. Many books have been written by wise men since the Bible was written, and yet the Bible has never been surpassed or superceded. If you want the wisest and truest word on the great themes of religion, you must go the Bible for it. There is the fact, account for it as you may. If men can write a better book than the Bible they have the fullest liberty to do so. There is no law prohibiting it. There is blank paper and pens and ink in abundance. Colonel Ingersol was one day talking in his cheap, boastful way about the defects of the Bible and said he could write a better book himself. An old woman spoke up and said, "You had better do it, Bob; there's money in it." Young man, if the Bible stands as it does through the centuries, the first book on the great themes of God, creation, man, destiny, is it not because of its intrinsic worth and its fitness to survive? It lives because it has in it the life of God Himself.—Rev. I. B. Sileo.

### Too Busy to be Kind.

"I sometimes think we women, nowadays, are in danger of being too busy to be useful," said an old lady, thoughtfully. "We hear so much about making every minute count, always having some work or course of study for spare hours, and having our activities all systematized, that there is no place left for small wayside kindness. We go to see the sick neighbor and relieve the poor neighbor, but for the common, every-day neighbor who has not fallen by the way, so far as we can see, we haven't a minute to spare. But everybody who needs a cup of cold water isn't calling the fact out to the world, and there are a great many little pauses by the way which are no waste of time. The old-fashioned exchange of garden flowers over the back fence, and friendly chats about domestic matters, helped to brighten weary days and brought more cheer than many a sermon. We ought not to be too busy to inquire for the girl away at school, or to be interested in the letter from the boy at sea. It's a comfort to the mother's lonely heart to feel that somebody else cares for that which means so much to her. Especially we ought not to be too busy to give and receive kindnesses in our own home."

May no one be able to say of us that we are too busy to be kind.—The Young Woman.

### The Art of Listening.

Some listeners are eloquent. Their manifest appreciation inspires others to attention and interest. How often the intense enthusiasm of children at an entertainment is a great part of the entertainment to others! Their wide-open eyes make a story thrilling after it has been thrice told. Even so there is a listening for older ones which is a reinforcement of the speaking. One can so enter into a sermon as to take part in the preaching of it. One can so grasp a Bible lesson as to share in teaching it. We hear a great deal in these days about the atmosphere of a church or a school. Let us understand that this atmosphere is what the physicist would call the resultant of two forces. One of those is the force of him who speaks. The other is the force of those who listen. And more of us are responsible for being good listeners than for being good speakers.—S. S. Times.

## Our Young People

### May 23. Missionary Endeavor.

#### Some Bible Hints.

Whatever great things have been done by Christian Endeavor have been done by God working through the young people (v. 49).

Christ said that the triumphs of His Kingdom should be won not by the proud nor the wise, but by the humble and the childlike (v. 51). The achievements of Christian Endeavor are part of the realization of that saying.

Christian Endeavorers will feed others in proportion to their own hunger for spiritual food (v. 53).

Christian Endeavor is a part of God's great plan for His church, and should glory in the fact that it is manifestly in line with "Abraham and his seed forever" (v. 55).

#### Christian Endeavor in Mission Lands.

In India is an Endeavor society of blind children, who cultivate beds of flowers and carry the beautiful products to the hospital.

Many Hindu Endeavorers go out two by two, holding gospel meetings in the surrounding villages.

In Japan there is an Endeavor society in one of the important telegraph stations, made up entirely of the operatives.

The Japanese Endeavorers carry on a good sized monthly paper, well edited and printed in their own language.

One Chinese Endeavorer, forced by his relatives to approach the idol shrine and take incense in his hand, turned his back upon the idol and there preached Christ.

In the early days of the Endeavor society in Ceylon, the Endeavorers marked certain coconut trees, whose fruit should be devoted entirely to the Lord.

In West Africa there is a society, many of whose members must swim a river before they can reach the meeting place.

Two hundred of the Boer Endeavorers of South Africa have volunteered for the missionary work, and are training for it.

The first society in Lisbon, Portugal, as its first work began: missionary labors in the slums of that city.

When the American missionaries, at the outbreak of our war with Spain, moved into France, their Spanish scholars, who were all Christian Endeavorers, followed them.

When a terrible plague of cholera appeared in Hamadan, Persia, and the Jews and Moslem doctors fled from the city, many of the native Endeavorers bravely volunteered as nurses in the American hospital.

In Turkey the Endeavorers do not dare to wear the badge, or sign the pledge and constitution, on account of government suspicions of all societies; nevertheless, they remain true to the principles of Christian Endeavor.

#### To Think About.

What am I doing to advance the worldwide interests of Christian Endeavor?

How does my faithfulness compare with that of these Christians under difficulty?

How can I tell others about the wonderful work of Christian Endeavor all over the world?

#### Don't Believe in the Pledge?

Don't believe in daily prayer and Bible-reading?

Don't believe in taking part in prayer meetings?

Don't believe in going to church?

Don't believe in supporting your own church?

Don't believe in doing Christ's will?

Don't believe in leading a Christian life?

Don't believe in *trying* to do all these things?

Don't believe in *promising* to try to do them?

Why, of course, you do, when it is put that way! This is all you promise in the pledge—just to try to do them; and the pledge expressly says that you *are not* to do them, whenever you think Christ would excuse you from them. Certainly no less excuse should satisfy you, pledge or no pledge.

#### Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May 23.—Learning the Bible.	Deut. 31 : 12, 13
Tues.,	" 24.—The hope of elders.	Ps. 144 : 12 ; 148 : 12, 13
Wed.,	" 25.—They find Christ early.	Prov. 8 : 17, 32, 33
Thurs.,	" 26.—Christ wants the young.	Matt. 18 : 4-6, 10
Fri.,	" 27.—Youthful praise.	Matt. 21 : 15, 16
Sat.,	" 28.—Not to be despised.	1 Tim. 4 : 12, 16
Sun.,	" 29. Topic—What Christian Endeavor is doing in mission lands.	Luke 1 : 47-55

### The Christ of the Century.

We have not solved, we have not even stated and defined, the problem as to the person of Christ, when we have written the life of Jesus, for that problem is raised even less by the Gospels than by Christ's place and function in the collective history of man, or, to be more correct, by the life described in the Gospels and the phenomena represented by universal history viewed in their reciprocal and interpretative interrelations. If the Gospels stood alone, the problem would be comparatively simple; indeed, there would hardly be anything worth calling a problem, for they are concerned with events which happened in time, and with a historical figure whose antecedents, emergence, circumstances, behavior, experiences, fate, words, are exactly the sort of material biography loves to handle. But the very essence of the matter is that the Gospels do not stand alone, but live, as it were, embodied in universal history. And in that history Christ plays a part much more remarkable and much less compatible with common manhood than the part Jesus plays in the history of his own age and people. And we have not solved, or even apprehended, any one of the problems connected with this person until we have solved the mystery of the place He has filled and the things He has achieved in the collective life of man.—Dr. A. M. Fairbairn.

He only is great of heart who floods the world with a great affliction. He only is great of mind who stirs the world with great thoughts. He only is great of will who does something to shape the world to a great career. And he is greatest who does the most of all these things and does them best.—R. D. Hitchcock.

Make it a rule, and pray God to help you to keep it, never, if possible, to lie down at night without being able to say, "I have made one human being, at least, a little wiser, a little happier, or a little better this day."—Charles Kingsley.