

McEwen, who has charge of the distribution of the diplomas, for diplomas for Sarah and Mary Caroline Neill, young girls of his congregation, and adds :

"I have a further application to make which is somewhat irregular, but I hope under the circumstances you may be able to grant it. The circumstances are these. I arranged over a month ago to hear the recitations which I just heard yesterday, but through an unforeseen occurrence I was unable to fulfil my engagement. At that date there was a third sister—Isabella Neill—prepared to recite the Scripture memory passages, but on Nov. 24th she was suddenly taken very ill and on Nov. 29th passed away.

"This young girl of nineteen years died a beautiful Christian death, with no fear and with complete trust in her Saviour. When her sufferings were most intense, she comforted herself by repeating some of the verses she had learned in this exercise.

"The sisters and family would be very much pleased if your committee would grant a diploma for Isabella Neill, which would be a very interesting memorial of their departed loved one. The sisters, whose recitations were practically perfect, testify that their sister knew the passages equally well with them, and that she had recited all the verses to them in as good form as they have recited them to me ; and the father, the only parent living, speaks of Bella as having had the best memory of them all.

"I hope my request may be entertained."

It is needless to add that Mr. McEwen and the Diploma Committee rejoiced to be able to comply with so reasonable a request and thus to help in honoring the memory of one who was evidently diligent in seeking to learn God's will.

TWO-SIDED LOYALTY

Is there not a risk, in our constant emphasis on the truth that the young people should be loyal to the church, of our losing sight of another truth quite as important, in my judgment, even more important : namely, the church's loyalty to the young people ?

A great deal has been said on the one side, and the young people have not been allowed

to lose sight of the duty of loyalty which they owe to their church and their pastor. But loyalty is not a quality to be stated in terms of duty. It is the spontaneous expression of the true and natural devotion of the heart, and no amount of injunction or entreaty will ever produce loyalty in hearts in which it does not spring up as an answer to sympathy and friendliness.

No father would think of teaching his little child to love him and be loyal to him by neglecting his child and lecturing it for any lack of a display of affection and fidelity. The father wins the child's love by loving it. He guarantees the child's care for him by caring for the child. It is the father's loyalty to the child that issues in the child's utter loyalty to the father.

The churches and pastors who have trouble with the loyalty of their young people are usually those who have never set about winning the confidence and fidelity of their young people.

It is the genius of young hearts to seek and follow a leader and to worship their heroes. The church that goes to its young people, that cares for them, that gives them worthy service to do and recognizes their work, will never want love and loyalty from its children. There may be exceptions, of course, in local congregations, just as there are in families. A father's loyalty does not inevitably produce a son's loyalty in return. But the only true way of winning the son's loyalty is through the father's love and care.

I venture to speak an earnest word in behalf of the rights of the young people to the church's loyalty. The church's duty to care for them precedes their duty to care for the church. That church has a right to appeal for the loyalty of its young people which has first done its duty toward them ; but, it may be added, that is just the church that will never need to make such an appeal.—C.E. World.

Rev. A. S. Morton, B.D., St. Stephen's, N.B., prepared the matter for the Explanation for the present Quarter's lessons, and Miss Sara E. Moorcraft, Bowmanville, Ont., the Questions for Juniors, Seniors and the Home Department.