

## Sparks from Other Anvils.

Michigan Presbyterian: Authority has its place and value, but in the last analysis authority must rest upon truth, not truth upon authority.

United Presbyterian: A few minutes of retirement with Jesus before going forth to daily toil will sweeten the toil and shorten the hours of service. Only a moment in the presence of the King and the blessing will not depart.

Presbyterian Witness: What shall it profit boys or girls, men or women, if they gain the whole world and lose their souls? God has given us a great country; it is ours from sea to sea, and from the Great River to the Pole. It is ours to keep it and to till it. But what shall it profit us if we prove unworthy of our great heritage?

Herald and Presbyter: The human and divine elements blend in all our efforts to do good. We are to have an absolute dependence on God, and yet even in our highest and holiest endeavors we are to exert ourselves just as though all depended on ourselves.

United Presbyterian: The world has sadness enough without our sending forth the cry of our own hearts. Its burden is heavy, why should we add to its weight? May we not better fulfill our Master's will by lifting a little of our neighbor's sorrow and placing it upon our own shoulders? Since the great Burden Bearer has borne our griefs may we not bear the grief of others?

United Presbyterian: How intensely the love of another may move us; and yet is there not that within us that calls for something higher still? There are times when even the holiest mortal affection does not satisfy. And what is this but the magnetism of God drawing us upward to the land, the home and the friends where, when we awake in his likeness, we shall be satisfied?

Christian Observer: But it does cost something to win souls from sin unto salvation. On the part of Jesus Christ it cost his life, and the enduring of shame. On the part of Christ's followers it costs self-denial. It costs self-restraint to set a godly example before the world; it costs refraining from worldliness to impress others with the reality of religion; it costs effort and it costs prayer to win the unconverted. Not dollars, but Christian living is the cost of winning a soul.

United Presbyterian: Every man has his place in the world and his duty to perform while in it. The duty may seem but a trivial thing but it has its place. It may do but little good to others, but it will do good to the doer. It may strengthen no other heart yet the heart of the doer will be made stronger. Though it accomplish nothing more it will serve as God's training school for the man himself. The divine teacher never sets a task without a purpose.

South western Presbyterian: The use of God's day for business, and especially for traveling on business or to meet business engagements, seem to be greatly on the increase. It is not an uncommon thing for ruling elders of the church to so time their engagements as to travel to and fro on that day. They save time, but at an expense that tells against truth and righteousness. And sometimes even the preachers use Sunday trains, in getting in or starting out on long journeys.

## Our Young People

## February 7. Decision.

## Some Bible Hints.

"Whosoever" (vs. 15, 16). Not that all men are to be saved. This is a limitation as well as an invitation. Whosoever believeth.

"The world"—five times in this brief passage. One of the evidences of Christianity is its boundless ambition compared with its lowly origin.

"God so loved" (v. 16)—the key words of the Bible and of eternity.

"That the world should be saved through him" (v. 17). And it cannot be saved through Him except as it is saved through you.

## Suggestive Thoughts.

Christ is not for the selfish. He is not for you until you are for the world.

Your Christ is for your world. Get a larger world and you will get a larger Christ.

No one can enter into the meaning of "God so loved" until he also loves; and the more he loves, the more he will understand it.

"God so loved that he gave." Love proves itself in giving. Have we so loved that we give?

## A Few Illustrations.

That the ocean is for the world does not prevent it from being at the service of any child that wishes to float a shingle upon it.

Whoever enlarges his door for blessings to go out, enlarges it for joys to come in.

John 3: 16 is the Magna Charta of Christianity—our token of freedom from sin and death.

As the infinite God shut Himself up in the man Christ Jesus, so Jesus in turn has shut Himself up in John 3: 16.

## To Think About.

Am I really trying to show Christ's love to others?

Is my religion as broad as the world?

Have I yet made personal application of John 3: 16?

## A Cluster of Quotations.

Calvary is a low hill, but it casts a long shadow.—F. B. Meyer.

"Whosoever" is a finger for babes, and an arm for old men.—Spurgeon.

This is a "so" that not all the angels can analyze; few can comment upon or understand the dimensions of this "so."—Char-nock.

Apart from Thee all gain is loss

All labor vainly done;

The solemn shadow of Thy cross

Is better than the sun.—Whittier.

## In Touch.

Every society needs the inspiration that comes from a knowledge of the great work Christian Endeavor is doing around the world, and the help that comes from the experience and methods of other societies. Every society, therefore, needs an information committee.

Appoint as chairman of this committee some one who knows where to get Christian Endeavor information—from papers, books, and letters to other workers. Give him a few good speakers as assistants. Give the committee five minutes at the opening of every meeting. Sometimes the chairman will speak; sometimes one of the committee; sometimes all of them; sometimes none of them, but some member of the society whom they have obtained for the service.

Use this five minutes for reports of conventions by delegates or from the papers, for

mention of helpful new methods tried elsewhere, for accounts of the progress of Christian Endeavor in foreign lands, of the new plans set before the societies by the denominational and Christian Endeavor leaders, and for any other item of interest concerning the society at large.

Sometimes have this report written and read, sometimes have it spoken, always have it carefully prepared as one of the most important and useful features of the meetings.

## In Lonely Days.

In lonely days "white" solitude

Contrasts with cheerier days gone by

When thick and chill the shadows brood

And clouds are sullen in the sky.

Sometimes in days that pass slow-paced,

That creep along, are dull and gray,

A vision comes, sweet, eager faced

The dream of that dear yesterday

When life was full of joy and hope,

When work was paid by swift reward,

When doors of fortune quick to cye,

Made light the burden, smoothed the hard,

Steep path and cheated us of pain.

Would those bright days might dawn again!

And yet the memory of their shine

Throws on our gloom a gleam divine.

—Harper's Bazar.

Mr. Gladstone said, not long before his death, that of the fifty master minds of the last half-century, fifty four were devout believers in the Christian religion.

No soldier on the battle field, no traveler on "dark mountains," no ship on a tempestuous sea, is exposed to greater peril than a young man. Of what? Not so much of physical suffering and death, as of sin—the only real evil, and one which involves the loss of his highest life.—Dale.

As the gem is dull and black in darkness, but glows and burns and palpitates, restless with living splendor, when it drinks the sunbeam, so our poor souls, dull as they are and base with sin, may be transfigured into glory and loveliness, if, emptied of their lusts and selfishness, they lay themselves wholly bare to receive the effluence of God.—Farrar.

Every man is lord of that which he leads; he is monarch of that which he masters, be it only an axe, a plane, or a plow. Better wield a hammer and do it well, than an empire and do it ill. The hand that is cunning is the hand that rules the world. Every man is a king over the kingdom he has conquered. Over no other dominion is he fitted to reign.—United Presbyterian.

## Daily Readings.

Mon., Feb. 1.—Decision before service.

Luke 9: 57-62

Tues., Feb. 2.—Immediate decision.

Josh. 24: 14-25

Wed., Feb. 3.—No divided service.

Matt. 6: 24

Thurs., Feb. 4.—Separation from the world.

Neh. 10: 28-31

Fri., Feb. 5.—Decision brings love.

Deut. 6: 1-5

Sat., Feb. 6.—Blessedness of decision.

Josh. 1: 1-7

Sun., Feb. 7.—Topic—Christ for the world, and for me.

John 3: 14-21.